

USDA to Meet with Indiana Producers on Hog Procurement Practices

WASHINGTON, (March 15, 1999) -- U.S. Department of Agriculture officials will host a meeting in Scottsburg, IN, with hog producers to discuss the Department's recent hog procurement investigation, its potential implications for producers, and changes in USDA's market new reports.

We at USDA want to ensure that hog producers--particularly smaller ones--are fully aware of the findings of this investigation and we want to make sure producers have the best available information in order to maximize their returns,@ said Michael V. Dunn, under secretary for marketing and regulatory programs. USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration is hosting the meeting for hog producers and other interested parties at Scottsburg City Hall, Scottsburg, Indiana, on March 29. The meeting will begin at 12:15 p.m. and is open to the public. Representatives of USDA's Farm Service Agency and Rural Business-Cooperative Services will participate in the meeting to discuss restructuring credit programs, and alternative marketing opportunities for hog producers. Representatives of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service will be present to answer questions about USDA's voluntary hog pseudorabies eradication program. Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards officials and representatives of the Agriculture Marketing Service will discuss recent investigations and the new livestock market reports. The scheduled meeting is part of USDA's ongoing efforts to address price and competition concerns in the livestock industry.

The findings of the hog procurement investigation were announced October 8, 1998, and are available at GIPSA's website:

<http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/newsroom/backgrounders/hogback.htm>. For further information on the meeting and on GIPSA's hog procurement investigation, contact Jay A. Johnson at (515) 323-2579, email Jay_A.Johnson@usda.gov. For information regarding AMS= market news reporting for hogs, contact John Van Dyke at (202) 720-6231, email John_E_Vandyke@usda.gov.

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