



Several hundred sheep grazed the lush fields of the new Mummau residence. The farm is located across from Route 283 at the Rheems exit.



Penrose Hallowell

Hallowell

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autopsy as quickly as possible.

"Samples of the liver, spleen and kidney of the cow from Clair Hoover's dairy farm were tested by the Department of Environmental Resources and proved to be negative," said Hallowell. "All evidence leads us to believe that radiation was not the cause of the cow's death."

Hallowell added that a blood test showed normal levels of Thrombocyte, a cell that normally would be present in low level if ex-

posed to radiation. Also the cell responsible for leukemia was not present in abnormal levels.

Hallowell said the cause of the animal's death was a severe infection in the uterus. He said the agricultural department made culture tests to identify the specifics of that infection. In addition, the cow showed evidence of jaundice and anemia both of which are believed to be related to the severe infection.

Hallowell released the results of tests conducted by independent veterinarian pathologists at the New Bolton Center of the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary School, as well as the results of a farm survey conducted by the agricultural department within a five mile radius of the 3 Mile Island nuclear power plant.

Hallowell said "based on our studies plus those of independent pathologists at the University of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania State University, we can now conclusively state that Metritis (uterine infection) was the cause of the much publicized death of a cow on the Clair Hoover farm in Banbridge.



Clair Hoover

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is picking up the tab for the expenses incurred during the Hoover farm investigation. Secretary Hallowell explains that's because "we're in a learning experience." He said because there were some questions regarding the possibility of radiation contamination, and everyone was interested in finding out what, if any, effects could be found, the Department is willing to pay for the expenses involved. He expects complete results of the testing to be made available in the near future,

and notes it is not easy to identify the specific bacteria or viruses that may be responsible for the illnesses found on the Hoover farm.

Meanwhile, the Hoover family and their employees have been tested and the reports were all negative. "Everything came out good, we are very happy," commented Mrs. Hoover in a telephone interview with Lancaster Farming Thursday afternoon.

Despite their difficulties with downed cattle, the dairy continues to operate. Milk is being shipped regularly and no quarantine is in effect. Health regulations are being stringently enforced and there is speculation that the conditions on the farm contributed to livestock problems.

Three cows have died on the farm, and a total of 13 calves were born dead. Six other cows have been sent off the farm for slaughter because of illness. The Hoovers are concerned their problems may have had something to do with the operation of the nuclear reactors on Three Mile Island. But there is no evidence to prove such suspicions.

"Radiation is not the cause of the current problem on the Hoover farm based on blood studies, postmortem lesions, radiological evaluations and histopathological studies on the tissues" he said.

Hallowell said that pathologists at the University of Pennsylvania "have concurred with all of the findings reported May 24 by the department's Summerdale laboratory. They have stated categorically that the health problems on the Hoover farm are not related to any radiation-linked damage."

The report of tests on blood samples of cows from the Hoover farm show no signs of anything out of the normal range. "Every cow on the farm is normal in their blood profiles which measure mineral, protein, and enzyme levels," he said. "There is no sign of radiation poisoning on the farm."

Additional diagnostic service provided by the New Bolton Center at Hallowell's request, indicated that several cows on the Hoover farm are suffering from metritis and mastitis. The report of the pathologists

includes recommendations aimed at correcting facilities to improve calving conditions on the farm so that promotion of infection could be minimized. Also included in the report is a complete health history which indicates that only three cows, not seven as originally reported, have died on the Hoover farm.

On a related subject, Hallowell said that 100 farmers from within a five mile radius of the 3 Mile Island nuclear power plant have been surveyed by agents of the department. He said that 95 per cent showed no problems with their animals health while the remainder showed a few routine problems. The farmers themselves felt this might be attributed to unknown causes. Hallowell said that this was not above the average incidence of animal health problems on livestock farms.

He said he has directed the BAI's veterinarians to return to those farms which sited problems to determine the extent and where possible to suggest corrective measures in cooperation with the practicing veterinarians.

Horse club meets

LANCASTER — The Boots and Saddle 4-H Club held their meeting on May 11. Mr. Paul Hann of Ralson Purina Company discussed the horse's digestive system

The Boots and Saddle Club Show will be held on June 2

The next meeting will be on June 8, 7 30 p m. at Julie Hagstrom's

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