

State adopts reduced-dosage calfhood brucellosis vaccination

HARRISBURG — A modified dosage calfhood vaccination program, aimed at eliminating many past problems with the brucellosis program, went into effect last month, according to State Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell.

"Farmers are encouraged to utilize Pennsylvania's voluntary brucellosis vaccination program," Hallowell said. "The new reduced-dosage vaccine will help minimize undesirable effects caused by the full dose, which tended to overwhelm calves' immune systems. Reduced dosage will also minimize persistent immune body titers when animals reach 18 months of age," the Secretary said.

The only changes in the way calves are vaccinated will be that dosage will be decreased and the vaccination age will be changed to four through eight months of age, according to Dr. Max VanBuskirk, Jr., VMD, director of the Department's Bureau of Animal Industry. The reduced dosage program has been adopted by all Northeastern states.

"Accredited veterinarians have been instructed to dilute available vials of vaccine to achieve the proper dose until a new standard dose vial is available from commercial sources," VanBuskirk said.

Farmers are encouraged to contact their veterinarian for specific details and benefits of the new vaccination program.

Brucellosis is a bacterial infection in cattle which affects the reproductive system. It is a con-

tagious disease which, if not treated, is referred to as undulant fever. Undulant fever is most commonly spread through unpasteurized milk.

"Vaccination of heifer calves with Strain 19 vaccine has been our main line of defense against the disease," VanBuskirk said. "It is estimated that 65-70 percent of the vaccinates will be immune to any average exposure to brucellosis."

Ten states presently require cattle entering their state to be official vaccinates. This requirement, along with the increased market value of vaccinated animals, adds significance to the program.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture supports the brucellosis vaccination program by supplying vaccine free of charge to accredited state veterinarians and by paying veterinarians \$1.00 for each calf vaccinated.

The Bureau of Animal Industry keeps records of all official vaccinates for use in approving health charts and maintains a computer record of each eartag identification of vaccines. Herd owners are supplied with an individual vaccination certificate for each calf.

VanBuskirk suggested several additional precautionary measures to protect cattle from possible exposure from brucellosis:

- Don't buy animals that may have been exposed.
- Insist on a health certificate for purchased additions.

—Isolate and retest all replacement animals 45-120 days after purchase.

—Deal with persons you know and trust.

—Ask your veterinarian to test

every animal that aborts and retest them in 30-60 days. One test is not enough.

—Consider raising your own replacement stock.

—Practice good sanitation everywhere, including proper disposal of dead calves, fetuses and placentas.

—Have all cows freshen in individual maternity pens.

Marketing needs 'elbow room'

DALLAS, Tx. — Livestock marketing is big business, but it needs more "elbow room" to do a better job for the entire industry, the president of Livestock Marketing Association said here recently.

Lemmy Wilson, speaking before the annual meeting of the Livestock Marketing Association of Texas, pointed to the 1980 Volume and Value of Livestock Transactions Study to show "the impressive size and scope of the marketing sector."

The survey, done annually by LMA, showed that last year the value of U.S. marketing transactions hit \$53.6 billion. The volume of those transactions, on cattle, hogs and sheep, was 238.5 million head.

The survey is unique in that it measures each time there is a change of ownership on one head of livestock. This method of surveying provides a better picture of the size of the livestock industry than other methods, Wilson said.

The survey also showed that the percentage of U.S. cattle and calves slaughtered that were handled by marketing firms, was 66 percent in 1980, he said.

This parallels "all the attention" currently being given to marketing, Wilson told the May 3 meeting.

"You can't pick up an industry newspaper or magazine today without reading that one of the best roads to profitability in agriculture is paved with more attention given to marketing," he said.

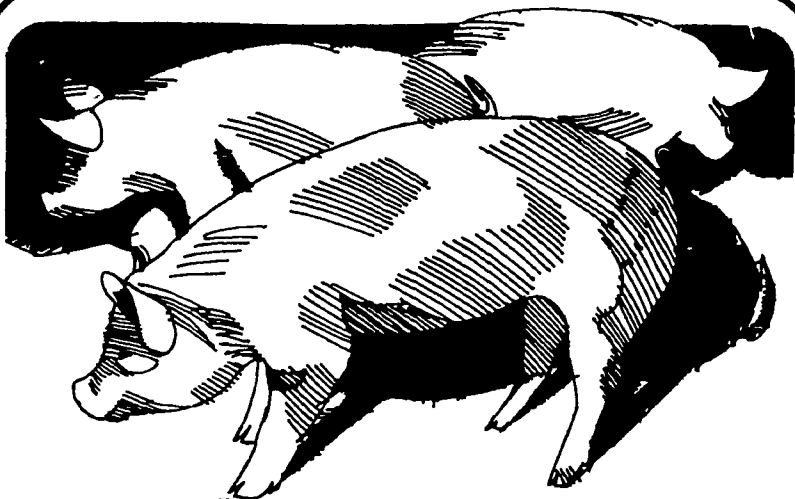
That is a position the marketing sector has taken "for years," Wilson said, adding that marketing businessmen "have been waiting" for the rest of the industry to come to the same conclusion.

"But while we've been waiting, we haven't been just marking time. We've given a lot of thought to how the marketing sector can do a better job for the entire industry," he continued.

"And one of the major conclusions we've reached is that if we're to have the elbow room we need, to do the job we do, we've got to get the government off our backs and out of our wallets."

Pointing out that the marketing sector "has always been on the cutting edge of innovation and change in the livestock industry," Wilson said LMA's national campaign to reform and modernize livestock marketing laws will benefit the entire industry.

Wilson also called upon the group to help him "tell marketing's story" to the rest of the livestock industry. The marketing sector must create an "increased awareness of its vital role within the industry" if it is to reach its legislative goals, he said.



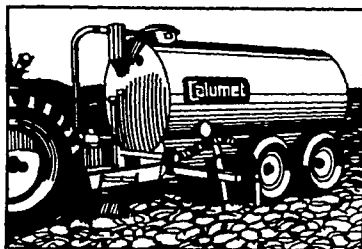
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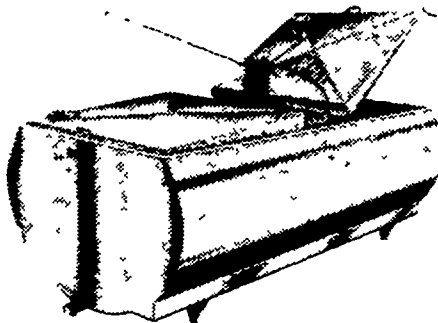
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