

# Board Forms To Help Clean Up Scrapie

**ANDY ANDREWS**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — A nine-member scrapie flock certification board has been formed and will meet for the second time here on Tuesday.

The committee has begun plans to form a program to begin, on a statewide level, the national voluntary scrapie flock certification program enacted in October of last year. The intent of the program, according to board member Dr. Ulysses J. Lane, area veterinarian in charge, state veterinary services (VS), is to give recognition to sheep flocks that are free of the disease and provide technical assistance to infected flocks, he wrote in a letter to producers and other agencies on March 12.

The letter was sent to producers of flocks known to have had sheep infected with scrapie or blood line connections to known infected animals. Lane told *Lancaster Farming* that a subcommittee is working to disseminate information about the program to newspapers and other media.

"What we're trying to do is to develop a system to identify and evaluate scrapie and scrapie-free flocks," he said. Lane said he hopes more producers can become involved in the program to help certify their flocks are scrapie-free and to take management steps necessary to ensure they remain so.

The Tuesday meeting will lay down important steps to help organize schedules and plans to notify producers and to distribute information regarding scrapie,

through extension offices and other means.

Until recently, according to the March 12 letter, scrapie was regarded as a minor disease of sheep and goats. It is a fatal, degenerative disease affecting the central nervous system of sheep and goats. What causes scrapie is still unknown — the agent, according to an Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Fact Sheet, is smaller than the smallest known virus and has not been identified. However, a gene that controls the length of incubation of clinical scrapie has been identified in one breed of sheep.

According to the fact sheet, scrapie signs vary widely among individual animals and develop very slowly. Early signs include subtle changes in behavior or temperament, which may be followed by scratching and rubbing against fixed objects, apparently to relieve itching. Other signs are loss of coordination, weight loss despite retention of appetite, biting of feet and limbs, lip smacking, and gait abnormalities — including high-stepping of the forelegs, bunny hop movement of rear legs, and swaying of back end.

An infected animal may appear normal if left undisturbed at rest. When stimulated by a sudden noise, excessive movement, or the stress of handling, the animal may tremble or fall down in a convulsive-like state.

The disease can be transmitted to other animals, and some diseases related to scrapie can infect other species. In the laboratory, scrapie has been transmitted to

hamsters, mice, rats, gerbils, mink, and some species of monkeys. Of particular concern, particularly to Lane, is bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), caused by a scrapie-like agent, which affects cattle.

According to the letter, evidence suggests that a BSE outbreak in Great Britain may have resulted from including rendered scrapie-infected sheep carcasses into bovine rations. "Scrapie has become a disease of economic impact," according to Lane. Although BSE is not known to exist in the U.S., meat packers and

renderers have taken steps to divert the use of sheep offal in ruminant rations.

The letter estimated that the effects of this "have cost producers an average of \$5 per head."

Members of the Pennsylvania certification board are John Conaway, Pennsylvania Suffolk Sheep Association; Dr. Tom Drake, Pennsylvania State University Extension and Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association; Ronald Miller, Pennsylvania Sheep and Wool Growers Association; June Reed, flock owner; Dr. C.S. Card,

Pennsylvania Animal Health and Diagnostic Commission; Dr. Maher Rizk, USDA, APHIS, VS, and scrapie program coordinator; Ronald Trostle, Pennsylvania Livestock Association; Dr. Max Van Buskirk, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture; and Dr. Ulysses J. Lane, USDA, APHIS, and VS.

For more information about the program, or to obtain fact sheets about scrapie, contact Dr. Ulysses J. Lane at APHIS, 2301 N. Cameron St., Room 412, Harrisburg, PA 17110, (717) 782-3442.

## Cumberland Valley Crop Officers Elected

SHIPPENSBURG, (Franklin Co.) — More than 300 farmers and their guests attended the Cumberland Valley Cooperative Association Annual Meeting at the Lighthouse Restaurant, North of Chambersburg last week.

New directors elected were — **CHAMBERSBURG AREA**

**C. Eugene Wingert** — 722 Loudon Road, St. Thomas. Eugene and son Jere operate a 500 acre farm that has been in his family since 1919. The Wingerts rent an additional 300 acres. On the farm is a 200 sow farrow to finish facility. The Wingerts also feed 170 brood cows, finishing all the calves. Eugene has been a member/patron of CV since 1952. Eugene helped organize the Pennsylvania Pork Council and served as its first president. He has also served on the executive committee of the National Pork Producers' Council, and served on the board of the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association.

**Lester E. Martin** — 3926 Guilford Springs Road, Chambersburg. The Martin farming operation consists of a 200-head purebred Jersey milking herd with another 200 dry cows and heifers. Cropping acreage is about 800 acres. Lester's son Doug, is a partner in the operation. Lester is currently a Director of CV Co-op and is Chairman of the Branch/Customer Relations Committee and 1st Vice-President of the Board. Lester was recently elected Chairman of the York Farm Credit ACA Board of Directors.

**Herman Wirth** — 7587 Rowe Run Road, Chambersburg. The Wirth farming operation includes an 18-head Sow/Farrow-to-Finish operation. Herman is a graduate of Rutgers University College of Agriculture, and is retired from the U.S. Army with 27 years service. He is a member and past Secretary of the Franklin County Farmers Association, has served on the Advisory Committee of Adams Electric Cooperative, and is a member and past Chairman of his church's parish council. He currently serves on the Executive Committee of C.V. Co-op as Secretary.

**SHIPPENSBURG AREA**  
**Paul Hoch** — Route 1, Box 922, Shippensburg. Paul and his brother Harry are involved in a dairy operation of 200 milk cows. They grow 325 acres of corn, 80 acres of small grains and 250 acres of hay and forages. He is a director at this time and is a chairman and the Property Committee.

**NEWVILLE AREA**  
**Robert Jamison** — 2249 Newville Road, Carlisle. Robert has been farming for 40 years, moving to Carlisle in 1974 from Bucks County. He and his wife Janet farm 70 acres, growing corn, oats,

wheat, soybeans, and alfalfa to feed a herd of 25 milk cows and 15 heifers. Robert is currently Treasurer of the Cumberland County Farmers' Association.

**Carl Kelso, Jr.** — 550 Ridge Road, Shippensburg. Carl and son Woody own and rent about 400 acres, raising corn and alfalfa for their 60 milk cows and 60 heifers. Carl has been a member of the Co-op for about 40 years. Carl is also

a member of the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association.

In the business meeting, the association reported \$6,841,842 sales with \$1,689,582 gross margins and \$214,200 net margins.

Heidi Negley, Cumberland County Dairy Princess, brought greetings from the Promotion Program and Wayne Craig, presided at the meeting.

## Honors Century Farms

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Eighteen Pennsylvania farm families have been honored by the State Department of Agriculture as official Pennsylvania Century Farms. This brings to 1,622 the number of farm owners in Pennsylvania who have been recognized under the program.

"Our century farm families demonstrate a durability and love of the land that is the heritage of Pennsylvania," said Secretary of Agriculture Body E. Wolff. "Agriculture continues as Pennsylvania's leading industry and job creator because of the hard work, dedication, and innovation of rural families like these."

The Century Farm Program honors families whose farms have been in the same family for more than 100 consecutive years, contain at least 10 of the original acres, and gross more than \$1,000 annually from the sale of farm products.

The following farm owners received certificates from the department:

• **Adams County** — Nancy J. Shelly and Charlotte R. Slaybaugh, Willow Road, Gettysburg, farm purchased in 1812 by their great-great-great grandfather Alexander Young.

• **Armstrong County** — Wilbur M. and Isabel Beckett, Scenic Drive, Sarver, farm purchased in 1852 by his great grandfather William Beckett.

• **Berks County** — Myers D. and Mabel Adams, Pine View Road, Shoemakersville, farm purchased in 1888 by his grandfather Alfred Adam and Uncle Jacob Adam.

Lester M. and Linda J. Lutz, Route 2, Kempton, farm purchased in 1858 by his great-great grandparents Isaac and Sybilla Lutz.

• **Cambria County** — Ralph and Eva Howell, RD 1, Portage, farm purchased in 1892 by his great-great uncle Thomas Roberts.

• **Centre County** — Harry and Vivian Glossner, North Liberty Street, Blanchard, farm purchased in 1892 by his grandfather Harry Glossner.

• **Clarion County** — David and Ruth Delp, RD 3, New Bethlehem, farm purchased in 1840 by his great grandfather John Hamm.

• **Clearfield County** — The Robert Wringlesworth Family, Grampian, farm purchased in 1864 by Robert's great-great grandparents Thomas and Susanna Hoover.

• **Cumberland County** — Denny High McCullough, Centerville Road, Newville, farm purchased in 1870 by his great-great-great uncle James McCullough Sr.

• **Green County** — Harold and Gertrude VanDruff and (daughter) Shari and John Curry, RD 2, Waynesburg, original purchase in 1881 by Shari's great grandfather William VanDruff.

• **Indiana County** — William G. Reeger, RD 3, Shelocta, farm purchased in 1884 by his great-great uncle Robert Lowry.

Norman & Dorothy Strong, RD 2, Strongstown, farm purchased in 1803 by his great-great-great grandfather James Strong.

• **Lancaster County** — Clair and Arlene Landis, Fairview Road, Ronks, farm purchased in 1853 by his great-great grandparents Jacob and Susan Ranck.

• **Lawrence County** — Chester and Irene Gardner, RD 1, Wampum, farm purchased in 1893 by his grandfather James Gardner.

• **Mercer County** — Robert and Mary Reimold, Mercer Road, Fredonia, farm purchased in 1884 by his grandfather John Reimold.

• **Montgomery County** — L. Merrill and Martha Heany Yoder, Cowpath Road, Telford, farm purchased in 1832 by her great-great-great aunt and uncle John and Rachael Heany.

• **Northampton County** — Anne Seyfried Abrams, Franklin Hill Road, Bangor, farm purchased in 1853 by her great-great-great-great grandparents Jacob and Catherine Bitz.

• **Washington County** — Randy Lee Brown, Brown's Orchard, McDonald, farm purchased in 1847 by his great-great-great grandfather David Brown and uncle William Brown.

## PNPA To Honor Andrews

(Continued from Page A1)

appeared Dec. 5, 1992 and concluded on December 19.

The water quality series focused on nitrate problems in groundwater, how to properly construct and manage wells, and the ways farmers can implement a water quality management plan.

Winners in the competition will be honored at the annual Keystone Press Awards banquet on Saturday, May 22 at the Nittany Lion Inn in State College.

The contest is open only to staff members of PNPA, of which *Lancaster Farming* is a member. Andrews competed against more than 33 other newspapers in the division.



## Control Drug Residues

(Continued from Page A10)

8) Use drug residue screening tests. This includes cows or heifers recently purchased, treated cows to be culled, calves to be sold that have been feed treated milk, and any animals treated. Use commercially available tests to check milk from individual cows, not just the bulk tank. Discard milk that tests positive. (Don't add it to the bulk tank, hoping that it will be diluted to concentrations below the tolerance level, according to the book). Match your testing methodology to that of your milk buyer.

9) Implement employee/family awareness of proper drug use to avoid marketing adulterated products. Let everyone know how to manage drug residues on your farm.

10) Complete the milk and dairy beef residue prevention protocol annually. It's a "written snapshot" of how you manage your operation, said Trumbauer. The book, available from veterinarians, should be reviewed regularly. After completion, have yourself, the veterinarian, and the field representative of cooperative or proprietary dairy sign the certificate and post it in the milkhouse.

"When you complete this program," said Trumbauer, "you're not only increasing your awareness and the things you can do, but you're also convincing the public that you are concerned about it."

"What we in the industry need to do is everything in our power to keep this from becoming a more severely perceived problem," he said.