

Efforts Under Way To Build Animal Disease Fighting Ability

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As an example, Card said that if he has the money, he can bring together the Center for Animal Health and Productivity, New Bolton Center expertise, and Penn State expertise.

"We have the Center for Animal Health and Productivity, which is a population medicine group, really three or four major players.

"We can go to Penn State and they have extension specialists, a couple young scientists who are epidemiologists (study of disease in a population). So we have outreach educational capabilities which they don't have at New Bolton Center.

"So what we want to do is amalgamate this group," Card said. "Kind of screw them together, with funding. The thing you screw things together with to make them work is money."

"And in that way, we'll have a cadre, as the legislation suggested. We'll have a cadre of really good people that can do a number of things out there.

"They can investigate, they can go back and do epidemiological studies, in the laboratory, population medicine studies, crunch a lot of numbers, or they can go out there and take something like this John's and use it as an educational tool and tell people, if your gona have a herd that has infection, you should doing these things; one, two, three ..."

Another area of bringing the entire program together, is to try to develop focus for the research.

One of the things Card did after taking over the job of developing PADLS two years ago, was to create committees to take responsibility for getting things coordinated.

The six-member laboratory

committee has two people from each lab. Card said, "They kind of run the laboratories.

"I have a research committee, and we are working on our approach on how we should try to get more money for research and how we should coordinate our research.

"If you got five mastitis projects between the two universities, you'd like to have those mastitis projects coordinated in some manner, so you'd have maybe three major objectives up here that your working toward.

"We're trying to coordinated research efforts so that we try to satisfy a few major goals and get something done, instead of everybody having a little pea-shooter (at a majory problem)," he said.

Field Investigation

"On the field side, we need to be able to go out and do these same

things, but to come back with the disease surviellance lets say, would tell us what some of major problems are.

"We don't know what the major problems are. We assume John's because we see a lot of it, but maybe it's not. Maybe economically it's not that big of a deal," Card said. "We don't know that, but that's what the Center for Animal Health and Productivity might tell us."

Another committee which was appointed by the Animal Health Commission is a Field Investigation Advisory Committee.

For the first time, members of different agencies all concerned with aspects of health and/or animal productivity are sitting on the same committee.

"On the field investigation advisory committee ... we have (a representative from) public health, a person from Game Commission, and a person from DER, so we covered the major agencies.

"So, if we do have a toxic waste problem — let's say bad water, whatever it might be, to get into the area of toxicology, we can discuss how we go about this, and we should be able to identify or have identified already some diagnosticians within our system who can respond to a problem that has water, mycobacteria lets's say, toxic materials ... "We can do that, we just haven't quite identified all those teams yet, but that's what we're trying to do, so that when you come to a rabies (incident), you know that there's a certain responsibility for a PAI lets say.

"We provide any kind of help in the accumulation or accession of animals that may have contributed to a human exposure and try to take them in," Card said. "If they're dead, we take tissues, if they're not dead, we may euthanize them and take th appropriate tissues and they go to public health, to the Lionville Lab, where most of the rabies cases are handled.

"We (Summerdale lab) do some rabies culturing ourselves, we do that mainly because it may be more appropriate to do it quickly here, than to send it to Lionville.

"So, we work with those people and we're trying to get a more cooperative activity going on between our diagnostic system and our laboratory."

One of the main elements in developing a cooperative relationship is communications. A courier system is being used now, supported by the PDA, to help with speed and efficiencies in addressing health matters.

"We provide a courier system, its available throughout the state on a commercial basis. Within the three laboratories, (PADLS pays) for the transportation of tissues and that sort of thing," Card said.

"So, if a person can get something into a laboratory, and they need to get it to Tony Castro, at Penn State, the virologist in the system, they simply put it on a courier at New Bolton Center and it gets to Penn State that day," Card explained.

He said he uses a private contractor for the service.

Other things are happening.

"We have a speciality area in veterinary toxicology developing in New Bolton Center," Card said.

"We've hired a toxicologist, he's a very good young man. Hopefully, he's going to provide an awful lot of help to our program because of his background and knowledge. He comes from Michigan State. His name is Dr. Bob Poppenga. And we're developing, renovating facilities right now and we're buying up equipment and so forth as fast as we can pull it together, because he's a vastly important person in our system."

As an example of why such a specialist is needed, Card explained about a real incident.

"We had a call, from Meadville. In this case, the county extension specialist and the vet were concerned about a toxic problem, and so we bring samples as quickly as we can to Penn State and courier them to Bob Poppenga.

"In that way, we have a speciality area at New Bolton Center in toxicology, we have a speciality area in virology at Penn State."

Card said the program actually includes two speciality areas in food safety — "an E. Coli reference center at Penn State that's internationally recognized, it's been there for a long time and it's used by a large number of agencies around the country to identify difert strains of E. Coli.(Dr. Dick Wilson runs it) and at the same time at New Bolton Center, we have a similar facility Chuck Benson runs. That's a salmonella reference lab. We can do some very sophisticated identification of salmonella species.

"And in fact, New Bolton Center, Summerdale and Penn State are working on the sal-

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Top Lancaster DHIA Cows

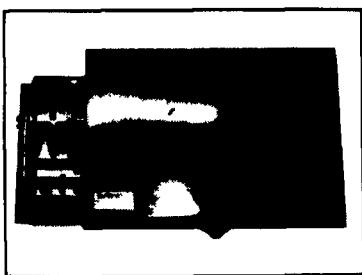
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221	GR-H	3-7	305	24,393	3.2	775	3.7	904	
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73	GR-H	2-10	305	22,220	3.5	774	3.6	802	
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51	GR-H	3-10	288	25,054	3.1	773	3.4	863	
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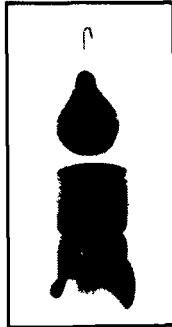
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