

Lancaster Farming

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BST Gets Thumbs Up From FDA Committee

VERNON ACHENBACH, JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
GAITHERSBURG,
Md. — Monsanto Company, one of the manufacturers of bovine somatotropin (BST) for use in stimulating cows to give more milk,

has overcome what appears to be the last major scientific hurdle in gaining approval of its product for commercial marketing.

Though tempering its statement with caution that it was not issuing a final decision, the Veterinary

Medicine Advisory Committee to the Federal Drug Administration on Wednesday issued a "safe" verdict to the use of Monsanto Company's commercial version of BST, Somatotrope.

The advisory committee held a

public hearing and meeting Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, in Gaithersburg, Md., to review Somatotrope within the context of it being able to increase the risk to humans of antibiotics in drinking milk.

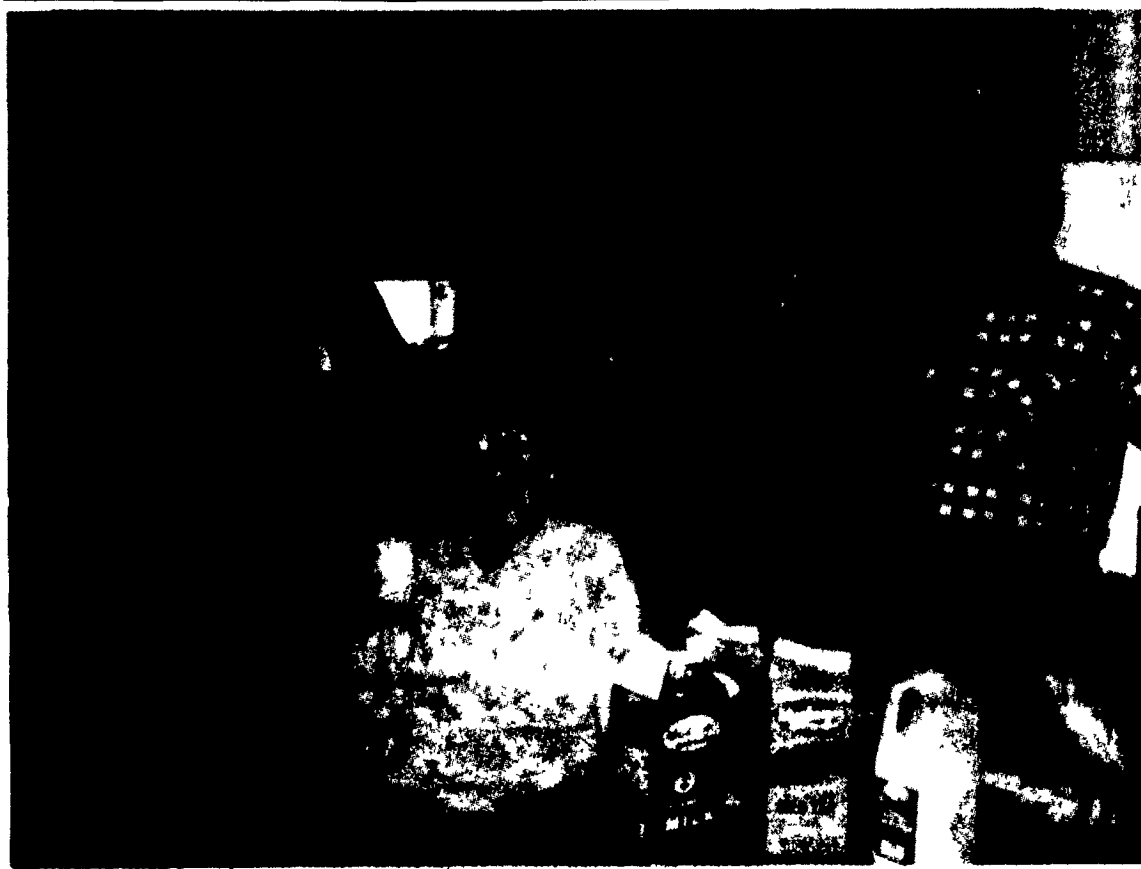
While the committee's approval doesn't necessarily guarantee that the product will receive full approval by the Federal Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM), it does

remove some of the last non-political barriers to receiving approval.

According to Gary Stefan, spokesman for the CVM, the agency will consider and review the testimony presented Wednesday in deciding the next step toward approval.

"The drug will not be approved until all questions are adequately addressed," Stefan said.

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Georgia (Grandma) Marburger, turned 100 years old last fall, and is living proof that milk is good for you. Grandma is the matriarch of the Marburger Farm Dairy family with a long history of community service in Butler County. With Grandma from left is George Cudoc, farm manager, Jim Marburger, and Marge Wearing, grandchildren and principals in the business. Photo by Everett Newswanger, managing editor.

Marburger Farm Dairy Survives In A World Of Growing Competition

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

EVANS CITY (Butler Co.)—Georgia (Grandma) Marburger remembers when the trolley ran past the processing plant to Mars and stopped to pick up milk. Of course, she remembers. She was born in 1892 and celebrated her 100 years last fall with a party, hundreds of birthday cards, and

had her picture on Marburger Farm Dairy milk cartons that are distributed to hundreds of retail stores and all the schools in Butler County.

And while this centenarian, who looks no older than when she was 90, is no longer involved with the family farm and milk business, she keeps track of things and is sure to

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PDA Modifies Avian Influenza Restrictions

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — State Secretary of Agriculture Boyd Wolff Monday announced modifications to a statewide avian influenza quarantine that will allow poultry exhibitions and live bird marketing to resume.

With conditions.

The current quarantine has been

in effect since Jan. 20, resulting from the discovery of a non-pathogenic strain of avian influenza in samples taken from live poultry markets in Philadelphia, New York City and West Newark, N.J.

The modifications are included in amendments to the Pennsylvania poultry quarantine which establish test requirements for exhibi-

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Penn State Students Win National Beef Bowl

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Four students from Penn State's Department of Dairy and Animal Science won the National Championship Beef Bowl Competition at a recent meeting of the National Cattlemen's Association in Phoenix.

National in scope, the Beef Bowl is sponsored by the American Cyanamid Company and the National Cattlemen's Foundation. Each invited team must first win a similar competition in its own region. The Penn State team represented the Northeast, the University of Missouri the Midwest, Oklahoma State University the South, and Washington State University the West.

The contest was a double-elimination tournament with questions covering all phases of the beef industry. Much like the old television College Bowl, a team had to buzz in to win the right to try answering each question. Questions on genetics and breeding, nutrition, management, marketing, physiology, and many other

topics challenged the competitors.

On the contest's first day, Penn State team members competed in three rounds, beating Missouri

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Award To Editor For Excellence In Journalism

BINGHAMTON, NY—Everett Newswanger, *Lancaster Farming's* managing editor, received the 1993 "Award For Excellence" from the Northeast Farm Communicators Association, for the best photojournalism farm story. The winning entry in the association's Nor'Easter Contest was called "exceptional" by the panel of judges from Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind.

The story featured the Clydesdale horses from Budweiser at the 250th Anniversary of the City of Lancaster. The award presentation was made during the association's winter conference in Boston.

Last Call For Dairy Of Distinction

KINGSTON (Luzerne Co.) — Beautiful dairy farmers are being sought for recognition as part of the Dairy of Distinction Program in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania and April 15 is the deadline to apply.

Started in 1983, the Northeast Farm Beautification Program recognizes the hard work and dedication of dairy owner/operators who maintain attractive farms. The purpose of the program is to 1) promote a positive dairy image; and 2) instill in consumers a greater sense of confidence in the wholesomeness of dairy products.

Farms that apply for recognition are judged on the roadside appearance of buildings, grounds and surroundings. Animal cleanliness, the barnyard, feed areas and manure management are other aspects of the farm operation taken into consideration.

To qualify, applicants must be actively dairy farming. An application form can be found on page D8 along with full details of the program.

Daylight Savings Time Starts Sunday

Daylight Savings Time officially starts at 2 o'clock on Sunday morning April 4. To follow the old adage of "spring forward, fall back," since this is spring, you will want to advance the clocks around the farmstead one hour before retiring Saturday night. For farmers there is a little more to this yearly ritual. Experts say schedules for feeding animal and especially milking schedules for dairy cows should be advanced gradually over a period of several days. With many cows now milking more than 100 pounds per day, this advice would be important to maintain top production.



Anna Calhoun of Armstrong County was crowned 1993 Pennsylvania Jersey Queen last week at the Pennsylvania Jersey Club's annual meeting. For details about the meeting, see page A32. For more about the new queen, see page B9.