

PSEUDORABIES HEADLINE UPDATE

A column to update hog producers on the Pennsylvania Pseudorabies Eradication Program.

PSEUDORABIES STATUS TODAY

Dr. Larry Hutchinson
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For the past 15 years, Pennsylvania pork producers, particularly those in Lancaster County, have been struggling with an elusive viral disease — pseudorabies (PRV). A decade ago, the tools to cope with PRV were inadequate, and the pork producers across the U.S. were uncertain whether eradication of the disease could be accomplished, and if it could, was it worth the effort?

Pseudorabies can cause abortion, stillbirths, baby pig losses and respiratory disease in pigs, but it also can be present in a herd with no disease signs and only modest effects on herd productivity. Some producers felt that control and eradication efforts were costing more than living with the disease.

Today there is broad agreement across the U.S. that PRV can, and will be, eradicated from the U.S. The goal is to eliminate PRV by the end of the year 2000.

Greater knowledge about the disease, coupled with new tools such as gene-deleted vaccines and blood tests that differentiate vaccine-strain from disease-strain antibodies have helped propel the cleanup program forward.

Tremendous progress has been made in the past few years. This

progress is measured by number of quarantined herds and the status of each state in a five-stage, pork producer-directed eradication plan in which Stage I is the preparatory stage and Stage V is PRV-free. Most states are now in the III, IV, or V. Several of the major pork-producing states, particularly Iowa, still have quite a few quarantined herds, but total number of herds is dropping steadily (declining by 27 percent in the past year).

Pennsylvania has 54 herds under quarantine and is in stage II of the national program. All states surrounding Pennsylvania are in a higher PRV program, providing

an incentive for Pennsylvania to move into Stage III to help protect our markets for both breeding stock and feeder pigs.

State	PRV Program Stage	Quarantined Herds
NY	V	0
NJ	III	5
DE	IV	0
MD	IV	0
WV	III	0
OH	III	0
PA	II	54

For Pennsylvania to move from Stage II to Stage III, the number of quarantined herds must not exceed 1 percent of the total number of herds in the state. That requirement was recently met. A change in state department of agriculture regulations is necessary to allow mandatory cleanup of infected herds.

These rule changes have been written and public comment invited. It seems likely that Pennsylvania will move into Stage III early in 1996 and should be able to proceed to PRV-free state within the next two years.

Cleaning up pseudorabies will be a great relief to the pork industry, both to the quarantined herds and to those producers who want to avoid exposure to the disease.

We're not there yet, but the end is in sight!

Learn To Control Birds, Rodents In Dairy Farms

RACINE, Wis.—Donald G. Livengood of C.B. Hooper & Son in Intercourse, Pa., recently completed a one-week training program on servicing Case IH 2100 Series Axial-Flow® combines.

The program is one of 23 different courses of technical study offered throughout the year for Case IH and Case service personnel at three dedicated training centers in North America.


This year, nearly 3,000 people will complete one or more of the week-long technical sessions, which combine hands-on and classroom training to make sure dealership technicians are familiar with the latest methods for fast, accurate diagnostics and service.

Combine hydraulics/electrical, the session Livengood attended at the Case Corporation Service Training Center in Racine, provides a comprehensive review of hydraulic, electronic and electrical systems and components featured in the 2100 Series Axial-Flow



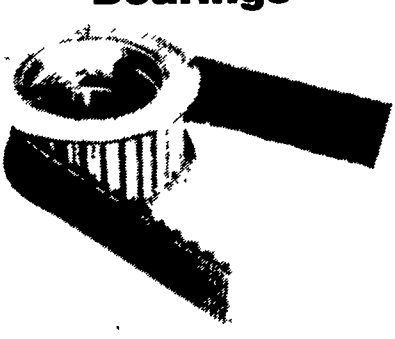
combines. Special testing, adjustment and calibration procedures are studied with emphasis on troubleshooting. Attendees are given extensive opportunity to disassemble, inspect and rebuild components.

"We recognize a customer's need for total product support," said Arnie Oelkers, Case Corporation manager, North American service training. "Our training program helps Case IH dealers provide the best service possible in terms of technical proficiency and professionalism."

Toward that end, Oelkers noted that skill-level profiles are developed at the start of each training session to determine the current level of technical product knowledge for every attendee. Among other things, the skill-level profile provides an evaluation of the technician's improvement and an opportunity for feedback to the dealership.



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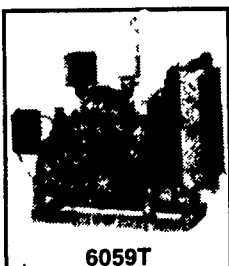
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