

# Live fowl cholera vaccine licensed for chickens

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Department of Agriculture officials have granted a license to American Scientific Laboratories of Madison, Wis., to produce the first live vaccine for pasteurellosis, or fowl cholera of chickens.

Fowl cholera is a costly and increasingly important poultry disease caused by the bacterium *Pasteurella multocida*.

Robert J. Price, senior staff veterinarian, veterinary biologics, with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said the new product was licensed for use in chickens after USDA-required testing demonstrated its safety, purity, potency and effectiveness.

The vaccine, to be marketed under the trade name Avichol, is administered by stabbing a needle dipped into the vaccine through the wing-web. The initial vaccination is recommended at 6 to 12 weeks of age and repeated at

18 to 20 weeks. Immunity develops within four days.

Price said this is the first successful, government-approved live injectable fowl cholera vaccine developed for chickens. Such a vaccine was attempted by Louis Pasteur over 100 years ago but did not prove successful outside of the laboratory.

Before development of this new product, fowl cholera vaccination of chickens was possible only with killed *P. multocida* bacterin, administered by needle and syringe injection. The disease causes mortality in poultry flocks, and also reduces egg fertility and hatchability.

All vaccines, bacterins and other veterinary biologics marketed in interstate commerce must be licensed by USDA under provisions of the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act of 1913. The new vaccine, Avichol, is one of more than 800 products manufactured by some 40 firms under USDA licenses.

# High voltage

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headaches, nervous exhaustion, drowsiness, and blood disorders.

"As a result," said Ponte, "the Soviet Union has strict rules over the amount and duration of microwave emissions from radio transmitters and radars a person can safely absorb. The U.S. by comparison, has no legal restriction for electromagnetic-radiation exposure, only an informal guideline."

Ponte was referring to the guidelines set in 1966 by the U.S. American Standard Institute that says any dose not exceeding .01 of a watt per square centimeter of exposed flesh is safe.

He recalled the discovery of the CIA in 1962 that the Soviets were beaming radar-like microwaves into the U.S. embassy in Moscow. "The radiation was .002 of the intensity the American guideline calls dangerous, but it was deliberate, aimed at the office of the U.S. ambassador from two buildings across the street."

In what was named the 'Moscow Signal', Ponte explained the CIA duplicated the radiation effects through experiments on monkeys. "Within three weeks there were adverse effects on the animals' nervous and immune systems

"Embassy personnel were not informed of the irradiation. Instead, they were asked to give blood samples to 'test for a disease in Moscow's water'. The tests revealed that a third had white-blood-cell counts almost 50 percent higher than normal — often a symptom of severe infection and also a characteristic of leukemia.

"In 1976, the U.S. State Department declared the Moscow embassy an 'unhealthful post', and metal window screens were put up to shield against the microwave beams. But 14 years had already gone by.

"Today those former embassy personnel exhibit a higher rate of cancer than the American average, and two U.S. Ambassadors in Moscow subjected to this microwave radiation have died of cancer.

Ponte also cited difficulties with the U.S. Navy's plans to build a radio system that would allow the President assured communications with undersea submarines in the event of war. Referred to as Project Sanguine, Ponte said a massive underground antennae with 30 million watts of power was studied.

Scientists doing the study

found that the antennae effects could cause ducks and geese flying overhead to become disoriented, Ponte noted, and could cause high blood pressure in dogs.

The Navy's proposal, developed in 1968, was opposed by environmentalists in 1973. Voters at public meetings rejected the plan in 1976, said Ponte.

But, the Navy had begun to operate a miniature Sanguine in Wisconsin, Ponte noted, in order to prove the project's safety and efficacy. Their plans backfired.

"Navy technicians exposed over time to Extremely Low Frequency transmitters showed ab-

normally high levels of serum triglyceride, a symptom associated with strokes and coronary problems. While under the influence of the electric smog from the transmitters, some sailors suffered a decline in the ability to perform simple addition."

Are electric power lines absolutely safe for people, animals and plants? If one of these high tension lines crosses your farm, do you notice a difference in crops, livestock, or yourself? Scientists at Penn State and other universities continue to study the effects of electrical fields, and could benefit from in-the-field experiences.

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## Inter-State

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to whether the bags had the required green tag for priority handling attached

The missing tag, the Post Office said, could have added to the delay

But Inter-State said it knows of no post office that does not open first class mail immediately.

The Lancaster Post Office did indicate it was sorry for the delay. A Post Office spokesman said they will continue to look into the problem and try to come up with a solution.

But Inter-State management and shippers are hardly placated.

The Co-op said its problems go back two years. At that time a small group of checks almost regularly ended up in Dallas, Texas.

Sometimes one group of checks would be misrouted, sometimes another.

Since the ZIP-code area involved was 175 and since the Dallas ZIP-code is 752,



Inter-State producers' milk checks mailed to ZIP-code areas starting in 175 and 176 apparently sat in a mail sack here on the loading dock of the Lancaster Post Office, thus delaying the scheduled May 20 payment.

the mail handlers presumed the first number on the code was not being read. Instead, they figured, the second pair of digits was being looked at and the mail was going to Texas.

The ZIP-code location on the letters was changed and thus helped for a while, Inter-

State said.

Deliveries into Lancaster County and nearby areas again continued smoothly until the latest incident this week.

Inter-State said it was particularly upset because it figures the checks were

available for distribution to local post offices and rural routes but never made it off the Lancaster loading dock.

The Co-op mails checks twice a month—an event anticipated by dairymen throughout the Co-op's strongest county.

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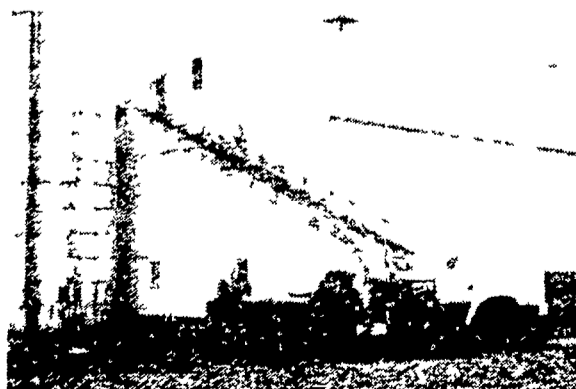
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