

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

It was with shock, dismay, and disbelief which I learned of the plans of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine for the "transfer of responsibilities of Pennsylvania Embryo Transfer Service (PETS) to a new and larger group" and to "make all of its embryo transfer facilities and clinical and specialty areas available for their use."

As a member of the embryo transfer community I could not comprehend what had inspired this chain of events. Dr. James Evans has headed a fine and dedicated staff since the inception of this endeavor at the University, and they have built the transfer unit to what it is today.

Yet, since he has submitted his resignation, neither he, nor any of his staff, nor any of the other embryo transfer associations have been informed or even consulted as to the course the University is going to take.

We are the people the University is supposed to be working with. We were good enough to work with the University the last two years when they needed livestock or the loan of equipment. But apparently we were not important enough to be consulted when it came to this very important decision. What the answers are, we do not know. We have been kept in the dark. But a lot of PETS clients are asking questions.

A few of the ones we would like answered:

1. Why were other embryo transfer services not even consulted as to the plans of the University with the stepping aside of Dr. Evans.

2. Why was one company of the industry unilaterally and arbitrarily chosen for full access to the University's clients, embryo transfer facilities, and "many clinical and specialty areas at the School of Veterinary Medicine," a school which is largely state funded by taxpayer money.

3. The question must also arise how an institution, granted tax free status and provided with public funds, can provide and promote a commercial enterprise within the shelter of its not-for-profit status in direct and unfair competition with private tax paying enterprises.

4. Was the merging of two of the largest embryo transfer units in the Eastern United States into one operation an attempt at gaining a monopoly on the embryo transfer business in the east, and who would be gaining by this misuse of public funds. (Remember, the business was built and facilities provided by taxpayer expenditures over a five year period. Now, somebody in the University has decided that one company should benefit from this vast expenditure and not the entire industry.)

This is not sour grapes. It is true that we, too, are in the embryo

transfer business, but these are all questions asked by PETS clients, and Holstein breeders everywhere whose state association also unfortunately now, has a large investment in support of the University program.

We do have a lot to lose. Up until now the different embryo transfer services have competed with a spirit of cooperation, a trait which can only add dignity to the profession.

The University threatens to undermine what they should be promoting, by failing to consult with the present staff or with anybody else in the associated field. As a University influence they are adding credibility, deserving or not, to those which they endorse, and detracting it from those which they do not endorse.

When one cannot find out what is going on, one must wonder what one is trying to hide.

We believe the present staff of PETS, the remainder of the embryo transfer enterprise, and the taxpayers of Pennsylvania deserve better answers!

Carl G. Troop, V.M.D.
R2 Quarryville

Dear editor:

I would like to comment on your recent editorial, "All Together Under One Roof."

If people think that the trend to confinement livestock, poultry, and marine production is a "kick" and a "fad", then consider this. farm land in Lancaster County commands a price of \$3000 to \$5000 per acre. Not because the land is that productive from a strict agriculture sense, but because real estate developers are willing to pay that amount of money to forever cover the land with parking lots, shopping centers, apartment houses and tract homes

As our agricultural acreage disappears at the rate of two to three million acres annually, where are the farmers going to produce the meat, eggs, milk, and butter?

Confinement systems, which offer efficient production of animal products and require very little land, and which can utilize non-tillable acreage, are the only sensible and available answers if we are to continue producing high quality food for Americans at a reasonable price.

Gerald L. Applegate, D.V.M.
Downingtown

Farm Calendar

Today, April 25

Penn State's Little International Livestock Exposition, 8 a.m., Beef-Sheep Center.

Berks County Dairy Princess Contest, 6:30 p.m., Ag Center, Leesport.

Wayne County calf sale, noon, Wayne County Fairgrounds, Honesdale.

Huntingdon County Holstein Club heifer sale, Huntingdon County Fairgrounds.

Lancaster County tree seedling pickup, Long Park, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Lancaster County 4-H horse riding program.

University of Delaware's Ag Day, Agriculture Hall, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

Annual N.J. Field Day, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Rutgers College, New Brunswick, N.J.

Wednesday, April 29

Ag zoning meeting, 7:30 p.m., Farm & Home Center.

Tuesday, April 28

Lower Dauphin FFA banquet, 6:45 p.m., Senior High cafeteria.

Montgomery Equine Council, 7:30 p.m., 4-H Center, Lansdale.

Thursday, April 30
Md. grape & wine conference, Sheraton Inn, Frederick, 3 p.m.
Lancaster County Farmers Assn. Ladies Day Out.

Lebanon sewage sludge forum, 7:30 p.m., Municipal Bldg auditorium.

Friday, May 1

Md. Egg Council Banquet, Martin's West, Baltimore.

New Holland Environmental FFA Banquet, 6:45 p.m., Blue Ball Fire Hall.

N.J. Holstein calf & bred heifer sale, Warren County Fairgrounds, Harmony, N.J.

N.Y. Tested Bull Sale, 7 p.m., Cornell Livestock Pavilion, Ithaca, N.Y.

Penn State draft horse conference, continues Saturday.

Pa. home economists state convention, Harrisburg, concludes Saturday.

Giant omelet demonstration, noon, Penn Square, Lancaster.

Saturday, May 2

Penn State Dairy Exposition, University Park.

Adams County Fruitgrowers' Apple Blossom Festival, South Mountain Fairgrounds, Arendtsville. Continues Sunday.

Eastern Limousin Breeders show, 10 a.m.; sale at 7 p.m., State Fairgrounds, Columbus, Ohio.

Delaware Valley College of Agriculture's A-Day, Doylestown. Concludes Monday.

Egg Day, Lebanon Valley Mall, noon to 4 p.m., Lebanon.

Eastern

(Continued from Page A1)

Eastern's equity position has improved enough to make alternate sources of financing available even without an FmHA guarantee.

But, when contacted, Eastern officials declined to identify these alternate sources of financing.

Commenting on Eastern's claim of now being able to obtain alternate sources of financing, Acting State FmHA Director Robertson said

"We're not aware of any such sources and it comes as a surprise to us."

The application for the loan guarantee deals with financing for a joint venture between Eastern and Leprino Foods, of Denver, Col.

The joint venture included Eastern's proposed purchase of two mozzarella cheese manufacturing plants in Hor-

seheads, N.Y. and South Waverly, Pa. These facilities would then be leased to Leprino for 20 years for processing, packaging and distribution of the end product.

Eastern said that it was told by the FmHA that the proposed project does not comply with requirements that loans provide lasting community benefits.

Donovan pointed to another factor he says illustrates the value of the joint venture. He referred to the picking up of those dairy farmers in the area of the Horseheads and Waverly plants who had been dropped about a month ago by Pollio Dairies

Donovan ended the news release statement by an expression of confidence that financing will be found and Eastern ownership of the cheese plant facilities will be insured

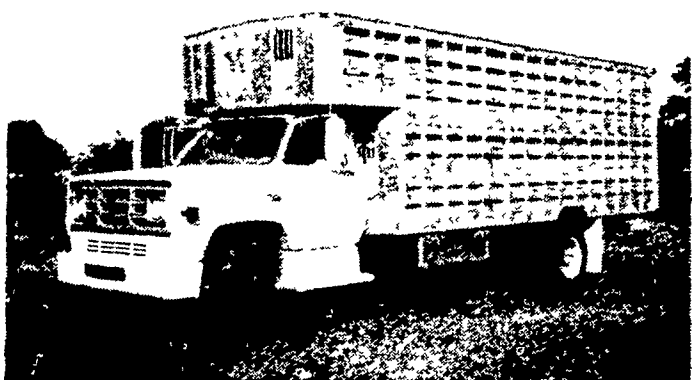
Now Is The Time

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as keenly aware of manure odors as their non-farm neighbors. I know that everyone's time is at a premium at this season of year, but I would like to suggest that you should try to spread manure only when conditions are right to minimize odor problems. Wait for a day with low relative humidity, clear sunny skies, and spread the manure on land that is dry enough to plow or disk. The best time of day is between 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

when suburban people are at work. Also, try to avoid spreading on weekends and holidays when neighbors are likely to be engaged in nearby outdoor activities. Whenever possible, the manure should be plowed or disked into the soil as soon as possible after spreading. This not only minimizes odors but also preserves nutrients and reduces the potential for surface runoff that causes water pollution.

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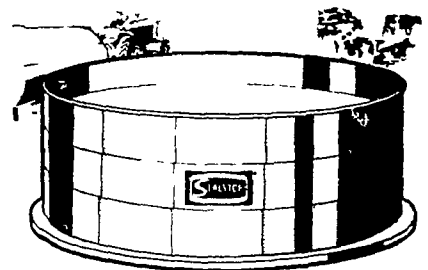
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