

Topic of the Month

African Swine Fever

New requirements have been put in place effective June 1 for swine at fairs and shows, including jackpot shows. The requirements are being introduced specifically because of the threat of African Swine Fever internationally.

African Swine Fever is a viral infection causing high fevers, hemorrhaging, vomiting, and reduced appetite in any age of swine. Mortality is high and the disease can be spread by contact with live or dead hogs, saliva, urine, or manure, or non-living vectors such as bedding. It does not pose a threat to humans.

The disease is on the rise in Africa, Asia, and Europe. There is no vaccine and no cure. It has not been diagnosed in the US. The measures are intended to prevent its introduction and spread here.

The new requirements are part of a general quarantine issued by the PA Department of Agriculture. They state that all swine must have a certificate of veterinary inspection including an official identification tag. The swine must be inspected by an accredited veterinarian at a show before being unloaded. There are also requirements about disinfection and specific regulations for hogs at the shows.

Finally, the rules dictate that market swine are to move directly to slaughter following shows as comingling of swine represents a major source for the spread of ASF.

Commodity Futures

Prices

As of June 30, 2019

Corn	\$4.20/bu
Soybean Meal	\$313.10/ton
Milk (Class III)	\$17.29/cwt
Beef (Live cattle)	\$110.50/cwt

Practice News & Upcoming Events

- Show season is nearly upon us. In order to expedite the process of veterinary inspection and the completion of health charts, we have adopted a policy that when scheduling an appointment, you will be asked to provide information such as the name and address of the show and official ID for each of the animals. This will allow us to inspect the animals, verify ID, and sign health charts quickly on the farm. This is especially important because state departments of agriculture will flag health charts with incorrect or incomplete information and can potentially quarantine animals. We will not schedule appointments without the information.
- We have two trucks for sale. There is a blue Ford Ranger with a cap on the back. It will not pass inspection but would make a good farm truck. We also have a grey Ford Ranger with a Portavet unit on the back. If interested, please call the office for details and pricing.
- Congratulations to John and Morgan McCormack on the birth of their twin boys, John and Randall, on June 20. Mom and babies are doing well.

In The News

- A Pennsylvania farmer created a "baleboard" by painting a sign on a wrapped bale and setting it at the edge of his field for passing traffic to see. The sign was an advertisement to drink whole milk, and stated that it is 97% fat-free. It became so popular that a grassroots movement developed and turned into an organization called 97 Milk. There is also a website at 97milk.com. The movement has caught the attention of consumers, but also legislators, and has led to the introduction of the bipartisan Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2019. This act advocates for providing whole milk choices in our schools. You can visit 97 Milk's website or follow them on Facebook or Twitter. And don't forget to get out there and paint your wrapped bales.