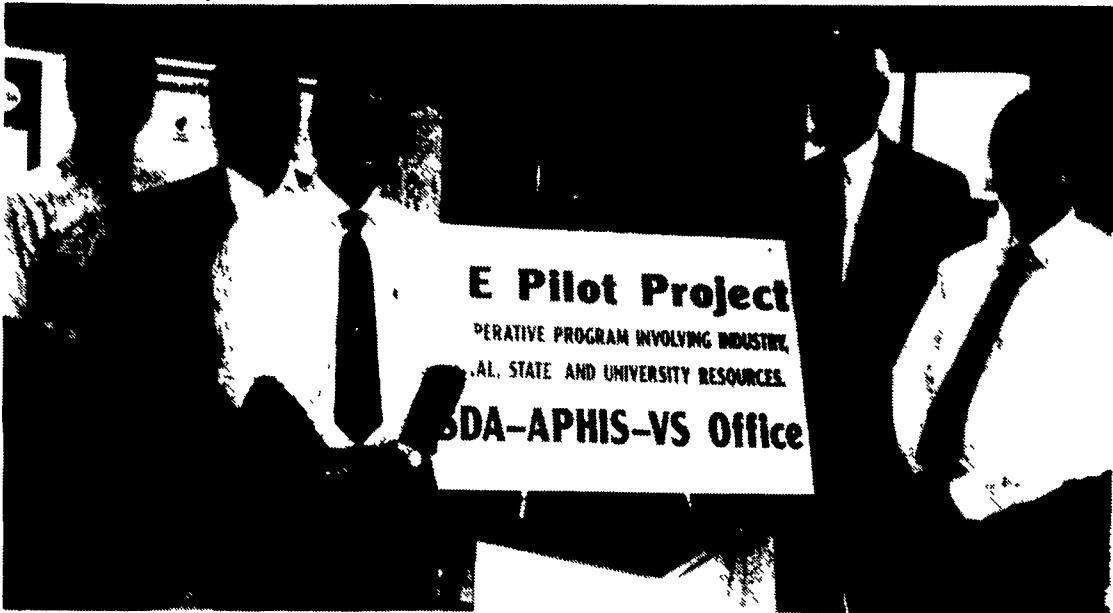


New SE Program Set To Begin October 1



Members of the Salmonella Enteritidis (SE) Pilot Project met with Gene Branstool, USDA assistant secretary of ag for marketing and inspection services, second from right, during an orientation tour of the project on Monday. From left, Dr. John W. Hahn, veterinary medical officer, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; Dr. David Kradel, former director of the SE Pilot Project; Dale Snader, Dutch Country Eggs Farm; Branstool; and Dr. Edgardo Arza, assistant area veterinarian and interim head of the project.

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an orientation tour to the project, which has set October 1 as the beginning of the project's "Second Tier" program. The project will initiate a quality assurance (QA) certification program to help control SE in flocks in the Northeast.

Plans detailing the startup of the QA certification program, which was announced in May of this year (see page A27 of the May 8 issue of *Lancaster Farming*), will be finalized in September, according to Dr. Edgardo Arza, assistant area veterinarian and interim head of the project.

Arza is the temporary project director following the recent resignation of Dr. David Kradel.

"Our goal is to get as many of the 300 and some odd flocks in Pennsylvania as possible on the program," said Arza. The ultimate goal is to have all of them on the program, he said.

Actual details of how the program will be implemented are still

being outlined. But the foundation of the program, according to the interim director, is to "establish certain basic things producers should do to assure the quality is the safest possible, rather than targeting where SE is and trying to do something about it."

"It's more a standard across-the-board risk reduction program," he said. "It is based more on fundamental principles that will reduce the risk of producing an egg that has SE in it."

The program will use certain monitoring tools to allow the project to assure the quality of the program. There will be professional certification, much like in other industry quality assurance programs.

For more information about the project, contact Arza at the USDA SE Pilot Project, 1352 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601, (717) 399-8810.

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