

Symposium To Focus On Preventive Medicine

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Why do vaccinations sometimes fail to prevent disease in cattle herds? What happens when drugs are not used according to the label directions? How do producers decide what their herd's vaccination program should be?

These and other questions about preventive medicine in beef cattle herds will be discussed at the Eastern Cattlemen's Symposium on March 26 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Penn State Meats Lab at University Park. Held in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Beef Expo, the symposium will bring together veterinarians, meat scientists, producers and regulators to discuss cattle health issues.

"The discussion will start with the economics of a preventive health program," said symposium organizer Dr. John Comerford, assistant professor of dairy and animal science at Penn State. "From there, we'll address a number of concerns and challenges to herd health."

Dr. Merlin Kaerberle, professor of microbiology and immunology at the Iowa State College of Veterinary Medicine, will discuss the effect of the animal's environment on vaccine performance and the reasons vaccines sometimes fail to prevent disease.

Dr. Dean Elliot of the Troy Veterinary Clinic will analyze vaccination programs for dairy-beef calves. Dr. Kurt Wohlgenuth, manager of technical services for Smith, Kline-Beecham Animal Health, will discuss vaccination programs for cow herds and young calves, focusing on available products and how they are best used.

Dr. William Henning, Penn State assistant professor of animal science, will explain how producers can avoid causing carcass damage during injections, a problem that costs the beef industry millions of dollars annually.

The implications of not following the label directions on cattle drugs will be examined by Dr. Gerald Guest of the Food and

Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine. He will discuss the need to maintain a high level of integrity in using these drugs.

The symposium will conclude with a panel discussion of how veterinarians and producers can work together more efficiently to prevent disease in cattle. The discussion will be followed by a question-and-answer period.

The registration fee of \$20 includes a copy of the symposium proceedings and "Keystone Ribeye Steak on a Roll" for lunch. Preregistration is encouraged since seating may be limited. Registration forms for the symposium are available from Penn State Cooperative Extension county offices and members of the Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association, or by calling Dr. John Comerford at (814) 863-3661.

Ag Day Speakers

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farms earns \$4 out of every \$5 income; direct payments from federal farm programs will continue, to be sliced; 65 percent of American farms already report working off the farm; 33 percent of those report that one spouse works more than 200 days a year off the farm; the average living and income and income taxes for a family of four is \$26,000 to \$30,000 a year;

Also, 75 percent of the land will change ownership in the next 20 years (most of the land will be owned by women 70 years or older); deferred taxes will be the biggest liability on all farmers' balance sheets; medical cost will be the cut the most into farm expenses; there are 20 farmers older than 55 for every one farmer younger than 35; agriculture seems to be settling into several major areas — those with the best land, water, rural

infrastructure, and general population growth;

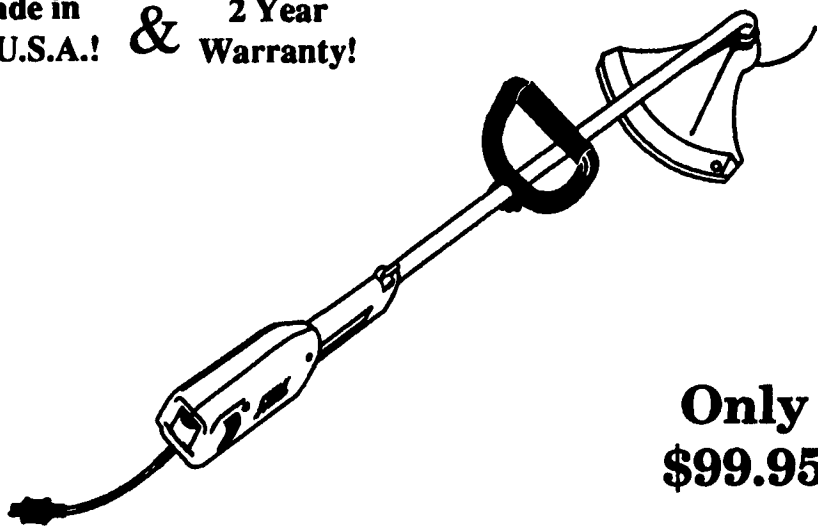
Prime ag areas are experiencing steady increases in land values while other areas, especially inner city areas will continue to show steady declines in land value; fixed costs of operations is the biggest weakness to global competition (he suggested that farmers only use from 8 percent to 10 percent of their annual income for living expenses, instead of the 15 to 20 percent currently being used); environmental audits are going to be regulated next, though he said that it makes no sense to pay to have one done now since there are no requirements for those who conduct them; a technology wave will hit agriculture in the mid 1990s; and only one out of every four farmers will be able to adapt to the changes in technology because of limits of money and labor.

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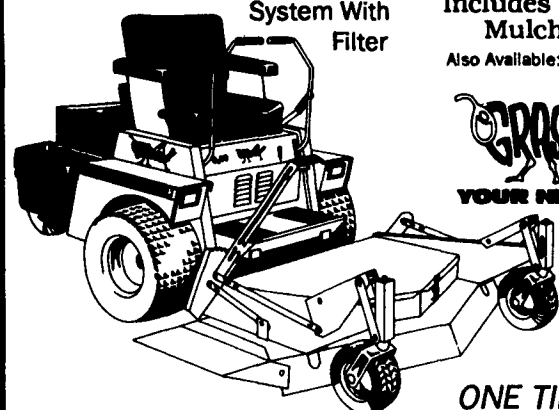
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