

## Animal health group backs stronger disease controls

RICHMOND, VA — The U.S. Animal Health Association (USAHA) concluded its 1985 meeting in Milwaukee, with a number of recommendations aimed at improving the health of the nation's livestock and poultry, according to Dr. Norman Kruse of Lincoln, NE.

Kruse, who is the State Veterinarian in Nebraska, succeeds Dr. David U. Walker of Montpelier, VT, as president of the organization. President-elect is Dr. John F. Hudelson of Denver, CO.

Others elected to office at USAHA's 89th annual meeting were: Dr. John Cobb of Atlanta, GA, 1st vice president; Phil E. Bradshaw of Griggsville, IL, 2nd vice president; Dr. Max Van Bushirk of Harrisburg, PA, 3rd vice president; and Dr. John Shock of Annapolis, MD, executive secretary-treasurer.

Kruse called on USAHA members to take positive steps to

eradicate diseases and to carefully evaluate disease program for the future. "I feel it is high time that we eradicate brucellosis," he said. "We cannot accomplish this goal unless state and federal regulatory personnel and industry all pull together. We must change our attitudes and think positively."

USAHA represents all 50 states, seven foreign countries and 18 allied groups serving health, technical and consumer markets. The organization has 28 working committees with various diseases affecting major domestic livestock and poultry.

"USAHA is recognized as the official voice of the livestock and poultry industries in recommending changes to state and federal animal health regulations," Kruse said. Among its 1985 recommendations, USAHA:

— Called for increasing indemnity for brucellosis to provide incentive for depopulation of in-

fectured herds in states with a low incidence of the disease. Highest indemnity levels would be paid for introduced outbreaks in Free states, with progressively lower levels in Class A, B and C states. To resolve a long-standing controversy with regard to vaccinated heifers from quarantined herds, USAHA proposed regulations allowing movement of such heifers from Class B and C states until Oct. 1, 1988. After that date, movement of such heifers from Class B states would be terminated and all cattle movements from Class states would be stopped, except for steers, spayed heifers, S-branded cattle or cattle from certified free herds.

— Called for USDA to intensify epidemiological studies and research on vesicular stomatitis, with particular emphasis on identifying the reservoirs of the disease and the means by which it spreads. Cyclic outbreaks of this disease, whose outward signs are

the same as those of foot-and-mouth disease, have become more frequent in recent years.

— Asked USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to sponsor a symposium on the international movement of embryos. USAHA noted that because the number of embryos in international trade is growing very rapidly, there is a need for the exchange of information on current research data and its implications.

— Called for all Mexican cattle to be quarantined and tested for tuberculosis at their point of entry into the United States.

— Noting a recent extensive outbreak of tuberculosis in bison, called for handling the disease in these animals the same as for cattle under the tuberculosis eradication program.

— Called for testing all wildebeest for malignant catarrhal fever, a foreign animal disease,

with movement restrictions placed on animals that react to the test.

— Asked USDA to develop a model regulation for states to use in the control of livestock and poultry diseases in zoo animals, which can be infected with many diseases and parasites that cause serious problems in domestic livestock and poultry and native wildlife. USAHA pointed out that commercial trade in zoo animals is often carried out among private parties or through auctions or consignment sales without adequate precaution against the spread of disease. The association said that current disease control regulations on movement of zoo animals "are inconsistent, inadequate and, too often, non-existent."

— Recognized that a new strain of bluetongue was now in the United States and asked that surveillance programs be established to monitor the spread and assess the economic impact of the new strain. USAHA also called for additional research to develop safe and effective vaccines against bluetongue.

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## New options for fruit growers

UNIVERSITY PARK — More and more vegetable growers in the Northeast have been expanding their farming operation from the field into the greenhouse, according to Doyle W. Grenoble, research associate in The Pennsylvania State University's Department of Horticulture.

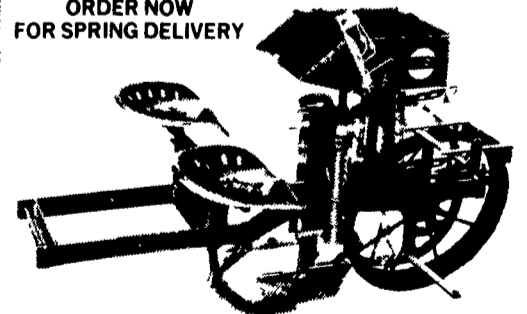
At the same time, says Penn State's extension fruit tree specialist Robert Crassweller, fruit growers are facing new options and problems because of the controversial growth regulators used for tree fruits.

The growing bedding plant industry as well as developments with fruit tree growth regulators will be addressed at the upcoming Pennsylvania fruit and vegetable conference in Hershey. For three days, January 28-30, specialists from Penn State, industry representatives, growers and other university specialists will offer workshops on the latest developments and research into the growing and marketing of fruits and vegetables.

More than 1,000 growers from the Northeast are expected to attend the conferences, as well as industry representatives who will be sponsoring a trade show. Registration is through either the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association or the State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania.

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