

Pseudorabies Eradication Program Gains Momentum

BOWLING GREEN, Ky.—The National Pseudorabies Eradication Program is on target after more than seven years of a cooperative effort between hog producers, state veterinarians, regulatory agencies and others, including the Livestock Conservation Institute (LCI), who have a vested interest in the United States swine industry.

As of April 30, 1995, LCI re-

ported that the number of pseudorabies infected swine operations in the U.S. dropped well below 5,000 herds—a definite sign of progress to those who have worked closely with the eradication program since its inception.

“The number of pseudorabies infected herds rose to a high of 7,713 in June, 1992,” said Dr. Joseph Anelli, chief staff veterinarian for national animal health

programs, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. “The number of infected herds is the lowest since the national eradication program began.”

“The significance of the trend is seeing progress throughout the entire nation—continuous progress,” said Philip Bradshaw, chairman of the National Pseudorabies Control Board and a member of the board of directors for the

Livestock Conservation Institute. Bradshaw, a pork producer from Illinois, chaired the first LCI Pseudorabies Committee when the organization formed the issue based committee to help facilitate the national eradication endeavor. “Easy picking comes first,” Bradshaw said. “Now, we must look for ways we can economically afford to eliminate the virus without causing problems for producers. We must not get complacent.”

Others involved in the swine industry agree with Bradshaw that the program is working well and has resulted in greatly decreased numbers of infected herds.

The program has faced a lot of apathy since the beginning, said Dr. Arnold Taft of the National Animal Health Programs, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. However, during the last four years, approximately 10,000 herds have been “cleaned up,” he said. “Some producers don’t feel it pays to clean up because they have to make man-

agement changes.” Taft said. “But, when they do, they decide it’s fun to raise pigs again.”

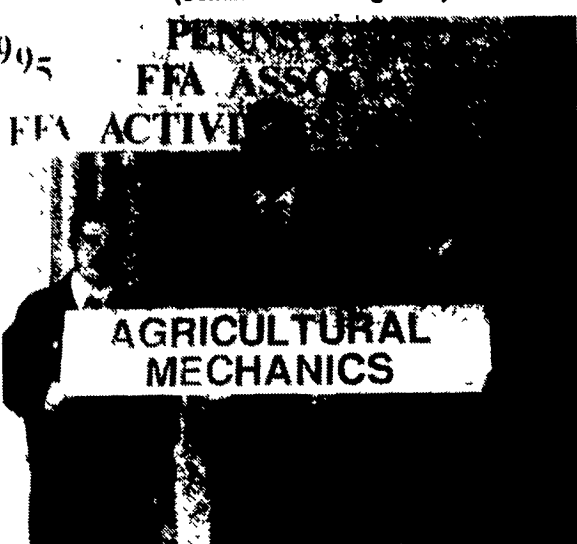
Neal Black, secretary of the National Pseudorabies Control Board, said that the numbers are down because the disease is not spreading rapidly and infected herds are being cleaned up faster than new infected herds are being found. “We are making real progress,” said Black. “The program has reached the downhill slope.

“More than 99 percent of the infected herds are in only 11 states,” Black said. The industry’s goal is to complete eradication of this disease by the year 2000.

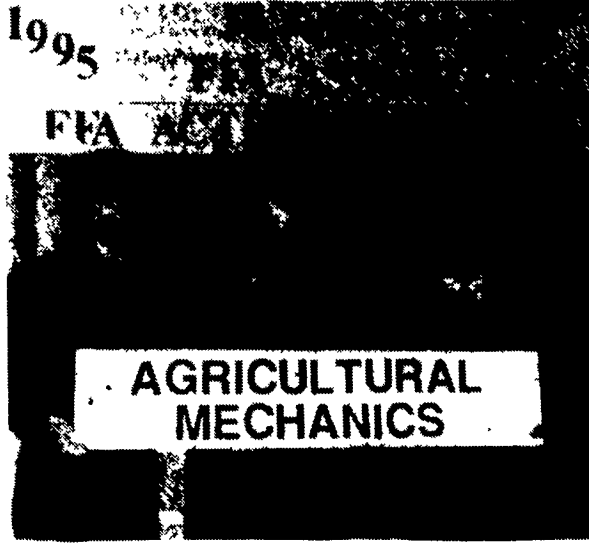
Dr. Beth Lavtner, vice president, swine health and pork safety, with the National Pork Producers Council agrees with Black. “The pork industry is extremely pleased to reach this milestone in the eradication program,” she said. “Pork producers are committed to continued progress in the program in achieving the industry’s goal of eradication.”

FFA Week

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Josh Keister, Seth Kurtz and Lee Snook take the award in this activity category.



Lee Snook, Shawn Breneman and John Berry take the award in this activity category.



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