

VETERINARY SERVICES NOTICE 99-01

Subject: Accelerated Pseudorabies Eradication Program (APEP)
Guidelines, Roles, and Responsibilities

Date: January 14, 1999

To: Directors, VS Regions
Director, CEAH
Director, NVSL
Director, OS
Director, CVB
Area Veterinarians in Charge, VS

The purpose of this Notice is to provide guidelines for implementation of the APEP. The APEP is not intended to replace the existing Pseudorabies Eradication Program. The goal of the APEP is to rapidly reduce the number of pseudorabies virus (PRV)-infected herds by means of whole herd depopulation.

I. General Program Guidelines

Existing Pseudorabies Eradication Program activities should be supplemented by the following:

- A. Participation in the APEP does not limit eligibility for participation in other U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs.
- B. Depopulation of PRV-infected herds will be conducted according to scientifically justifiable procedures as determined by the official pseudorabies epidemiologist as defined in the Pseudorabies Eradication Program State-Federal-Industry Standards.
- C. Swine cannot be removed from participating herds unless a prior agreement has been made before enrolling in the APEP with the official pseudorabies epidemiologist according to the approved-herd plan.
- D. Restocking of swine will be done in accordance with the approved Pseudorabies Eradication Program State-Federal-Industry Standards' herd cleanup plan.
- E. All depopulated swine will be rendered or otherwise disposed of in accordance with Federal, State, and local regulations.
- F. Producers will be responsible for cleaning and disinfecting premises.

G. Swine appraisals will be performed by both State and Federal personnel and will be based on fair market value.

H. Program length will be 6 months from the date of this Notice or until allotted funds expire.

I. State cooperative agreements can be made with USDA in States that can efficiently and effectively conduct the eradication efforts if justification is provided. **See Appendix 1 for more details.**

J. USDA, with the exception of regular salaries for permanent Federal and State employees, pays the agreed indemnity and all associated costs such as transportation, euthanasia, disposal, equipment, travel expenses, and temporary employees.

II. Eligibility

All herds known to be infected with PRV may participate regardless of size, geographic location, or duration of quarantine status. Newly infected herds must apply for eligibility with the State Pseudorabies Committee.

III. Enrollment Procedures

A. The Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC) will prioritize applications and subsequent depopulation processing based on input from the official pseudorabies epidemiologist, State Veterinarian, and the State Pseudorabies Committee. Attempts will be made to service applications in the order received.

B. Multi-site premises with single ownership will enroll those sites in accordance with the Official PRV Herd Cleanup Plan.

C. The official pseudorabies epidemiologist is responsible for reviewing all applications. He/she will maintain all participating herd records. He/she will determine, on a case-by-case basis, the disease risk of multi-site premises, whether test-negative swine on premises can become replacements and if restocking should include a vaccination recommendation.

IV. Implementation Plan - Roles and Responsibilities

A. Regional Offices

The Regional Offices will provide Regional Program Coordinators, technical support individuals, and administrative support as needed.

B. Individual States

The AVIC, the official pseudorabies epidemiologist, the State Veterinarian, and the State Pseudorabies Committee are responsible for the APEP implementation. This team will:

1. Develop action plans for appraisal, depopulation, cleaning and disinfecting, transporting, rendering, surveillance, and other activities as appropriate. These action plans should be submitted by the AVIC to the Regional Program Coordinators and the APEP National Coordinator (Dr. Keith Hand, Senior Staff Veterinarian, Emergency Programs) before implementation.
2. Plan to contact and inform producers with PRV-infected herds of the APEP.
3. Maintain a producer contact list.
4. Generate weekly State reports containing:
 - a. number of producers contacted,
 - b. number of producers enrolled,
 - c. number of swine enrolled (cumulative),
 - d. number of swine appraised, number of herds, and dollar value,
 - e. number of swine euthanatized/depopulated,
 - f. amount of indemnity (per premises and State total),
 - g. number of personnel (State, Federal, and temporary employees and others such as local hires),
 - h. number of premises cleaned and disinfected,
 - i. cumulative total program costs (general, a detailed report will be sent to Management Support Staff),
 - j. number of remaining infected herds (including producers who decline to participate in the APEP),

A summary of program activities, including grand totals, should be included with the above. The AVIC is responsible for generating reports that are due to the Regional and National Program Coordinator by close of business each Monday.

5. Make arrangements with local divisions of rendering chains for transportation of carcasses.
6. Identify personnel needs (State, Federal, and temporary employees).
7. Identify equipment needs (e.g. portable conveyer belts, tractors, captive bolts, stunners, guns).
8. Identify the State humane policy on euthanasia and determine any prohibited products.
9. Identify possible burial sites; process and secure Environmental Protection Agency and State/local environmental agency approvals.
10. Identify trainers and training needs for operating stunning equipment and proper handling and removal of carcasses (e.g. slaughterhouse managers, renderers).
11. Provide a contact for local media.
12. Identify and determine which humane euthanasia method will be most effective, such as CO₂ gas chamber or electricity for stunning; euthanasia by penetrating captive bolt, exsanguination, or electrocution.

C. The APEP Headquarters Team (Drs. Keith Hand, Oliver Williams, Aida Boghossian and Arnold Taft, Mrs. Louise Lothery, Mrs. Dawn Schu and Ms. Dawn Youngling) will be responsible for:

1. Communications Plan (written and/or verbal)
 - a. Receiving, monitoring, and disseminating current and accurate information from the field to Veterinary Services (VS) Deputy Administrator's office as well as other State and Federal agencies.
 - b. Keeping the Deputy Administrator and the Director of Operational Support informed on the current national situation.

- c. Generating national weekly reports each Tuesday from the participating State's weekly report.
 - d. Providing for appropriate USDA response to National media.
 - e. Maintaining liaison with national industry organizations.
2. Technical plan
- a. Providing assistance and advice on matters such as euthanasia, cleaning and disinfecting, transportation, rendering, and others as needed.
 - b. Providing training guidelines and aids to field personnel on proper euthanasia, destruction, handling of equipment, and stress and grief management.
3. Field operations plan
- a. Monitoring and advising on depopulation, indemnity, and program enrollment issues.
 - b. Coordinating with local investigative officers to ensure proper security and control of situations.
 - c. Coordinating with Food Safety and Inspection Service, corporate renderer, and corporate slaughter establishments.
 - d. Facilitating and coordinating all general administrative support and service activities. Provide support on appraisals, contracts, leases, finances, State cooperative agreements, personnel, and safety.

V. Depopulation plan

If possible, appraisals and depopulation should occur on the same day. Appraisal teams should include both a State and Federal employee. If discrepancy occurs, see Title 9, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 78 for details.

The AVIC, VS depopulation technical advisors, the official pseudorabies epidemiologist, the State Veterinarian, and the State Pseudorabies Committee will:

- A. Develop plans to euthanize swine; either one premises at a time, teams working several sites, or live animal transport to a central location(s).

B. Develop transportation plans for removing live or dead swine from premises (working with renderers, negotiating travel time, fees, and tare and net weights).

C. Develop equipment procurement plans.

(See Appendix 2 for guidelines)

VI. Indemnity plan

A. Immediate payment of indemnity shall be made according to the guidelines in **Appendix 3** and only after completion of depopulation.

B. Estimating weight and number of swine should be done on premises. The live or dead swine are loaded onto transport trucks and weighed for net weight. This weight will be used to calculate final indemnity. **(See Appendix 4 for detailed procedures)**

VII. Inquiry

Questions regarding APEP procedures should be addressed to Emergency Programs Staff's APEP Team on 1-800-601-9327.

/signed/

Alfonso Torres
Deputy Administrator
Veterinary Services

Enclosures

Appendix 1

Items for Consideration in Cooperative Agreement Negotiations

1. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will fund salary and benefits for new hires (temporary or part-time) to work on the Accelerated Pseudorabies Eradication Program (APEP). APHIS will not fund salary and benefits for personnel currently employed by the State.
2. APHIS will fund overtime costs for new hires and current State employees working on the APEP.
3. APHIS will fund travel costs (including the rental of vehicles) for new hires and current State employees working on the APEP.
4. APHIS will fund the contract rentals for trucks and heavy machinery needed to move animals.
5. APHIS will fund supplies, materials, and small equipment purchases (under \$5,000) for use in the APEP. Note that equipment with an acquisition value of less than \$5,000 is considered supplies. (Exception: Supplies, materials, equipment, or chemicals related to euthanasia will be purchased by the Federal government and will be specifically excluded from any cooperative agreement.)
6. Generally, equipment costing in excess of \$5,000 will not be included in a cooperative agreement. However, this should be considered on a case-by-case basis.
7. Indirect costs (overhead) are part of the cooperator's total cost and are officially nonnegotiable. However, to claim indirect costs, an approved indirect cost rate agreement negotiated by a cognizant Federal Agency must be in place.
8. Generally, APHIS will not fund any pre-agreement costs. However, this is allowable with prior APHIS approval. Therefore, pre-agreement costs will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
9. Even though no-year funding is involved, APHIS agreements are to be established for one year and can be continued as needed. (Per APHIS Agreements Team).
10. Indemnity payments will not be funded through cooperative agreement arrangements.
11. Current agreements may be amended to include the APEP as long as the addition does not significantly change the scope of the original agreement. An amended agreement would require a new budget, a new work plan, and new signatures.

Appendix 1 (cont.)

Considering that an amendment requires almost as much work as a new agreement, the focus of the project, and the special accounting codes that will be assigned, it would be more advantageous to establish a new agreement.

Appendix 2

Guidelines for the Depopulation of Pseudorabies Virus-Infected Herds

Pseudorabies virus-infected herds are found either in small local areas as the only infected farm(s) or in large areas with multiple affected farms and large numbers of swine. Due to this dichotomy separate plans for euthanasia and disposal should be considered because of the different needs and resources available. All efforts should be made to render the euthanatized swine. Burial may be considered in some circumstances.

General euthanasia considerations are given by the 1993 report of the AVMA Panel on Euthanasia "If the cerebral cortex is nonfunctional because of hypoxia, depression by drugs, electric shock, or concussion, pain is not experienced. Therefore, the choice of the euthanasia agent or method is of less importance if it is to be used on an animal that is anesthetized or unconscious, provided that the animal does not regain consciousness prior to death."

A. In areas with a few infected small herds (< 100) it is recommended that after appraisal:

1. A rendering company, preferably located near the affected farm, should be contacted and arrangements made for the euthanatized swine to be picked up. Transportation costs can be negotiated to transport the dead swine to the rendering facility.
2. Locate a suitable site on the farm where the young and adult swine can be handled or restrained. Choose a method of euthanasia that is cost-effective and humane such as:
 - a. Penetrating captive bolt gun followed by a pithing
 - b. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) for very small swine and piglets
 - c. Chemical euthanasia for piglets
 - d. Electric stunning followed by electrocution or exsanguination

or, any combination of the above, subject to American Veterinary Medical Association Humane Euthanasia Guidelines.

All euthanatized swine should then be loaded into the rendering trucks on the farm.

When there is a small number of swine or if a satisfactory area is not available for restraint while using the penetrating captive bolt gun, it is recommended that a local custom-exempt slaughter facility be contacted to make arrangements to use the facility for euthanatizing the swine.

Appendix 2 (cont.)

B. Areas with large number of swine or multiple farms:

In those areas where there are large numbers of swine from a large area that need to be euthanatized, a dedicated, centrally located facility should be organized for euthanatizing the swine. Existing slaughter plants should be considered for use due to their available resources.

This temporary facility should:

1. Allow for the unloading of swine from trucks or trailers into holding areas composed of portable fences. The portable fences should be arranged to create alley ways so that swine can easily and safely be directed to the stunning and euthanasia area.
2. Move a few swine at a time into an area to be stunned with an electrical stunner. After stunning, a penetrating captive bolt gun, followed by pithing; electrocution followed by bilateral thoracotomy; or other humane methods can be used to euthanize the swine.
3. The euthanasia area should allow easy access for a number of loading options such as a front end loader with a gate system or conveyor belts.
4. Arrangements should be made for transporting the live swine from the farm to the centrally located euthanasia facility. Transportation costs will be paid by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
5. Small swine and piglets should be euthanatized on the premises and placed in sealed and secured containers for weighing.

C. The centrally located euthanasia facility.

1. Electrical stunners or CO₂ chamber similar to those used in slaughter establishments to stun an animal prior to euthanasia by a penetrating captive bolt gun followed by pithing; electrocution followed by bilateral thoracotomy; exsanguination; or other method of humane euthanasia.
2. The site must be a secure area. Access to the facility should be limited for safety and biosecurity reasons.
3. The facility should be enclosed and provide some seclusion as well as protection from the elements. The facility should have an office area equipped with customary equipment; e.g. desks, telephone lines, computers, photocopier, and fax. The facility

Appendix 2 (cont.)

should have lunch area, a waiting/reception area, toilet facilities, and heating and airconditioning.

4. Location of the facility should be near a rendering plant and near the pseudorabies-affected premises.
5. The area should have appropriate drainage system that can handle biological wastes and chemical cleaning agents. The holding areas should have water and feed containers available for swine in case of mechanical breakdowns or other unforeseen delay.
6. Closed or open slaughter establishments should have many of the above-mentioned items or capabilities that are needed; e.g. holding pens, easy to clean, access to live haul trucks and trailers and rendering trucks. Closed livestock markets could also afford many of the items needed.
7. It should be recognized that the product being sent to the renderers is high quality protein and valuable to the renderers. It is important to use the rendering companies in an equitable manner, but decisions should be made based on value to the Accelerated Pseudorabies Eradication Program.

Appendix 3

Alternative Methods Available to Expedite the Payment of Indemnity Claims

A. Field Servicing Office (FSO) Payments

1. The Field Offices will send the indemnity claim to FSO. The FSO Payments Section will process the claim and the payee will receive a check within 1 to 2 weeks.
2. FSO can have the payment electronically transferred to the claimant's bank account if the Field Office requests this service and provides the following information:
 - a. ABA Router Number
 - b. Name of Bank
 - c. Bank Address
 - d. Account Number for Individual Claimant
 - c. Name on the Account

The payment will be transferred to the bank account within 3-5 days after FSO receives the information.

B. Government Purchase Credit Cards

1. Veterinary Services' (VS) employees who have Government purchasing credit cards could use the check writing capability that comes along with the card. Payments could be made on the spot once the VS Form 1-23+, Indemnity Claim Form, is properly completed and signed.

This alternative is limited by the cardholder's individual transaction amount and monthly limit. Cardholders who do not have a procurement warrant are limited to \$2,500 per transaction and \$2,500 per month. A few regional administrative employees have \$10,000 procurement warrants. While a few employees at FSO have \$100,000 warrants.

C. General Payment Requirements

Owners-claimants will not have to obtain an account number from the National Finance Center (NFC) before FSO and NFC will process their claims for payments. However, in all cases, the claimants taxpayer identification number must be provided to FSO. For businesses, this is an Employer Identification number and for individuals, this is the Social Security number.

Appendix 4

Indemnity Plan

1. All swine on the participating premises will be eligible for indemnity.
2. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) pays the owner indemnity and all associated costs such as transportation, euthanasia, disposal, equipment, travel, salaries for temporary employees, and overtime for permanent employees. Regular salaries for permanent employees (State/Federal) will be paid out of normal operating budgets.
3. The final producer compensation will be determined by a combination of the producer cost offset, price per pound, and the net weight of swine depopulated (live or dead loaded truck weight minus empty truck weight).
4. USDA informs producers of program guidelines and eligibility requirements.
5. The process for producer participation includes:
 - a. Producer notifies USDA of interest, called the **Date of Contact**.
 - b. USDA personnel conduct an on-site visit establishing the **Date of Estimate** and initiates the Accelerated Pseudorabies Eradication Program (APEP): Appraisal and Indemnity Claim (VS Form 1-23) Payment Form (Attachment A). During this visit the USDA personnel:
 - 1) Count the swine on site and assign them to the weights and classes
 - 2) Complete the estimate portion of the APEP Worksheet (Attachment B)
 - c. The number of breeding swine entered on the estimate portion of the APEP Worksheet Form will be the maximum number of breeding swine used for the final producer compensation payment.
6. The producer accepts or rejects program participation within 7 working days of the Date of Estimate. If accepting, the producer signs the APEP Worksheet and Appraisal and Indemnity Claim Form, establishing the **Date of Enrollment**.
7. The Area Veterinarian in Charge accepts or rejects the APEP Appraisal and Indemnity Claim (VS Form 1-23) Payment Form. If accepting, this is the **Date of Acceptance**.

Appendix 4 (cont.)

8. The site is depopulated on the **Date of Delivery**. Final payment is calculated by:

- a. The number of breeding swine entered onto the APEP Worksheet on the Date of Estimate
- b. An actual count of live production swine and their assignment into one of two classifications, greater than 200 pounds or less than 200 pounds
- c. The Per Pound Compensation used when calculating the final payment is the greater of the prices in effect the Date of Contact or the Date of Delivery
- d. The Producer Cost Offset used when calculating the final payment is determined by the Date of Contact
- c. The final payment is calculated and recorded on the APEP Appraisal and Indemnity Claim (VS Form 1-23) Payment Form

9. There will be three time blocks to sign-up for the program. The first time period is for 30 days from the start of the program (date of this Notice). Producers with a Date of Contact within the first 30 days of the program will be eligible to receive the highest Producer Cost Offset for each category of swine. Producers with a Date of Contact in the second time block (which will be for 30 days after the first block) will receive the next lower Producer Cost Offset. The third time block will be for the remainder of the program. Producers with a Date of Contact in the third time block of the program will receive the lowest Producer Cost Offset.

Producer Cost Offset, Dollars per Head

Class of Swine	Time Block One	Time Block Two	Time Block Three
Market swine >200 pounds	\$5.00	\$3.00	\$0.00
Swine <200 pounds	\$20.00	\$10.00	\$5.00
Breeding swine	\$50.00	\$35.00	\$25.00

10. There is no restriction on the level of compensation provided to any one herd cleanup plan.

11. Final producer compensation payment shall be done after completion of depopulation.

Appendix 5

Definitions

Breeding swine - all swine on the premises that are 6 months of age or older and that are used or intended to be used for breeding as could be reasonably expected based on available farrowing space.

Production swine - all swine other than the breeding swine.

Date of Contact - the date the producer contacts U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) expressing interest in participating.

Date of Estimate - the date the USDA personnel visits the site and completes the estimate portion of the Accelerated Pseudorabies Eradication Program (APEP) Payment Form.

Date of Enrollment - the date the producer agrees to participate in the APEP. Must be within 7 working days of the Date of Estimate.

Date of Acceptance - the date the appropriate official accepts producer participation.

Date of Delivery - the date of site depopulation.

Official PRV Herd-Cleanup Plan - as defined by Pseudorabies Eradication State-Federal-Industry Program Standards.

Producer Cost Offset - fixed amount per head to cover additional producer participation costs

Per Pound Compensation - The value per pound of depopulated swine; the simple average of the previous week's, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday Iowa/Southern Minnesota weighted average base market price for 185 pound carcass (49-51 percent lean) multiplied by 74 percent and rounded to the nearest \$0.05 per hundred weight. Prices are reported daily by USDA-AMS web site: http://www.ams.usda.gov/mncs/mn_reports/NW_LS230.txt. Prices will be updated each Friday afternoon for the following week by USDA personnel.

Positive herd- Any herd in which any swine have been determined to be infected with pseudorabies virus by an official pseudorabies epidemiologist whose diagnosis is supported by an official pseudorabies test result.

Multi-site premises- separate site locations of swine in which all swine are epidemiologically distinct.

Attachment A
VS Form 1-23

The Estimated Indemnity Worksheet for the Accelerated Pseudorabies Eradication Program

Producer Name		
Address, City, State, Zip		
Telephone Number		
Contact Date	Enrollment Date	
Estimate Date	Acceptance Date	
Delivery Date		
Market Price on Contact Date	Market Price on Delivery Date	

Weight Range - pounds	Mid Point Weight (a) - pounds	Number of Swine in weight range (b)	Market Value per Pound <i>during contact week</i> (c)	Subtotal by weight range (a*b*c)
0-50	25			
51-100	75			
101-150	125			
151-200	175			
201 plus	225			
Breeding	375			

Total of Subtotal by Weight Range (f)

\$

Swine Category	Number Of Swine in Category (d)	Dollar Cost Offset as per Contact Date (e)	Dollar Cost Offset Subtotal by Category (d*e)
< 201 Pounds			
>=201 pounds			
Used for Breeding			

Total of Dollar Cost Offset Subtotal (g)

\$

Total Estimate: (f + g)

\$

Signature of State or Federal Estimator	Date

Depopulation Proposal (as per the herd plan):

I hereby agree that this worksheet is only an estimate of the compensation that I am to receive and that the actual indemnity will be based on the total weight of my animals and the number of swine in each category on the Date of Delivery. The Dollar Cost Offset per Contact Date of this form will be used to calculate the final Dollar Cost Offset. The value per pound compensation paid will be the greater of the value per pound on the Contact Date or on the Delivery Date.

Producer Signature	Date