

## N.Y. dairy, beef cattle said tuberculosis free

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland presented a certificate officially designating New York as "Accredited free of Tuberculosis in Cattle" in special ceremonies in Syracuse last Wednesday.

The certificate honoring New York dairy and beef cattle producers for this achievement was presented to J. Roger Barber, Commissioner of the N.Y. Department of Agriculture and Markets, following a dinner sponsored by the Syracuse Chamber of Commerce at the Hotel Syracuse.

"The eradication of tuberculosis in cattle has been a cooperative effort of state and federal animal health officials — made possible through the dedicated work of the dairy and beef producers of New York," Bergland reports.

According to Dr. Harold E. Nadler, Director of the Division of Animal Industry in New York, over 17 million cattle have been tuberculin

tested in the state since 1919. This testing disclosed over 900,000 reactor animals. No infected animals have been found in New York herds since 1971, however.

To be accredited free of bovine tuberculosis a state must fulfill standards of the cooperative state-federal eradication program including:

No infected cattle found in the state for at least five years;

State enforced laws and regulations governing livestock dealers;

Continued surveillance of all cattle in market channels by animal health officials; and

Record keeping that enables state officials to trace infected animals found in market channels back to their herd of origin.

Other states designated by USDA as accredited free of bovine tuberculosis are Colorado, Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota,

Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont and Wyoming.

Four herds in the continental United States have been found infected with

bovine tuberculosis during this fiscal year — compared with 17 herds in fiscal 1979. Veterinary officials with USDA's Animal and Plant

Health Inspection Service urge dairy and beef cattle producers to buy replacement cattle from herds free of the disease.

## Identifying diseases

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that permits us to monitor seed quality much more accurately than present methods do," explains the plant pathologist.

"There are easily 70,000 seeds in a pound. Right now one contaminated seed in 10,000 is the maximum allowable rate if a grower or seed company sends seeds to Georgia to start transplants for peppers to be grown in Delaware. But the current assay procedure is so inefficient it could be missing 98 percent of the bacteria present in a seed lot. By contrast, the selective media we've developed for a screening bacterial disease should be totally effective."

So far the research team has developed selective media which identify bacterial diseases in cucumbers and melons; cabbage, radishes, broccoli and other

crucifers; tomatoes and peppers; snap beans, soybeans, corn, wheat, peaches and citrus crops, as well as some ornamentals.

Delaware is the only research station in the U.S. doing such comprehensive work with selective media for the screening of bacterial disease. The work is being funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is part of a cooperative regional project on the "Detection and Elimination of Bacterial Contaminants of Seeds and Plant Parts" which involves almost every major plant pathologist in the U.S.

"This kind of research costs a lot of money," says Sasser. "It will take at least three years to produce conclusive results. Though not splashy, these will have a tremendous impact on agricultural production."



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