

# Pseudo Rabies Study

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in cages and sent to the lab to be studied for the PRV. It is a lengthy and complex process, but preliminary findings of the study will be available shortly. Cohen tested raccoons, foxes, cats, dogs, groundhogs and other animals for the infection. In the preliminary findings, Cohen found that 17 percent of the cats tested positive on five different farms with the disease.

Although the evidence is not conclusive and the research continues, there is the possibility that farm cats could be an agent in the spread of the disease. He does not recommend that all hog producers immediately rid their farms of cats, however he does urge producers to observe the animals and to consider this possibility. Cohen recounted the outbreak of bovine tuberculosis in the 1960's when 60 percent of the cats were found to be loaded with BTB.

According to Cohen, he is only midway in his study. The proposal for another grant which would allow him to complete the study is before the state committee and should be acted upon within the next month. If Cohen does not receive the grant, the study will end.

Mark Nestleroth, of Manheim and a former hog producer whose herds were struck with pseudo rabies twice, confirmed Cohen's implications that something other than the hogs can spread the disease. After the first incidence of PRV in Nestleroth's herd, he took great steps towards biosecurity throughout his operation, but sev-

eral months later Nestleroth's herd was hit the second time.

He went out of business and began raising sheep, but every other day he was losing a lamb. He took every possible precaution to isolate and separate all the animals so he knew that something else again was infecting the herd. He said that unfortunately he had not rid the farm from all of the cats which he had when he had hogs. He added that the cats drink from the same watering troughs as did the hogs and the sheep.

Cohen added that his preliminary findings are not to be interpreted as being conclusive. However, there is a possibility that animals other than the pig may not be dying from the disease but may be a host to the virus and be spreading it.

## RCMA Update

Bob Pardoe, who has been working on the steering committee for RCMA, reported that while farmers in western Pennsylvania have flooded RCMA with sign-up contracts, farmers in the central and northeastern regions of the state are slow to join RCMA's efforts to bring farmers together into a bargaining unit.

Pardoe stated that in order for all farmers to receive the premium that RCMA has been successful in achieving previously, central and northeastern farmers need to join together. If farmers are to survive milk price support cuts, premiums from marketing groups as RCMA are crucial.

According to Pardoe, farmers have only to gain from RCMA's efforts. Members are not responsi-



Bob Pardoe, Charles Wismer, Ernest Miller and Dr. Daniel Cohen hosted a press luncheon recently sponsored by the Pennsylvania Grange and presented progress reports on RCMA's activities and on a University of Pennsylvania study on the spread of pseudo rabies headed by Dr. Cohen.

ble for the administration costs, there are no dues and there are no

assessments. RCMA only asks that farmers give RCMA permission to

move their milk from one handler to another.

## Electra Daughter Tops Eastern Shore Sale

BY SUE CROW

Maryland Correspondent

RISING, Md. — Ladys-Manor Charli Electra was the top animal at the annual Eastern Shore Showcase Calf Sale bringing \$1,700. Scarff Brothers from Falston, Maryland bought this Thonym a Electra daughter from Ross E. Smith, Jr. Her GP, 82 point Dam has an index of CI +29F +43F +711M CI\$ +126 +111 CTPI +628. Her top record as a 3-year-old stands incomplete at 229 days, 21,520m 3.9% 848f due to her death. She is a Letters Burkgov Trump daughter out of Md-Five Fork Elevation April.

April is VG-86 as a 5-year-old and has a top record of 26,790m 4.25% 1118f as a 6-year-old. She is an Elevation daughter with a

lifetime record of 139,120m 4.1% 5,693f. Electra has a Maternal sister who placed, in 1986, as the Junior All-Maryland Summer Yearling and was sold at this sale last year. Electra is due in July to Spruce Edge Majesty.

The second high of the sale was Md Stony Knoll Ned Boy Bonnie bringing \$1,600. Mitch Quillen's Whittier Farms Ned Boy daughter is due in June to Cal-Clark Board Chairman. Her dam, DFC Valiant Vonnie, is a S-W-D Valiant daughter at GP-81 points. Her record stands at 19,060m 4.1% 772f. The granddam is Guilrich Paclamar Betty VG-87 with a top record of 29,580m 3.1% 924f and a lifetime record of 101,310m 3.4% 3,432f. The third dam has a lifetime record of 119,300m 3.2%

3,798f at VG-87 points. Bonnie was sold to Claude Haman from Middletown, Delaware.

The sale averaged 50 animals at \$874.50 with a total of \$43,725. There were 12 animals that averaged over \$1,000. Kent Farrell was the auctioneer with Bob Knutsen reading the pedigrees. The sale was sponsored by Cecil, Kent, Harford, Baltimore, Queen Anne, Choptank and Delaware Holstein Associations.

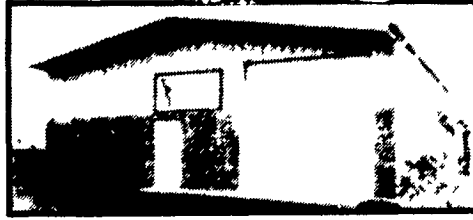
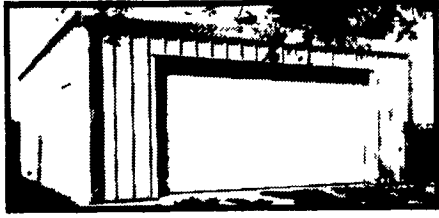


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