# Agreement reached on coccidiosis research

- BELTSVILLE, Genetically engineered proteins, required as a first step in devising a potential vaccine against a serious disease of poultry, will be produced by three companies under an agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Harry D. Danforth, microbiologist with USDA's Agricultural Research Service, said today that the joint venture's goal is to develop a broad-range vaccine against coccidiosis. This parasitic intestinal disease an

nually costs the U.S. poultry industry more than \$150 million in direct losses and about \$100 million for anticoccidial drugs, he added.

Joining USDA in the agreement are Hoffman-La Roche, Inc., Nutley, N.J.; Genex Corp., Rockville, MD.; and Vineland Laboratories, an affiliate of ImmunoGenetics, Inc., Vineland,

According to the agreement, proteins called antigens will produced by use of monoclonal

antibodies furnished by USDA's Danforth said. research agency, Danforth said.

Agency researchers are producing these antibodies via the hybridoma technique wherein spleen cells from mice inoculated with the coccidial parasite are fused with mouse cancer cells grown in cell cultures.

Fused cells resulting from this biotechnology not only possess the immortality of cancer cells but also manufacture identical antibodies that react with specific forms of chicken coccidiosis,

Danforth and his colleagues at the Poultry Parasitic Diseases Laboratory here have produced monoclonal antibodies against several species of coccidiosis. Their work, reported last year at a meeting of the Poultry Science Association, was considered the first step in formulating a vaccine against the disease.

The agreements to produce the antibodies were executed here on June 29 by William H. Tallent, administrator for the Northeast

Region of ARS; L. Patrick Gage for Hoffman-La Roche; Joseph G. Perpich for Genex Corporation; and John F. Bradley for Vineland Laboratories.

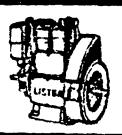
All three companies in the project had responded to a government request for proposals published in Commerce Business Daily, Danforth said. Each agreement, or memorandum of understanding, defines procedures of USDA-industry cooperation, but does not transfer funds between any of the parties.





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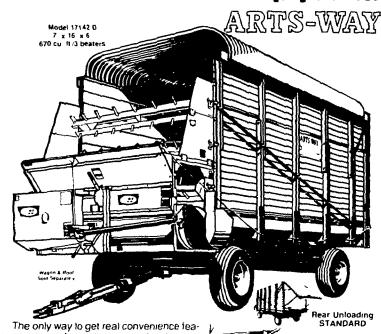




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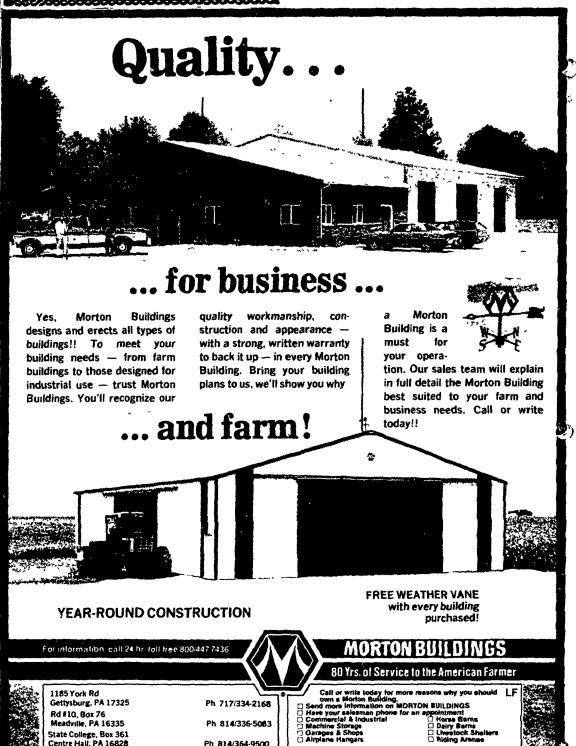
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