

OUR READERS WRITE, AND OTHER OPINIONS

(Continued from Page A10)

The other issue is whether or not BLV poses a human health hazard. In this regard, Ferrer has never stated or implied that BLV infects human beings. On the contrary, his report in Science states that the available evidence fails to show that BLV infects humans or contributes to the causation of human leukemia.

However, Ferrer cautions that studies conducted to date do not entirely rule out the possibility of human infection and that a definitive answer to this question must await the development of a molecular probe which is fully representative of the BLV genome. Such a probe is necessary in order to thoroughly explore the possibility that segments of BLV genetic material are present in the cells of human leukemia patients or of people exposed to BLV.

In his report in Science, as well as in the University's press release, Ferrer states that while pasteurization apparently inactivates BLV particles, we do not know whether the genetic material of the virus, which is incorporated into infected milk cells, is inactivated at pasteurization temperatures.

Ferrer and his colleagues have never recommended people stop or curb their consumption of milk. He points out that while man has probably been drinking milk from BLV-infected cows for a long time, human leukemia is a relatively rare disease.

He believes it is also important to take into account the enormous nutritional benefits derived from drinking milk, and this, in his view, outweighs the very small possible risk. However, Ferrer does feel that infants should not be fed raw milk from BLV-infected cows and suggests people who may wish to drink raw milk can have tests done to make sure that their cows are uninfected.

But even if BLV should, as we expect, have no role whatever in the causation of human leukemia, the mere fact that a leukemogenic virus is present in cow's milk places the Commonwealth's and

the nation's great dairy industry under a threatening cloud.

Beyond the public health question, BLV infection (at least 20 percent of the American dairy cattle population is infected) is perhaps the greatest single threat to the large American cattle export business. Most countries of the world do not allow the importation of BLV infected cattle or of semen from infected bulls. Indeed, some countries even forbid importation of cattle testing negative for BLV, but which originate from herds where any level of infection is present. We can expect that this regulatory policy will one day be applied universally.

West Germany, a country with an official BLV eradication program is already displacing the United States in the cattle export business. Congress has heard again and again that the American automobile industry and some other industries are taking second place to Germany and Japan. Here is an instance of great importance to agriculture where the United States can avoid taking second place to other countries. But first we must get on with the necessary research.

In preparing this letter, I am motivated by a desire to set the record straight on how the University handled the story of Ferrer's research findings after learning that Science customarily sends summaries of its published reports to the news media. But perhaps a more important objective to be served is to stress the urgent need for an intensive research effort to settle, once and for all, the issue of whether or not BLV poses a potential threat to human health and to move ahead on the development of an effective cattle vaccine against BLV infection. That the development of such a vaccine is feasible has already been demonstrated by Ferrer in recent experiments at New Bolton Center.

Robert R. Marshak, D.V.M.
Dean

Water fight

Andrew J. Watson is correct in his proclamation on page A13 of the Aug. 29, 1981 issue of L.F. concerning "Water War". If we have any concern for the future of the U.S., we all will respond to his message.

Now in Bill 1483, as in most all other government regulations and controls, the intended benefits never reach the goals of the good intentions, intended!

We see a good example in the Narvon Mine situation. In that IU, a large business conglomerate, is able to benefit from government controls through the pretense of complying with DER. It uses its power and influence to convince the world that it is always right and doing what is best for all of society.

Bill 1483 is another step in helping to expand the power of these companys.

We don't need more regulations, we need a complete change in present directions and attitudes in all facets of today's society, starting with the methods of supplying, using and disposing of water and waste products.

With water, the sooner we realize that adding waste to our water supply and then filtering and processing this water back to drinking purposes is not technology, but plain stupidity. The cave people even knew better than to pollute their drinking water! If government would help develop and implement a chemical-toilet-type system, instead of more regulations, we would all benefit.

Also with the water supply, the answer would be in each home utilizing a cistern-type storage system. The water run-off from roofs and driveways would supply more than enough water to meet our needs. Here again if government would encourage, develop and implement such a system, we would all benefit.

Regulations should only be a means to attain a goal and not an absolute law to control our lifestyles. If society dictates a certain life-style then all of society should help pay to implement it so we all benefit, equally!

Daniel M. Groff,
Lititz, Pa.

Farm Calendar

Today, September 5
Quarter Horse Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, continues tomorrow.

Juniata Co. Fair, Port Royal, continues until September 12.

Cambria Co. Fair, Ebensburg, continues until Saturday.

Southwest District 4-H Show, Huntingdon, 9 a.m.

Peachlicious Weekend, Maple Lawn Farms, New Park, York Co., continues until Monday.

Monday, September 7
Maryland State Holstein Show, State Fairgrounds, Timonium, Md.

South Mountain Fair, Arendtsville, continues until Saturday.

Tuesday, September 8
Standardbred Yearling Sale, Farm Show Complex, continues through Saturday.

Delaware Tested Boar Sale, 6:30 p.m., Delaware State Fairgrounds, Harrington.

Wednesday, September 9
Mon Valley District 4-H Dairy Show, Washington.

Luzerne Co. Fair, Dallas, until Sunday.

Berks Farmers Informational Meeting, 9 a.m., Ag Center, Leesport.

Friday, September 11
N.E. Lumberjack Championship Woodsman Festival, continues tomorrow.

Green Tree Forest Fire Station, Mt. Joy.

York Fair, York, continues until Saturday.

Pa. Egg Marketing Assoc. meeting, 7 p.m., Sheraton Conestoga.

Saturday, September 12
So. Central Pa. Dairy Goat Show, South Mountain Fairgrounds, Arendtsville.

Soybean and Small Grain Production Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Trout Valley Farm, Stewartstown.

Livestock market and auction news

Four States Livestock

Hagerstown, Md.

Wednesday, August 26

Report supplied by auction

SLAUGHTER: Fed Steers Steady prices. Good 56.00-60.75; Medium 55.00 Down. Heifers Good 50.00-55.75; Medium 49.00 Down. Cows Large run, \$2.00 higher. High Yield 46.50-48.00; Average 43.00-46.00; Big Middle 39.00-42.00; Fatty Herf. 36.00-40.00; Light Wts. 32.00-35.00; Shelly 41.00 Down. Fat Bulls \$1.00 lower. Good 52.00-53.75; Medium 47.00-51.00. Veal Calves Heavy Calves steady. Light Calves \$2.00 higher. Choice 85.00-87.00; Good 78.00-84.00; Medium 70.00-77.00; Farm Hfrs. to 90.00; Farm Bulls to 99.00; Light & Weak 56.00 Down. Lambs Steady to Lower.

Choice to 50.00; Good 44.00-48.00; Medium 43.00 Down.

STOCKER: Steers 300-550 lbs. \$2.00 higher. Choice 60.00-63.50; Good 55.00-59.00; Medium 50.00-54.00; Culls 49.00 Down. Steers 600-850 lbs. Choice 55.00-59.00; Good 50.00-54.00; Medium 49.00 Down. Heifers (All Weights) Choice 58.00-66.00; Good 50.00-57.00; Medium 49.00 Down. Bulls Choice 60.00-65.50; Good 52.00-59.00; Medium 51.00 Down. Dairy Cows to \$725.00. Springing Heifers to \$825.00. Pigs, Hd. \$2.00 lower. 20-30 lbs. 15.00-24.00; 40-60 lbs. 25.00-31.00. Shoats by Lb. to \$47.00. Slaughter Hogs \$1.00 lower. 210-230 lbs. 50.75-51.25; 240-260 lbs. 50.25-50.75; 300-375 lbs. 46.00-48.25. Sows 300-600 lbs. 45.00-51.00; Thin Sows 37.00-44.00.

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