

PDA Announces Pseudorabies Eradication Program

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and all of those were expected to be released from quarantine by the end of the year.

According to information presented to the commission, there were five breeder herds and five feeder herds in Lancaster County under quarantine. There was one feeder herd in Dauphin County.

That puts Pennsylvania at Stage III in the program.

In order to achieve the next stage, or Stage IV, the pseudorabies-free status of the state has to be maintained for 12 months with no new infections found.

After officially reaching Stage IV, another disease-free 12 months is to be required in order to achieve the pseudorabies-free status of Stage V.

According to a PDA press release, there are 27 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands which already have achieved Stage V in the national testing program.

There are five states in Stage IV.

Since taking the job as agriculture secretary, Hayes has been actively involved in promoting Pennsylvania agricultural commodities. He has assisted established industries and businesses with expanding into global markets, as well as worked with groups of startup entrepreneurial ventures of promise.

He also has worked with Gov. Tom Ridge and the Legislature to expand their knowledge of the state's agricultural resources and how it figures in the state's economic foundation.

This eradication program is seen as a way to enhance the value of the state's swine herd by increasing the ease of marketing the swine, and ultimately decreasing the cost and risk of doing business here.

During the meeting, Hayes praised the wisdom of Gov. Ridge and the members of the General Assembly for making the funding available to pursue animal disease control and eradication programs.

"Heretofore, (the state has) not been very robust with the dollars for eradication of animal diseases," he said. But that is changing. He said the General Assembly allocated money to fight avian influenza (which seems to be under control for the time being), and in the last budget increased the state indemnity funding from \$50,000 to \$250,000, specifically in anticipation of the pseudorabies eradication program project.

Hayes said that means that the mandate from the Legislature is clear, and so is the support of Gov. Ridge.

Hayes said that, around the world, the presence of pseudorabies in a herd or an area is one of the first pieces of information potential buyers of swine want to know.

He said that, when he has the opportunity to promote Pennsylvania's swine industry around the nation or abroad, instead of just saying, "Yes, this or that herd is pseudorabies free," he would like to say, "The whole state is pseudorabies free."

Dr. John Enck Jr., director of the state Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services since early June, is project officer for the program.

The rest of the project team includes Dr. Phillip Debok, Dr. Zoann Parker, Dr. Bruce Schmucker, Dr. Graham Purchase, Dr. John Roberts, Dr. David Henzler and USDA's Dr. Amy Nesselrodt.

The project plan for Pennsylvania's eradication program was developed by the project team. The plan is a spiral bound document that includes state pseudorabies regulations and the national program regulations, as well as the outline of specific objectives in order to achieve goals.

According to the plan's impact statement, "Pseudorabies has been a serious clinical disease of swine in Pennsylvania and elsewhere in the United States. The economic viability of the swine industry is harmed by the affliction.

"Pennsylvania is surrounded by states, which are in an advanced stage of pseudorabies control. The lack of an aggressive control program has hampered the export of pigs, especially feeder pigs, from Pennsylvania.

"Additionally, certain testing requirements for movement within Pennsylvania will be eased with elimination of pseudorabies. Eradication of the disease may eventually eliminate the need to vaccinate for pseudorabies, a procedure which has been necessary

and costly."

The plan, considered a working guideline for the program implementation, subject to future revision as the project accomplishes goals, also outlines eight goals and objectives:

- Release all currently quarantined herds within nine months of the program implementation.

- Attain Stage IV (surveillance) Status in the State-Federal-Industry Pseudorabies Program within 12 months of program implementation. (If additional herds are discovered, this may be delayed until approximately 12 months after discovery of the last infected herd.)

- Attain Stage V (free) Status ... within 12 months of attaining Stage IV Status.

- Maintain current surveillance program until Pennsylvania receives "free" status.

- Conduct area testing for all high-risk herds (continuous flow feed lots and herds within a 2-mile radius of previously infected herds).

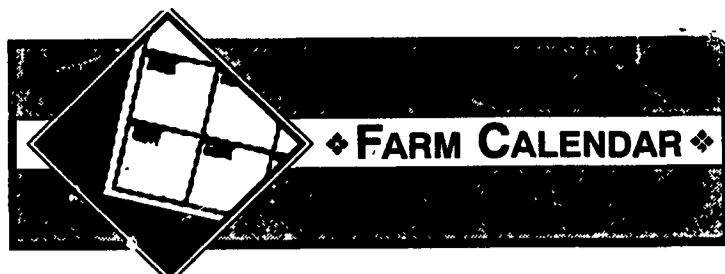
- Eliminate infection from newly identified infected herds within 6 months. Consideration will be given to condemnation and depopulation within 15 days if necessary to advance to Stage IV.

- Establish additional surveillance measures as described in the National Program Standards.

- Maintain Stage V Status by documenting continued compliance with National Program Standards.

After the announcement, some concerns were expressed by producer representatives that the condemnation and indemnity aspect still remains an unanswered question. Of concern is the difference in value between breeding stock and market stock.

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Mount Nebo Fair, Mount Nebo, thru Aug. 15.

Montgomery County 4-H Fair, Creamery, thru Aug. 15.

PASA 'Grazing For Profit' Field Day, Franklin County.
Advanced Cut Flower Conference, Chesapeake College, Wye Mills, Md.

Friday, August 14

Bucks County Holstein Club annual show in conjunction with Middletown Grange Fair, 11 a.m.

Wayne County Holstein Show, Wayne Fairgrounds, Honesdale, 10 a.m.

Bucks County Holstein Show, Wrightstown, 11 a.m.

Lancaster County Beef Roundup, Lampeter Fairgrounds.

Clinton County Junior Dairy Show, Clinton County Fairgrounds, Mackeyville.

Clinton County Open Dairy Show, Clinton County Fairgrounds, Mackeyville.

PASA Field Day, Willow Springs Farm, Kate and Dale Thomsen, Bedford County, 1 p.m.

Cut Flower Tour, Wye Research and Education Center Cut Flower Plots, and other locations.

Saturday, August 15

Mow-In, Christ Lutheran Church, Stouchsburg, 9 a.m.

Howard County Fair, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, thru Aug. 22.

Washington County Ag Fair, Washington, thru Aug. 22.

Sunday, August 16

Cameron County Fair, Emporium, thru Aug. 22.

McKean County Fair, Smethport, thru Aug. 22.

Bullskin Township Community Fair, Woodale, thru Aug. 22.

Franklin County Fair, Chambersburg, thru Aug. 23.

Fulton County Fair, McConnellsburg, thru Aug. 22.

Huntingdon County Fair, Huntingdon, thru Aug. 22.

Monday, August 17

Northeast District Dairy Show, Tioga County Fairgrounds, Whitneyville.

Dayton Fair, Dayton, thru Aug. 22.

Lawrence County Fair, New Castle, thru Aug. 22.

Harford Fair, Harford, thru Aug. 22.

Tuesday, August 18

Ag Progress Days, Rockspring, thru Aug. 20.

Huntingdon County Holstein Show, Huntingdon Fairgrounds, Huntingdon, 9 a.m.

Pa. Holstein Northeast Championship Show, Troy Fairgrounds, Troy, 10 a.m.

Dairy-MAP On Tour at Ag Progress.

Hay Show, Ag Progress Days. Blue Valley Farm Show, Bangor, thru Aug. 22.

Perry County Community Fair, Newport, thru Aug. 22.

Wednesday, August 19

Blue Valley Youth Show.

Pa. Dept. Of Ag Meat Animal Evaluation Center 23rd Annual Performance-Tested Boar Sale, Ag Arena, Penn State, 6 p.m.

Perry County Holstein Show, Perry County Fairgrounds, 9:30 a.m.

Dairy-MAP Annual Alumni Ice Cream Social At Ag Progress, 3 p.m.-4 p.m.

Pa Ag Republican Chicken Barbeque, VFW Picnic Grounds, Pine Grove Mills, 6 p.m.

Thursday, August 20

Wye Field Day, Queenstown.

Berks County Grazing Walk, Nevin and Audrey Mast, Oley, 10 a.m.-noon.

Great Pocomoke Fair, Pocomoke City, thru Aug. 22.

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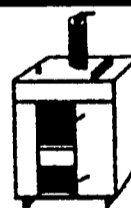
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