

To Eradicate Pseudorabies

With these funds, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, in cooperation with state officials, will depopulate severely infected herds while paying producers fair market value for their infected hogs, remove infected hogs from herds not depopulated, vaccinate and test all herds surrounding an infected herd, enforce compliance with vaccination and movement requirement regulations, and enhance surveillance efforts to ensure all infected herds are found

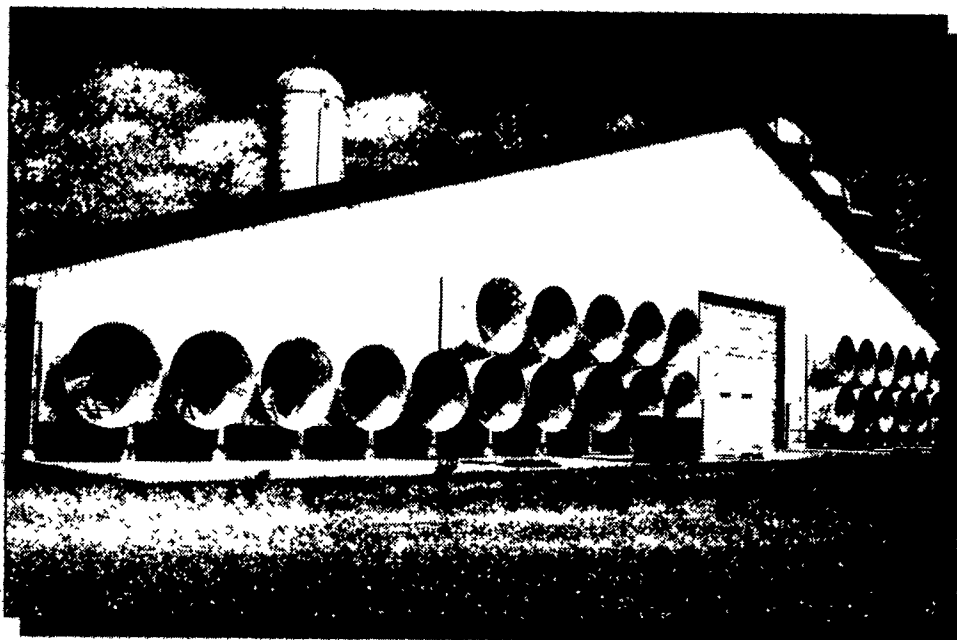
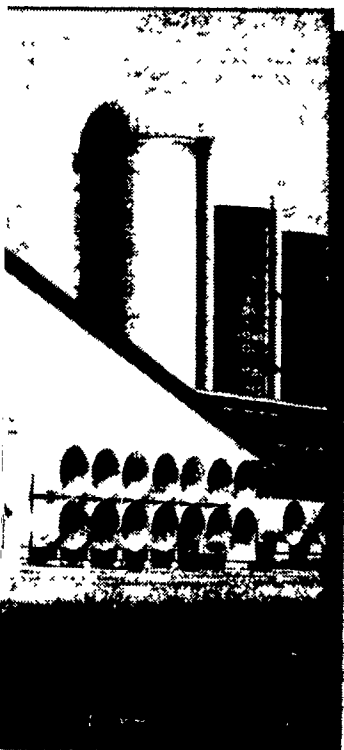
rapidly. This year's program will place a greater emphasis on prevention of the disease.

Pseudorabies is a disease of swine that can also affect cattle, horses, dogs, cats, sheep, and goats, but not humans. The disease is caused by pseudorabies virus, an extremely contagious herpesvirus that causes reproductive problems, including abortion, stillbirths, and even occasional death losses in breeding and finishing hogs.

USDA established a voluntary eradication program for pseudorabies in the U.S. in 1989. The program is cooperative in nature and involves federal, state, and industry participation. USDA's veterinary services program and state governments promulgate and enforce the intrastate regulations.

Producers contribute by testing their herds and instituting control and eradication measures. The program's primary activities include surveillance, herd monitoring, and herd cleanup. On Dec. 24, 1998, Glickman made an announcement accelerating this effort — the Accelerated Pseudorabies Eradication Program. APEP started in the midst of record low prices for pork. Secretary Glickman announced that new regulations would allow USDA to pay hog farmers fair market value for the voluntary destruction of swine herds known to be infected with pseudorabies.

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Stream Bank Fencing Is Beneficial

(Continued from Page A22)

Other benefits are:

- Effective pasture management as the stream bank fencing can be combined with additional fencing for rotational and intensive grazing systems.
- Stabilized stream banks.
- Reduced soil erosion.
- Improved fish and wildlife habitat.
- Better public relations with neighbors.

There are three primary stream bank fencing programs available to Northumberland County farmers. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Program, through the Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP), has been in existence for approximately six years. Also, there are two newer programs — the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Ducks Unlimited Program (CBF/DU) and the USDA's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

There are some differences in the requirements of the programs. The DEP/CBP program does not require the tree and shrub plantings; the buffer only needs to be maintained in grass, but can include trees and shrubs, with a minimum width of 12-feet. The CBF/DU and CREP programs require the establishment of a riparian buffer between the stream and the fencing. A riparian buffer is a streamline planting that includes trees and shrubs. The CBF/DU program requires a minimum width from top of bank of 15-feet, and the CREP program requires 35-feet.

The DEP/CBP will pay 100 percent cost-share for the installation of the fencing and one stream crossing and requires the landowner to maintain the system for 10 years. CBF/DU will pay 100 percent for the installation of the fencing and plantings, and the farmer can earn cost-share credits to pay for other BMPs such as stream crossings or grassed waterways. These credits can be earned by establishing the buffer beyond the 15-foot minimum at the rate of \$1,000 for pasture or \$800 for wetland for each additional acre included in the buffer.

The maximum width for the stream buffers is limited to 180-feet. The landowner agrees to maintain the system for 15 years. The CREP program will also cover all the costs for installing the fence, crossings, and planting the buffer. Soil rental and incentive payments are included for the establishment of the buffer. Length of agreement is 10 to 15 years.

Anyone who is interested or would like more information on fencing programs may contact the Northumberland County Conservation District or call (570) 286-7114, ext. 4.

Chesapeake Bay Program Sign-Up Under Way

SUNBURY (Northumberland Co.) — Farmers may sign up for Chesapeake Bay Program cost-share funding assistance to correct existing manure handling, storage, and nutrient management problems.

The Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) provides cost-share funding assistance for the installation of best management practices (BMPs) to correct these problems.

Farmers may sign up at the Northumberland County Conservation District office. Interested farmers should sign up by Nov. 30, 2000 to be considered for the 2001 funding year, although farmers may sign up anytime during the year.

For more information on the CBP, visit the Northumberland County Conservation District office or call the office at (570) 286-7114, ext. 4.

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