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Pseudorabies compromise reached in Pa.; Animal health advisory effort launched

Taking close look at laws and diseases

HARRISBURG — An ambitious list of agenda goals to improve animal health in Pennsylvania was outlined to an advisory group of veterinarians and representatives of livestock organizations by Dr. Max Van Buskirk Jr., of the Bureau of Animal Industry, on Wednesday.

Dr. Van Buskirk outlined three main areas of concern and need regarding animal health in which the advisory board will help in an effort to find solutions and improvement.

These areas of main concern:

—Animal diseases, with Avian influenza, pseudorabies and Johnes at the head of a lengthy list.

—Antiquated animal health laws which impede efforts at improvement.

—And, the bottom line — money.

Dr. Van Buskirk also injected a fourth animal health concern for Pennsylvania — animal rights.

"We've avoided animal rights," Dr. Van Buskirk said.

"But we can't avoid it much longer. At some point we'll have to address these concerns."

In the area of diseases, the PDA's Bureau of Animal Industry has responsibility in three principal areas — those diseases communicable to humans, those diseases with serious economic impact on agriculture and the exotic diseases, such as Newcastle.

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Dairy

Exclusive

In this week's issue, dairy farmers will find three items of special interest.

In the A Section, Dairy Editor Wendy Wehr takes you along on a manure management tour that investigates the various options that are available to dairy farmers to handle this important phase of their operations.

Also in the A Section, Robin Phillips takes an in-depth look at dairy rations from a unique three-part viewpoint — that of a feedman, nutrition consultant and dairyman.

And in the B Section, you'll find comprehensive photo and story coverage of dairy competition at NAILE in Louisville, Ky. from Donna McConaughy.

And, they're exclusively in Lancaster Farming.



Dairy Council nutrition researcher Dr. Elwood Speckmann discusses calcium benefits with Inter-State President Robert B. McSparran, right.

At Inter-State meeting

Dairy product nutrition stressed

BY WENDY WEHR

LANCASTER — "Our problem is not over-production, it's under-consumption," proclaimed Dr. Elwood W. Speckmann, Vice President, Nutrition Research, National Dairy Council. And with that remark, he drew a strong affirmative response from his audience, the dairymen of Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative.

On Thursday, Dr. Speckmann addressed the delegates to Inter-State's 67th Annual Meeting. He outlined the focus of the nutrition

research at Dairy Council, including information about the probable calcium deficiency in the diets of Americans.

"We are taking the offense to make good news happen about dairy foods. And the key to our offense is calcium," announced Speckmann. In the past few years, he explained, as Americans have sought health promotion and disease prevention, dairy products have been excluded from their diets because of risks of cancer, heart disease, and hypertension.

To reassociate dairy foods with

health, Dairy Council is focusing on calcium. In particular, calcium is being identified with bone health and regulation of blood pressure, explained Speckmann.

In his discussion of osteoporosis, the loss of bone mass, he noted that bone health is strongly related to the intake of dietary calcium. "You know what we say out at Dairy Council," he quipped, "No bones about it, no bones without it!"

Currently, Americans, men and

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Pa. FFA'ers make good dairy showing

ST. LOUIS, MO. — Pennsylvania FFA'ers made their best competitive showing at the 57th National Future Farmers of America convention in dairy contests.

Before a convention audience of some 22,000 FFA members, advisors, parents and friends, Commonwealth top honors in national judging contests went to a trio of Lancaster County FFA'ers from the Solanco Chapter.

Joe DeLong, Mark Welk and Kris Esbenshade from Solanco FFA finished third in dairy cattle judging among 45 teams — one of the largest competitions at the convention. They were topped by teams from only two other states with a few dairy cattle. California finished first and Wisconsin was second.

Individually, Welk placed 14th;

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Pictured earlier this year when they won state competition in FFA Dairy Cattle Judging are, from the left, Joe DeLong, Mark Welk and Kris Esbenshade, of the Solanco Chapter, Lancaster County.

Depopulation moratorium approved

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

HARRISBURG — A pseudorabies compromise has been reached with PDA's Bureau of Animal Industry for a moratorium on forced depopulation to provide time for a livestock group to prepare an alternate PRV control and eradication program for presentation to BAI.

The compromise was unanimously endorsed by 15 livestock and ag representatives at a meeting at PDA offices on Wednesday.

The compromise essentially puts a temporary "hold" on forced depopulation for operators who currently have the disease and any new ones who might get it during the moratorium period that extends until May 1.

In that interval a committee of livestock representatives will draw up a draft report of a new program of how to deal with PRV, which will still have the goal of eradication, but without the economic hardships imposed by forced depopulation.

Principal areas of investigation were listed at Wednesday's session which will be included in the committee's work:

- Swine identification system;
- Quarantine measures;
- If there is no depopulation, what are the on-farm eradication measures to be, including vaccine use.

—A feasible marketing system for animals shipped under permit during quarantine.

- Indemnity;
- Retroactive indemnity;
- Swine shipping regulations, including vehicle cleaning and disinfecting;

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Thanksgiving notice

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, Lancaster Farming announces the following deadlines for the Nov. 24 issue: sales register, mailbox market, public sale ads and display, 5 p.m., Monday, Nov. 19; Classified advertising: real estate and truck and trailers, 5 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 20; all other classified advertising, 9 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 21; and news, 4 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 21.