State Bureau Gives Bovine Tuberculosis Update

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) - The Dauphin County guernsey herd found to be infected with Mycobacterium bovis (M. bovis) in August, 1989 has been depopulated. One hundred nine (109) of 126 animals tested in that herd were declared tuberculin reactors and 16 of the reactors were found to have grossly visible lesions at slaughter. M. bovis was cultured from reactors in this herd by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory. Indemnity will be paid for all animals depopulated because of bovine tuberculosis.

One hundred forty (140) Pennsylvania herds have had contact with the infected Dauphin County herd as a result of receiving exposed animals or exhibition or neighborhood contact. Eight (8) herds have had tuberculin reactors that originated from the infected herd but none of these reactors had grossly visible lesions. Testing has been conducted in 34 herds. Four (4) federal veterinary medical officers will be assisting the Bureau of Animal Industry to complete testing of all contact herds as soon as possible. Owners are being advised to depopulate all animals that were directly exposed

to the infected herd even though these animals may be test negative.

Because there is no evidence thus far of spread of bovine tuberculosis by infected or exposed animals, the Department has not made any changes to regulations governing the sale, exhibition or transportation of cattle. All cattle transported for addition to herds for dairy or breeding purposes and all cattle transported for exhibition purposes must be tubèrculin test negative within 60 days of movement unless they originate from herds test negative within one year. Pennsylvania animals may be exhibited for the show season if tuberculin test negative during that calendar year.

Pennsylvania's Tuberculosis
Free State status has, however,
been suspended pending the outcome of investigation of this outbreak. Pennsylvania is temporarily classified a Modified Tuberculosis Accredited State, and test
requirements for shipment of Pennsylvania cattle to other states and
foreign countries are affected.
Persons considering interstate
shipment or export of Pennsylvania cattle should consult either the

state or country of destination or the Department for special requirements.

The Department has not determined the source of infection in the Dauphin County herd. We suspect that infection existed in this herd for several years in spite of negative annual herd tests and the absence of clinical signs and evidence of lesions in slaughtered animals. Owners of cattle herds not tested within the past year should have their herds tuberculing tested by a veterinarian. Veterina-

rians must obtain authorization from the Bureau to conduct complete herd tests. Tuberculin testing is at owner expense except for testing of deviators and suspect herds by Bureau veterinarians. All tuberculin test reactors are depopulated and state and federal indemnity is paid. No animals may be added to herds for dairy or breeding purposes unless accompanied by a health certificate documenting a negative tuberculin test according to Department regulations.

The caudal fold test is used for routine tuberculin testing of cattle. Veterinarians conducting this test must report any reaction occurring at the tuberculin injection site. A comparative cervical test will be conducted by a Bureau or federal veterinarian to determine the final disposition of reactions to the caudal fold test. Careful application of the caudal fold test is essential if infected animals are to be detected before serious disease spread occurs.

Montgomery County Rabbit, Cavy, Poultry Show

Sam Knott of Perkiomenville took the best in show honors in the annual 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Show with his Netherland Dwarf. The reserve champion was a Florida White shown by Laura Davies of Perkasie. The show was held in conjunction with the Montgomery County 4-H Fair last month.

The grand champion cavy was a Black American shown by Nichole Giorgiandano of Arcola. The reserve champion cavy went to a

White Teddy owned by Katie Kelly of Harleysville.

Matt Hailey of Chalfont had the grand champion entry in the poultry show. His bird was a Silver Laced Wyandotte rooster. The reserve champion entry was a Millie Fleur owned by Sam Knoot. Matt also had the top entry in the laying hen and egg categories.

The various best of breed winners included Tammy Tyler of Chalfont, Harlequin; Nichole Giorgiandano, Rex; Kelly Storey of Lansdale, Holland Lop; and Eric Kolb of Harleysville, Mini-Lop.

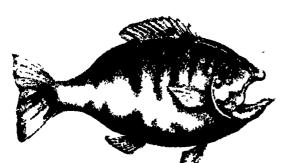
In the showmanship division, the junior champion rabbit showman rosette went to Sam Knott, while Todd Becker of Norristown was the reserve junior champion. Katie Kelly won the junior showmanship award in the cavy competition, with Nichole Giorgiandano placing first in the senior class.

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