

Inter-State

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particularly women), are deficient in their calcium intake. In addition, the research indicates that the government's Recommended Daily Allowance for calcium is below the level needed to prevent osteoporosis.

If we all just drank one more 8 oz. glass of milk a day, noted Speckman, that would be an additional 16 million gallons a day, or six billion gallons annually.

In addition to prevention of osteoporosis, calcium is also being associated with the prevention of hypertension. The problem with the moderate salt-modified diets on which many Americans have been placed to curb high blood pressure, said Speckmann, is that those diets are deficient in calcium.

Speckmann reported that calcium is an effective and well-tolerated treatment for mild to moderate hypertension in 46 percent of hypertensives.

While the results of this research is encouraging to dairymen, he did caution that everyone, including producers of calcium supplements, will be "jumping on the calcium bandwagon." Consequently, members of the dairy industry must market milk as a natural source of calcium that contains a whole "package" of healthy nutrients.

Speckman's afternoon address to the Inter-State producers followed reports from officers of the cooperative. General Manager Paul E. Hand focused on three issues of importance to Inter-State members: the dairy provisions of the 1985 Farm Bill, the organizational directions for Inter-State, and membership commitment to the organization.

As well as commitment, Inter-State's President, Robert B. McSparran, emphasized progress and security as benefits of belonging to a financially strong organization such as Inter-State.

Animal health

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Of more immediate concern to the advisory board members, who are primarily engaged in livestock related businesses, from their initial discussion were the economic impact diseases, such as pseudorabies.

As an example, Dr. Van Buskirk listed three basic questions concerning the state role in attempting to deal with such a disease:

—Should PRV be a regulatory disease? Or, do we try to eradicate or live with it as best we can?

—Should the industry accept responsibility, particularly financial, concerning it?

—Should the tax-payer help support such an effort?

Concerning diseases, the overall animal health advisory board broke up into sub-units to take a closer look at diseases for particular species — cattle - dairy and beef, swine, poultry and sheep.

At the suggestion of Dr. Robert Herr, representing the Sheep and Wool Growers, the group will add a dairy goat representative to the advisory board.

Dr. Van Buskirk told the group that most animal health laws in Pennsylvania are about 50 years old and are not relevant to the times and farming methods.

James R. Barnett, manager of member relations, gave an update on the Inter-State's Young Cooperator program, and at the annual banquet on Thursday evening, this year's Young Cooperators were recognized.

Gordon and Carole Hoover were named the Outstanding Young Cooperators, while Earl and Kimberly Mills, Kathy Strock, Mike and Janet Mowrer, and Ed and Debbie Zug were also named as Young Cooperator finalists.

Also recognized during the festive banquet was C. Wayne Pittman, 25-year employee and leading fieldperson of Inter-State.

Some examples of antiquated animal health laws he cited are:

—The importation law, which likely is no longer needed.

—The Indemnity Act, which lists specific old diseases and does not provide for indemnity for dead animals. In conflict with that antiquated statute, the state did help pay for dead chickens by getting a specific legislative allocation and technically it is paying for dead animals under John's for suspect dairy cattle a farmer sends to slaughter.

—Compliance procedures are out-dated and the BAI has no authority to cite violators and needs powers similar to the State Dog Law.

And, of course, the bottom line concerning animal health is the cost.

"Agriculture gets less than one percent of the state budget," Van Buskirk said.

He cited three main areas of funding concerns — salaries for departmental personnel, indemnity and research.

He said that some improvement has been made in the salary picture to compete with industry for qualified people but personnel are still needed in such areas as monitoring at auctions and garbage feeding operations.

Indemnity is a complex financial concern and essentially comes down to how livestock industry responsibility for indemnities can be dovetailed with taxpayer support. And, even more basically, if it can be dovetailed.

And, in the area of research is the matter of facilities and personnel to provide diagnostic and study support for any animal health effort.

In future meetings, the Animal Health Advisory Board to the BAI will take a closer look at more specific items — both as they relate to particular species and such matters as indemnity that cross species lines.

Pseudorabies

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—Feeder pig regulations.

—Is forced depopulation to be retained?

During the moratorium period, other PRV regulations will remain in effect, including quarantine and the need for permits to ship hogs from positive herds to market. But during the period, existing or future owners of PRV herds will not have to proceed with depopulation under the previous eight-month time limit set by the BAI.

Committee work is expected to begin immediately. The work group includes veterinary, BAI, Pork Council, packer, auction and other livestock representatives.

It is hoped that a public session to review the draft might yet be scheduled before Christmas.

At Wednesday's session, Dr. Lawrence J. Hutchinson, Penn State Extension veterinarian, presented a letter outlining several considerations for a PRV program aimed at eradication:

These include:

—Strictly enforce current regulations on importation and movement of breeding swine.

—Initiate surveillance of imported feeder pigs, possibly 10 percent of each lot of feeders with a minimum of 10 and maximum of 50 being tested.

—ID regulations be maintained and enforced.

—Tighten and enforce bio-security, particularly at auctions and packing houses.

—Payment of indemnity for breeding stock be considered and be available only to herd owner participating in a BAI-approved eradication plan.

—Use of killed PRV vaccine be considered in PRV-positive herds on a BAI-approved eradication plan. To be used only in herds with serious disease problems and only in the early stages of eradication. BAI would control vaccine availability and use. It would be administered only by accredited veterinarians and all vaccinated

animals be identified as PRV vaccinates.

Concerning indemnity, the letter cited a suggestion for indemnities to be funded under a plan of assessments from the agricultural industry and possibly funds from the state.

A number of these and other PRV concerns were discussed at Wednesday's meeting, which led up to the compromise proposal.

The action by the BAI in establishing a moratorium until May 1 specifically applies to the requirement of submitting an eradication plan when applying for a permit to send hogs to market. A hold until May 1 will be placed on the plan requirement, which in effect places a moratorium on depopulation, the main objective sought by the Pork Producers. The State also extended the moratorium period until May 1, beyond the 90-day request of the producers, thus giving more time to work out the alternative program.

Attending Wednesday's session were John H. Henkel, of the Pa. Pork Producers Council, who chaired the session; Kathy Hohmann, of Hog Farm Management Magazine, as observer; C. Eugene Wingert, PDA and Pork Producers; Terry Sheetz, State representative and swine producer; Warren Lamm, House Ag Committee; Sheila Miller, Senate Ag Committee; John Hurtgen, Animal Health Advisory Board; Karl Brown, PFA; Ronald E. Shaffer, Pa. Grange.

Ray S. Lehr, Pennfield Corp.; Max Smith, Pa. Livestock Assn.; Dick Anglestein, Lancaster Farming, as observer; Les Burdette, Penn State; Dr. Larry Hutchinson, Penn State; Mark Nestleroth, Lancaster County Swine Producers; Jim DeGaetano, Pa. Livestock Auction Association; J. Clyde Brubaker, Pa. Sheep Producers.

How to manage corn borer

NEWARK, Del. — Now that field corn harvesting is nearly complete, many growers are asking if they should chop the stalks for corn borer control. The University of Delaware's 1984 European corn borer fall abundance survey indicates that the overwintering population is higher than last year.

Even though this population is below the 10-year average, extension pest management specialist Joanne Whalen says economic infestations could occur next season. However, in some cases winter weather and natural enemies will aid in suppression, so it's important to consider the potential effect of cultural practices on overwintering borers before spending time and money to use these controls.

"Plowing, disking, and mowing have all been used in an attempt to reduce corn borer survival," the specialist says. "Research conducted at the University of Delaware Agricultural Experiment Station has shown that disking permits the highest survival of corn borer larvae. In general, with this practice larvae

escape physical destruction and are placed close to the surface for easy emergence in the spring."

If conventional tillage is planned, she says plowing under the stalks will result in the lowest survival of overwintering larvae. Growers can choose to do this in the fall or leave stalks untreated until spring. But if they wait until spring, they must remember to plow before moths start to emerge and lay eggs.

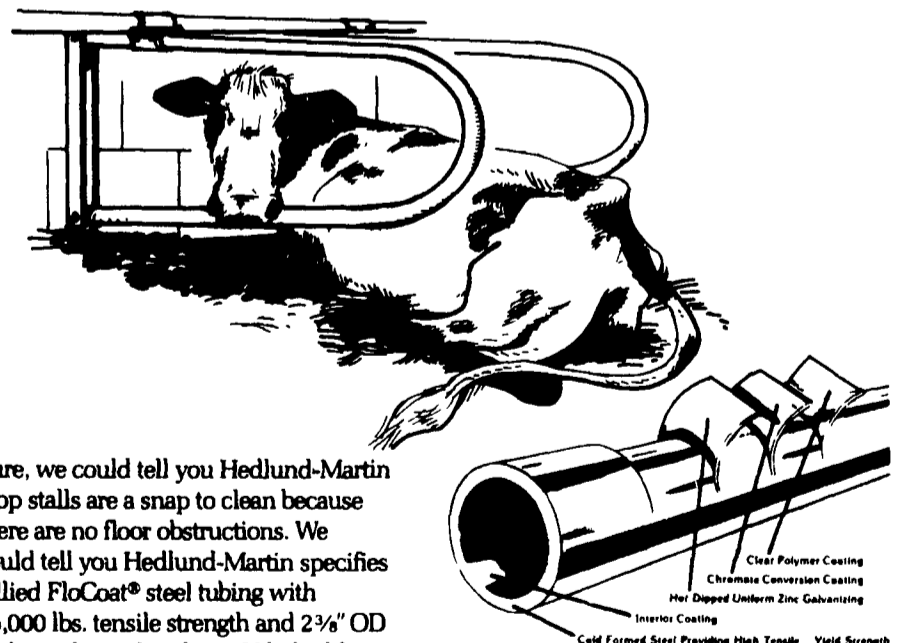
With the increase in no-till corn acreage in Delaware, physical stalk destruction has been reduced, which could lead to increased borer survival, Whalen says. Growers using no-till practices can reduce moth emergence next spring by mowing or chopping stalks in the fall.

"This practice will benefit isolated or large growing areas the most," she cautions. "When corn borer moths emerge, they tend to migrate from their overwintering sites. So, if you're the only grower chopping stalks in an area, you could still experience economic corn borer infestations in the spring from migratory moths."



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