

Referendum on ovine medicine facilities urged

COCHRANVILLE — Pennsylvania's sheep producers may have the opportunity in the near future to vote in a statewide referendum to support the establishment of ovine medicine facilities at the University of Pennsylvania's Veterinary School. During the Wool Pool Directors' meeting held at State College, April 23, the ovine medicine proposal was discussed with Dr. Richard McFeely, assistant dean of the Veterinary School. The directors who represent Pennsylvania's twenty cooperative wool pools passed a resolution to ask Pennsylvania's Secretary of Agriculture to set up an industry-wide referendum.

Under the ovine medicine proposal, the Veterinary School would employ a qualified clinical in-

vestigator-researcher to specialize in ovine medicine. In four ways, veterinary services to sheep producers would be improved. One would be by increasing training in ovine medicine and management for veterinary students so when they begin practicing in the field they would have more knowledge of sheep health problems and more interest in the sheep industry. It would also provide continuing education courses in ovine medicine for practicing veterinarians. In a recent survey of large animal practitioners, 91 per cent indicated that they would like more training on sheep health problems.

Research in ovine health and productivity and consultative services to veterinarians and sheep producers would also be part of the ovine program.

The ovine medicine proposal was initiated by the Penn-Mar Shropshire Breeders' Club last June. Members were discouraged and disappointed in the quality of veterinary services available to sheep producers. In his remarks to the wool pool directors, Dr. McFeely admitted that sheep health problems have been a neglected area of veterinary training.

Under the procedures for holding a commodity referendum, the producers must first submit a proposal requesting a referendum to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Secretary will then schedule one or more hearings. At the hearings, producers have the opportunity to speak for or against the referendum. Following the hearings, if the Secretary deems the project worthwhile with substantial support, the Department of Agriculture will prepare and send out ballots to all producers in the state.



Sheep producers in Pennsylvania may soon have the opportunity to vote in a statewide referendum to support the establishment of ovine medicine facilities at the U. of P. veterinary school. The establishment of such a facility would be to improve the veterinary services to sheep producers.

Woodsmen's field day to be held

UNIVERSITY PARK - The Woodsmen's Field Days co-sponsored by the Central Pennsylvania Loggers and Lumbermen Association and the Cooperative Extension Service will be held on June 15 and 16 at the Shade Gap picnic grounds.

The Field Days combine an extensive display of machinery, equipment and supplies by the area's dealer with the entertainment and excitement of "lumber jack" contests.

The dealer displays include items of equipment that are of interest to those involved in the wood producing industry from forest to factory. All dealers are invited to display and should contact Robert Krause-814-542-4212 for reservations.

The contests start at 11 a.m. on Friday, June 15 with the heavy equipment skills involving log skidders and log loaders.

On Saturday, June 16, contests start at 10 a.m. and include chainsaws,

crosscuts, chopping, log rolling and perfect load contests.

There are five cash prizes for each contest. This year the chain saw contest will be limited to stack chainsaws "out-of-the-woods" and powered by the standard gasoline and oil mixed fuel. No modifications will be allowed. Contestants should contact William Sheaffer, 717-248-7003.

Parking and admission to the Field Days is free. Overnight camping is available for a modest fee; reservations must be made with the Shade Gap Volunteer Fire Company at Shade Gap, Pa. Food concessions will be operating on Friday and Saturday.



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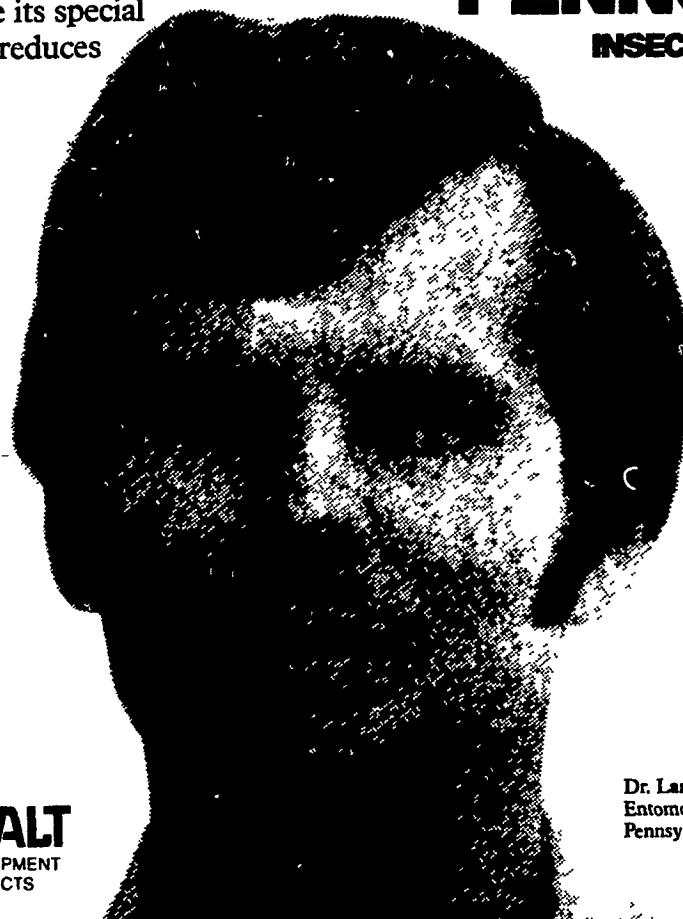
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