

WILLIAMSPORT (Lycoming Co.) — The Pennsylvania Rural Development Council will hold a town meeting June 15 at the Penn State campus in Wilkes-Barre to focus attention on economic development issues for northeastern Pennsylvania.

The session comes in the aftermath of a report published recently by the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, which identified a number of issues critical to future growth in the region.

"The report was part of that group's 'NEPA 2000 Project,' which addresses economic development and quality of life," Rural Development Council Co-chair Peter Loedding said. "It includes the results of two questionnaire surveys of local government officials."

Helen D. Wise, who co-chairs the council with Loedding, said council officials feel discussion of these issues is important.

"Our mission is to bring federal, state and local governments together with private enterprise and nonprofit groups to promote economic development and a better quality of life in rural Pennsylvania," Wise said.

"A full and open discussion of those issues deemed by local peo-

ple to be important will go a long way toward accomplishing that mission in northeastern Pennsylvania."

Wise is deputy chief of staff for programs and secretary to the cabinet for Gov. Robert P. Casey.

Topics to be discussed at the town meeting, and the discussion leaders are:

- Regionalization — George Klaus, director of the Bureau of Local Government Service, Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs.

- Leadership training — Klaus.
- Council of Governments (COG) system — Bob Hormell, assistant director of SEDA-COG.

- Strategic planning — Anna Breinich, president of the Pennsylvania Planning Association.

- Incentives for governments to work together — Paul Raetsch, chief planning technical assistant for the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

- Tax reform proposals as they affect rural Pennsylvanians — Dean DeLong, Carbon County Commissioner; Douglas Hill, executive director of the Pennsylvania County Commissioners Association; and Dawson Detwiler, executive director of the Pen-

sylvanians Association of Rural & Small Schools.

- Joint delivery of services — Howard Grossman, executive director, Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

- Use of media — James Gittens, editorial page editor, Citizens' Voice newspaper, Wilkes-Barre.

- The town meeting will be held at the Fortinsky Auditorium in the Center for Technology on the campus, beginning at 7 p.m.

Interested persons are asked to reserve space by calling the Pennsylvania Rural Development Council in Williamsport at (717) 327-3435.

BVD Update:

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state and federal veterinarians had been working on this case with ADL and the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL). Since then, one additional herd, in the southeastern part of the state, has been identified with the BVD virus.

Over the past year, outbreaks have occurred in more than 200 Canadian herds with either no history of BVD vaccination or inadequate BVD vaccination.

(They had never received the manufacturer's recommended initial two doses of vaccine. Without the double vaccination initially, cattle won't have much protection against BVD, regardless of how many annual boosters received.)

Also, cases of BVD have been diagnosed in California, Kentucky, Michigan, New York, Ohio, and Wisconsin, as well as Pennsylvania.

Are the recent outbreaks in Ontario caused by new or different strains of BVD virus?

The BVD viruses from Ontario outbreaks apparently cause more severe disease. However, BVD viruses like these have been in the United States and other parts of Canada since at least 1987.

Will the vaccines now on the market protect against these BVD viruses?

These BVD viruses are slightly different from the viruses used in production of vaccines but still share similarities. The vaccines will protect against severe out-

Pa. Holstein Cancels Western Judging School BVD To Blame

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — The Western Pennsylvania Junior Holstein Judging School that had been scheduled to be held June 27-28 in Butler County has been canceled because of problems associated with Bovine Virus Diarrhea (BVD), a disease that has been showing up in cattle herds across the United States and Canada.

According to a news release, "With current BVD problems faced by a number of herds in northwest Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Holstein Association feels that to minimize potential exposure to herds, it is in the best interest of all involved to cancel our junior judging school in Butler for this year."

Youth interested in advancing their knowledge of cattle judging may still attend the Eastern Pennsylvania Junior Holstein Judging School that is still scheduled for June 29-30 in Franklin County.

At the eastern school, Creedin Cornman, a well-known Holstein breeder and judge from Carlisle, is to serve as school teacher.

Details of the school have also been finalized and herds to be visited include Pleasant Valley Jersey Farm, owned by Lester and Doug Martin and family of Chambersburg; Antrim Spring Holsteins, owned by Harold, Roger and Rodney Crider, Chambersburg; Crown Stone Guernsey Farm, owned by the William Schnebly Family, in Clear Spring, Md.; and Windy-Knoll-View Holsteins, owned by James and Nina Burdette and family, in Mercersburg.

Plans include placing and discussing three classes of animals at each farm. Those who attend will have an opportunity to place each class and participate in discussions on their placings.

The cost of the school is \$25 for overnight participants, \$15 for commuters, and families can take off \$5 for each additional family member attending. Registrations are due June 17.

For more information, contact the Pa. Holstein Association, 839 Benner Pike, State College, Pa., 16801, or call 1-814-234-0364.

"We appreciate the interest of the many juniors who signed up (for the western school), and we hope their enthusiasm for judging dairy cattle will continue," stated the news release.

How To Protect From BVD

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — Prevent the introduction of animals infected with Bovine Virus Diarrhea on the farm by improving biosecurity.

Following several proven practices and science-based strategies can provide a significant level of protection from this disease which can wipe out half a dairy herd on initial infection in the herd.

- Bring in only animals from uninfected herds.
- Bring in only animals from herds with a known effective vaccination program.
- Avoid the purchase of animals from sales barns.
- Test new animals for persistent infection in advance of introduction to the herd.
- Isolate new animals for 30 days before allowing contact with animals on-farm.

To increase the resistance of the herd to BVD, there are several things which can be done.

Cattle owners should vaccinate as directed by the herd veterinarian and the vaccine manufacturer's recommendations.

They should also maximize colostrum consumption by newborn calves and reduce stress on cattle caused by other diseases, poor nutrition, uncomfortable housing or poor air quality.

To decrease exposure to BVD, prevent manure contamination of cow's coats, feed and water; house baby calves in individual calf hutches; and isolate sick animals.

breaks. It is important to realize that no vaccine is 100 percent effective; some animals may get sick with BVD even if the herd has been vaccinated.

There is no evidence that one brand of vaccine is more effective than others. Research in Canada showed that field isolates from Ontario and Quebec all had some degree of cross reactivity with the vaccine strains of the virus. Consult with your veterinarian to determine the best procedure for vaccinating your herd.

When a herd that has never been vaccinated is exposed to BVD, up to 50 percent of the cattle on the farm may die. Calves, heifers and fresh cows are most susceptible.

When a herd has been vaccinated, but the vaccinations haven't been kept up, and the herd is then exposed to BVD, it is very difficult to predict what will happen.

When vaccinated during an outbreak of BVD, cattle may be only partially protected. These cattle may abort or their calves may be born weak and later die.

Keeping a "closed" herd is no excuse for not vaccinating. In fact, it is nearly impossible to keep a truly closed herd.

To determine whether you need better protection, ask yourself some questions:

- Do you hire someone to truck your own heifers or dry cows for you? Are your truckers careful about making sure their truck or trailer is clean before moving your cattle? Will your animals come into contact with other cattle or their manure when they are being transported? Does your farm share a fence line with another farm?
- Do you utilize biosecurity measures? Do you regulate how

and when people come in contact with animals in your herd? When was the last time a visitor walked directly into your barn or through your pastures?

Many dairy producers and veterinarians have grown accustomed to not dealing with serious contagious diseases. Some stop vaccinating their herds; others try to cut down on the number of times they vaccinate. Unfortunately, some become lax with basic infectious disease control practices.

This information was compiled by Yvette Rauff, Larry Hutchinson, Dale Moore, Bill Sischo, Tom Drake, and Tony Castro with the Veterinary Science Department of the Pennsylvania State University Acknowledgement goes to Dr Robert Trembley, of Ontario, Canada, for the use of multiple excerpts from his extension publications.

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