

WASHINGTON (AP) — Recent outbreaks of hog cholera are signals that cooperative federal and state programs aimed at eliminating the disease still have a tough road ahead, says an Agriculture Department veterinarian.

Dr. Ernest E. Saulmon, deputy administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said Thursday the main cause for concern are recent outbreaks of hog cholera in New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Texas.

All infected herds have been destroyed, Saulmon said in a statement.

"However, these states, except Texas, were without hog

cholera for periods of four months up to two years before these outbreaks," Saulmon said. "This shows that the disease can remain undetected in a chronically-infected and unreported herd, or can reappear when hogs are fed raw pork scraps or uncooked garbage."

Saulmon said "great progress" has been made in cholera eradication and that 41 states now are free of the disease. But the recent outbreaks, within the past month, show much work still is required.

"Under no circumstances should a farmer send sick pigs to market—spreading the disease. And of course he should not feed uncooked garbage to his swine," Saulmon said.