

U. of Md. Dedicates Center

COLLEGE PARK, MD. — Representatives from the University of Maryland College Park, Virginia Tech, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and the Maryland Racing Commission officially opened the Avrum Gudelsky Veterinary Center at College Park on October 26, 1990.

The center is the new home of the Maryland component of the VA-MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. The \$12.5 million complex is a state-of-the-art research, teaching, and service facility designed to meet the needs of agribusiness and veterinary medicine in Maryland. It houses classrooms, research laboratories and offices. It also includes regional laboratories for the animal health section of MDA, and drug testing laboratories for the Maryland Racing Commission.

The center is named after Avrum Gudelsky, a young man who had a great interest in the health and well being of animals. He was killed at the age of 31 in a motorcycle accident during the 1978 Grand Prix Race in Toronto. To honor his memory, his parents, Homer and Martha Gudelsky, established in 1980 the Avrum Gudelsky Fund to support research activities in the agricultural and life sciences at the University of Maryland. It is the generous support of the Gudelsky family that has made the Veterinary Center a reality.

New Fee Schedule for Maryland Animal Health Laboratories

Dr. Henry A. Virts, State Veterinarian, Maryland Department of Agriculture, reports that certain services provided by Maryland's five animal health diagnostic laboratories will no longer be provided free of charge. Because of ever increasing operating costs, this change in policy will be implemented January 1, 1991.

The new fee schedule was developed by the five laboratory directors after extensive consultation with selected practitioners, the department's field veterinarians, and their counterparts in neighboring states. Necropsy of Maryland farm animals, wild animals, and commercial poultry will still be offered without charge. Certain basic diagnostic tests will be included with this service. Tests mandated by cooperative Federal-State disease eradication

programs, e.g. brucellosis and pseudorabies, will still be free. The new fees do not reflect the total cost of performing the numerous tests available. The intent is simply to recover some of the cost of supplies, reagents, and equipment so that the laboratories can continue to offer up-to-date services in the face of escalating costs.

Unless the fees are paid at the time of specimen submission by the owner or submitter, the referring or submitting veterinarian will continue to be billed by MDA. Every attempt will be made to contact veterinarians before performing the test(s). The laboratory directors request that veterinarians return such calls promptly to avoid deterioration of samples. Dr. Virts and his staff are seeking improvements in the state's billing procedures, so that veterinarians will receive a monthly statement rather than a multitude of invoices.

The details of the fee schedule will be available at the laboratories later this month. Meanwhile, veterinarians with questions or comments are invited to call him or Dr. Roger Olson at (800) 492-5590, extension 5810, or the director of their nearest animal health laboratory.

New Antidote Depots in Maryland

A new poison antidote depot has been established on the Eastern Shore, and another has been relocated in Baltimore County. Each depot stocks atropine sulfate, methylene blue, sodium nitrate and thiosulfate, calcium EDTA, vitamin K1, and activated charcoal.

Depot withdrawals are to be used for emergency treatment only. The depot system is designed to assist veterinarians in treating toxicoses during catastrophic occurrences in which available inventories have been exhausted. Antidotes are available only by veterinary prescription, but depot personnel can dispense antidotes to the authorized representative of a requesting veterinarian. Veterinarian practitioners must provide their name and address, phone number, and current state veterinary license identification number to depot personnel at the time of their request for antidotes. Requests for antidotes should be initiated by a phone call

to the depot.

Items will be issued from the depot as intact units (no partial bags, bottles, or vials). Fees for antidotes will be based on the cost of replacing the item at the time the item was dispensed. There is no service charge for using the depot system. The Maryland Veterinary Medical Association has the responsibility for invoicing, reordering, and stockpiling antidotes. The veterinarian of record, and not the animal owner, is accountable for the fees charged by the MVMA.

At each depot center, a set of guidelines will be available for veterinary practitioners. The guidelines will provide, in tabular form, the uses, dosages, and methods and precautions of administration for those antidotes that are maintained by the depots. It should be emphasized that the information provided represents current recommendations, and will be updated as new data become available.

The depots are not poison information centers. Veterinarians who require information on the incidence, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of poisoning and chemical contamination in animals are directed to call the National Animal Poison Information Network Center. Their 24-hour toll-free telephone number is (800) 548-2423. There is a \$25 charge for each phone call.

Addresses and Phone Numbers of Antidote Depots in Maryland

- Glade Valley Animal Hospital, Inc., 8032C Liberty Road, Frederick, MD (301) 663-5591.
- Dr. Michael W. Radenbaugh, 1535 Mt. Carmel Road, Parkton, MD (301) 343-0150.
- Drs. Joseph and Donna Nizolek, Community Animal Hospital, 9679 Ocean Gateway (Route 50), Easton, MD (301) 822-4475.

Ag Changes Under Exam At Conference

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — "The Changing Shape of Agriculture" is the theme of the annual Lime, Fertilizer and Pesticide Conference to be held January 15-17, 1991 at the Days Inn at State College.

The event, sponsored by Penn State's College of Agriculture, will focus on a wide range of agricultural trends and developments. On January 15, Dr. G. Edward Schuh, dean of the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, will deliver the keynote address, "Global Economics Issues Affecting U.S. Agriculture in the '90s."

H. Louis Moore, professor of agricultural economics, will present "The Changing Shape of Agriculture in the Mid-Atlantic

Region." Other topics to be covered include the impact of the 1990 farm bill on the fertilizer, pesticide, and farm industries in Pennsylvania; insect and herbicide resistance for crops; the packaging and handling of pesticides; and nitrogen management. Penn State faculty members and industry representatives will provide expertise for the session.

The pre-registration fee for the conference is \$40. There is an additional \$17 fee for registrants who wish to attend the banquet on January 16.

For registration information, write to Lime, Fertilizer & Pesticide Conference, 306 Ag Administration Building, University Park, PA 16802, (814) 865-8301.

Protect Your Shrubs From Winter Burn

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Don't be fooled by recent mild temperatures — winter's chill is on its way. And that can mean trouble for some landscape plants.

Broadleaf evergreens, such as azaleas, rhododendrons and hollies, are particularly vulnerable to winter damage, according to Dr. Frank Gouin, horticulture specialist with the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service.

The most common injury, he said, is winter burn, which is caused by the drying out of foliage. Winter burn occurs when the ground is frozen and soil moisture is unavailable to the plant.

You can help protect your shrubs from winter burn by watering them during cold, dry weather.

Sheltering plants from winter wind with burlap screens also is an effective — albeit aesthetically unappealing — technique.

"Don't wrap the shrubs with the burlap," Gouin said. "This prevents air circulation and can cause mildew. A windscreen placed in front of the bushes is a better idea."

To enhance leaf and flower production in the spring, Gouin recommends fertilizing broadleaf evergreens after the first frost.

"Just make sure you follow the directions on the label," he said. "Over-fertilizing can kill plants."

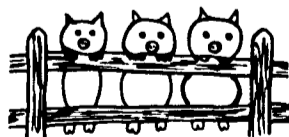
For more information on winter garden care, contact your local cooperative extension service office.

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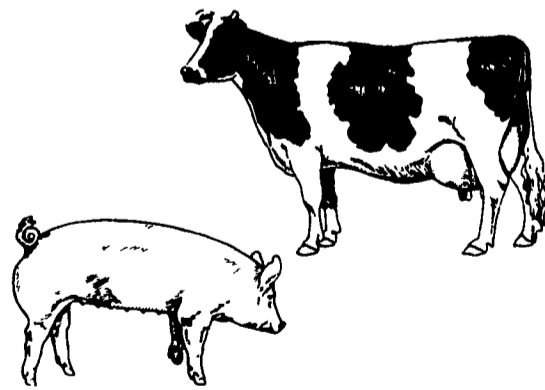
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