

# Producers Must Deal With An Increasingly Anti-Agriculture World

**Editor's note: Following is part 2 of the coverage of last week's American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists Mini-Symposium.**

**ANDY ANDREWS**

Lancaster Farming Staff  
COLLEGE PARK, Md. —

Before the turn of the century, the controversy grew. Should animals be used for food and research?

But it wasn't this century. Actually, it was in the late 1800s that scientists, politicians, clergy, newspaper editors, and much of the general leadership debated the "hot" issue of animal rights/animal welfare.

As the saying goes, the more things change . . . and only now, after other events (including two world wars) took center stage before mid-century have the issues (never resolved satisfactorily before) taken on new meaning.

The controversies occur in 50-year cycles, according to Dr. Lonnie J. King, acting administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). King was a featured speaker last week at the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS) Mini-Symposium.

"It is not clear today whether this issue will again start to fade away at the end of this 50-year cycle or will its new intellectual underpinnings sustain it for a longer period of time," said King.

"The issues and arguments, interesting enough, put forward in the 19th century, with one exception, are exactly the same ones that we deal with today, and they still largely remain unresolved," said King.

The one exception — using animals less for research because of the public's conception of alleged animal pain and suffering — has taken hold in a big way. As a result, bowing to the pressure, animal testing for commercial products is decreasing. "It's probably decreased about 50 percent over the last two decades," he said.

Animal research to test new products and new techniques will continue to remain a "hotbed of contention" with increasing pressure on animal science. Unfortunately, producers who raise animals for food may have to

ing, as in the past, like a pigeonholing and boxed-in bureaucracy.

"At APHIS, we're engaged in strategically brokering — problem identification with problem solving," said King. "In the past, we've been brokers through regulation. More and more, we're going to be brokers through facilitation."

More and more, APHIS is helping the public and working with producers to ensure that the adoption of new agriculture science, including biotechnology, is done smoothly.

"Carl Sagan stated, 'We live in a society exquisitely dependent on

science and technology, in which hardly anyone knows anything about science and technology,'" said King. The next great ag revolution, biotechnology, is on the horizon, and agriculture must adopt a new strategy as it relates to the public.

"I hear from producers that they're involved in producing food, not producing animals," he said. The strategy at APHIS is to help producers adopt the ideas of accountability and responsibility of products after they leave the farm, or point of production, to help rebuild and sustain public confidence from the farm "all the way to the table," said King.

Even though APHIS and other ag agencies are trying to change

according to consumer demand, it makes it all difficult because of the "vacillating," or easily changeable needs of consumers, according to Dr. Bradford W. Berry, research food technologist with USDA's Agriculture Research Service (ARS).

Berry spoke about the research undertaken by ARS on the new lean meats and how consumers are reacting to that research.

Berry mentioned one study, undertaken by The Roper Organization through the auspices of the American Meat Institute, in 1992, on low fat. When asked the question, What is low fat?, 59 percent of those polled didn't give an answer. Of the 41 percent who responded, answers varied from 2

percent, to 10, and in some cases, 50 percent. The median and most frequently cited answer was 10 percent.

Also, of a study from Prevention Magazine in 1993, 58 percent of the adults surveyed said that are trying to avoid high-fat foods.

But, according to Berry, what they say they are going to do and what they actually do is completely different.

While people indicate they are going to cut down on fatty food, this "vacillating" behavior finds them eating, at times, "comfort foods," to make up, every once in a while, on what they cut back on.

But the trend continues to be for more and more consumer accep-

(Turn to Page A35)

S  
F  
M

**Quality Feeds**  
Since 1965

**STEVENS FEED MILL Inc.**  
STEVENS, PA 17578

717-336-2150 • 717-738-1178 • FAX-717-336-2154 • 1-800-786-2150

Dealer For

HALSEY

SEED COMPANY

CORN - ALFALFA - LAWN - ETC.

**POULTRY - SWINE FEEDS**

- Complete Feed
- Concentrates
- Base Mixes

also

**DAIRY - HORSE  
BEEF  
GAME BIRD &  
DUCK FEEDS**



**COUNTRY PRIME**  
PET FOODS

face the same pressures.

"It's something for you to look forward to," King warned the agri-industry agencies and representatives present at the meeting.


A large part of APHIS's budget (28 percent, according to King) is spent on surveillance and monitoring for outbreaks of potential animal agriculture and infectious animal diseases.

The role of APHIS is evolving to meet an increasing world population and the changing perceptions and demands of consumers, who reign supreme, said King. But increasingly, food animal agriculture is exceedingly vulnerable to public fluctuations and consequent demands, with a perception that becomes increasingly anti-agriculture.


But APHIS will monitor the pressures and work to counteract controversies before they get out of hand, according to the administrator. APHIS is taking a more "ad hoc" approach, which works on the solutions needed by producers and providers rather than act-

## Insist on Chore-Time


*and get higher production with lower cost and less maintenance.*




**CHORE TIME C-2 feeder for broilers**




**CHORE TIME H-2 feeder for broilers**




**CHORE TIME H-2 feeder for turkeys**



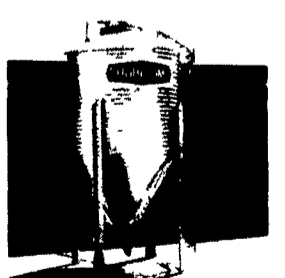
**CHORE TIME adult turkey feeder with plastic pan**



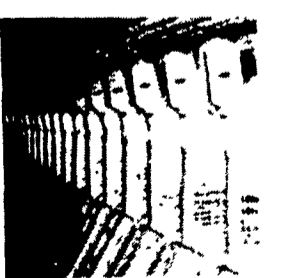
**CHORE TIME ULTRAFLO<sup>®</sup> for layers, pullets & breeders**




**CHORE TIME nipples**



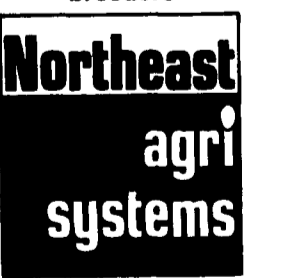
**CHORE TIME bins and FLEX-AUGER<sup>®</sup>**



**CHORE TIME swine feeding**




**CHORE TIME cage systems**



**Northeast agri systems**

Attention all Chore-Time customers. Chore-Time systems, Chore-Time repair parts and service are available to you from Northeast Agri Systems, Inc., Pennsylvania's authorized Chore-Time master distributor.



**Northeast Agri Systems, Inc.**  
Flyway Business Park  
139A West Airport Road  
Lititz, PA 17543

STORE HOURS Mon-Fri 7:30 to 4:30  
Sat 8:00 to Noon  
24 Hr. 7 Day Repair Service

1-800-673-2580  
Ph: (717) 569-2702

