

Dairy growth hormone to be discussed

ITHACA, N.Y. — Results of a recent study conducted to determine the effects of long-term use of bio-synthetic bovine growth hormone on cows' milk yields and health will be reported at the "Cornell Nutrition Conference for Feed Manufacturers" at the Sheraton Motor Inn in Syracuse, Oct. 30-Nov 1.

Growth hormone used in the Cornell test was produced through recombinant DNA techniques, more popularly known as gene splicing. This marks the first time such a test-tube substance for improving milk production in dairy cows has been tested for an extended period of time.

Previous Cornell experiments involving short-term use of both natural growth hormone (bGH) from the pituitary gland and recombinant hormone have demonstrated that dairy cows, when given hormone shots daily, produced dramatically increased milk yields, from 10 to 40 percent.

Considered a breakthrough in boosting the efficiency of animal production, the Cornell work could have a major impact on agriculture around the world. The cost of producing bio-synthetic growth hormone, the commercial impact of this technology, and the economic implications of using this substance will be discussed also at the Syracuse conference.

Cornell scientists will discuss their findings Wednesday morning, Oct. 31. In addition, recent Cornell studies dealing with the effects of growth hormone on growth rates and mammary development of ruminants, and endocrine aspects of the administration of bio-synthetic growth hormone on chickens will be discussed.

The Oct. 31 session will get under way at 8:30 a.m. with the keynote address by Gordon G. Hammes, director of the Biotechnology Institute at Cornell, a collaboration between Cornell and industry. Hammes will speak on "Biotechnology of the Future: The dynamics of cooperative research."

Sponsored by the New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell, in cooperation with the American Feed Manufacturers Association, the annual conference is devoted to discussion of new research developments in animal nutrition affecting the nation's poultry, beef, dairy, and feed industries.

About 250 participants, including representatives of major feed manufacturing firms and related industries and scientists in the field of nutrition from throughout the eastern United States are expected. The program chairman is Charles C. McCormick, assistant professor of animal nutrition in Cornell's department of poultry and avian sciences.

The conference features 20 research papers on many aspects

of animal nutrition involving beef cattle, dairy cows, hogs, calves, horses, and laying hens. Topics include the impact of protein solubility in dairy calf starters, utilization of product feeds by laying hens, diagnosis of

nutritional status of horses, limits to the manipulation of rumen fermentation, vitamin E content of different varieties of corn, and diet formulation for optimum growth of cattle.

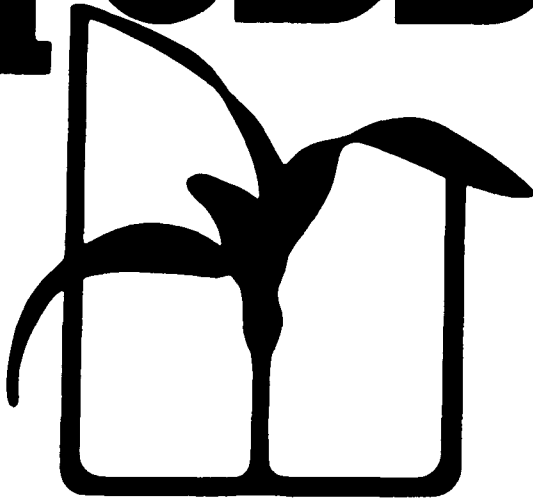
For further information on the

Cornell conference, contact Charles McCormick, 306 Rice Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853, or at (607) 256-2063.

Meanwhile, Monsanto Company of St. Louis, Missouri, will stage the Monsanto Technical Sym-

posium" in conjunction with the Cornell Nutrition Conference for Feed Manufacturers on October 30 at the same conference site. The Monsanto symposium will focus on the latest developments on basic and applied aspects of nutrition.

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