

Farm Forum

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Our agricultural education "family" has initiated a series of self-help projects during the last few years. We have begun the FFA Foundation in Pennsylvania to provide a broad base of industry support for our statewide activities. We have named three advisory committees through the Pennsylvania Department of Education - curriculum, ag literacy, and teacher preparation. At last summer's ag teachers' conference, we named a core curriculum committee which has donated their time to write a one year core curriculum with a science orienta-

tion for Pennsylvania. We are also currently planning a long range curriculum development plan. Several teachers have begun the process of developing new courses and teaching units in such areas as food science, hydroponics, and aquaculture and are sharing their novel experiences statewide. Our past-president's committee from the ag teachers association has developed a set of quality standards for agriculture programs in Pennsylvania.

All of these steps point to a revitalization of agricultural education in Pennsylvania. What is

Bulk Tank Testing

COLUMBUS, Ohio — ProScience has introduced an antibody testing program for ProStaph I™ designed for bulk tank milk (BTM) samples. The new BTM test will serve as a valuable tool to help dairy producers and veterinarians set up an effective *Staph. aureus* control program.

A paper presented at the 1990 National Mastitis Council (NMC) shows conventional culturing missed 53% of *Staph. aureus* herds. This research was conducted by Ruben Gonzales and Phillip Sears of Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. and ProScience Corporation.

The ProStaph I™ BTM test can be run with a regular ProStaph I™ assay of individual cows. The only difference is that BTM testing uses lower optical density readings. Based on the BTM test results, herds are categorized as Low Risk, Medium Risk, and

High Risk for the presence of *Staph. aureus*.

In the same research presented at NMC, it appears that ProStaph I™ testing of BTM is very effective in detecting both low- and high-risk herds. The veterinarian or other advisor can then recommend the level of intensity for follow-up testing and corrective measures.

Other diagnostic tools such as culture and somatic cell count (SCC) testing can be used with ProStaph I™ on bulk tank milk to help in decisions concerning a *Staph. aureus* control program. ProScience Corporation is performing extensive field research on how to implement this valuable new application for dairy producers and veterinarians. For more information about the new BTM testing program, contact ProScience at 800/658-8868.

needed is vastly improved COMMUNICATIONS between all interested parties. I have had several misconceptions corrected through the letters you have printed and my correspondence with fellow teachers and others. I'm sure that members of the administration and legislature as well as your

readers have also had misconceptions corrected.

It is time for all members of the agriculture "family" to sit down together and develop a plan which can utilize all available resources to insure that agriculture education in Pennsylvania not just survives, but again takes the forefront

in producing leaders for tomorrow's agriculture.

Ronald Frederick,
President PA Vocational
Agriculture Teachers Assoc.
Ag Science Teacher
& FFA Advisor
Twin Valley High School

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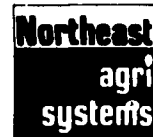
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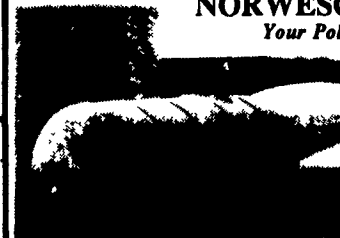
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