

## BVD Creates Confusion

(Continued from Page A1)

and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The gist of the news releases were to advise farmers to get vaccinations for all animals and ensure that the booster shot is given; avoid purchasing cattle, especially from unknown sources; establish an on-farm isolation (quarantine) area to hold symptomatic cattle and any new cattle; restrict the flow of people around cattle and require strict attention to personal hygiene as far as on-farm biosecurity measures are concerned.

The practices reflect a serious condition, but not one that at this time requires government oversight, according to Dr. Max Van Buskirk Jr., director of the PDA Bureau of Animal Industry.

According to Van Buskirk, who has been involved with government efforts to control several disease outbreaks in Pennsylvania, from a public policy position, BVD 2 differs from such diseases as bovine tuberculosis because humans can get bovine tuberculosis, but can not catch BVD.

In a Wednesday telephone interview, Van Buskirk said there are several reasons public agencies are not in a position to mandate any specific controls for BVD.

According to the doctor, there has been no reason for a stronger governmental response because the disease is not a direct threat to human health; because it is a form of a common disease that is believed to be manageable with current vaccines, and careful veterinary and herd health practices; and because the cattle industry has not requested government help in controlling the disease.

"This is not a disease that industry has requested the department to regulate," Van Buskirk said. "Historically, the department doesn't arbitrarily regulate any disease unless it is a public health concern, or unless the industry can't manage without government assistance.

"BVD is a virus infection of cattle that has been around for a long, long time," he said. "There are USDA estimates that upwards of 90 percent of the adult cattle population has antibodies to BVD.

"So, because it's so common, and because there are some technical difficulties in diagnosing BVD and establishing simple criteria for either determining a herd 'free,' or that a quarantine for BVD should be released, those are some of the reasons, that ... we haven't regulated."

But Van Buskirk said that the state is not turning its head to the situation.

"Of course what has happened is that a particularly nasty strain has emerged in recent years, and we may, depending on what happens, reconsider the advisability of regulating the disease.

"Toward that end, although we haven't done anything in terms of a formal proposal of regulations, we have consulted industry groups and our counterparts in other states regarding the advisability in attempting to regulate in this area.

"To the best of my knowledge, there are no other states that regulate this disease," Van Buskirk said.

In the meantime, until the cattle industry and the animal-health industry get caught up with vaccinations, the situation is more wait-and-see, according to the doctor.

### Information Available

The educational support on the disease has been in the form of news releases and advisories to the farm press, to veterinarians, and a letter from state Secretary Boyd Wolff to the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs.

Penn State Extension also has available some information that can help cattle owners establish sound biosecurity practices.

One such package of information is the "Pennsylvania Dairy Health and Biosecurity Manual," published by the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences.

The information in the manual was compiled by Larry Hutchinson, DVM, who is a well-known PSU extension veterinarian; Tina Smith, assistant extension veterinarian; and Carolyn Burns, veterinary extension assistant.

The three-ring binder, hard cover manual provides a quick reference breakdown of information, including a checklist that includes giving the BVD vaccinations to calves when they are seven-months-old.

To get a copy, contact a local extension agent.

### Will There Be A Show?

As far as the outlook for whether or not the incidence of BVD 2 will affect cattle shows, state Agriculture Secretary Wolff sent a letter, dated June 16, to the state fair board that advised the board members about BVD 2.

The letter noted that the secretary has advised herd owners to consult veterinarians about vaccinations and it noted that the department advised farmers to tighten biosecurity.

"And (Wolff's letter) strongly recommended that fairboards adopt livestock entry regulations that require BVD vaccinations for all bovines, with strict adherence

to manufacturer's instructions for vaccines," according to William Lelik, with the state Department of Agricultural Press Office.

"(The letter) also noted symptoms; that animals exhibiting symptoms should be barred before comingling with other animals," Lelik said.

As of this week, Butler County Fair had cancelled its show and Clarion County has restricted its cattle show participation to entries from county residents, according to Rev. John Mignot, president of the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs.

Mignot said that he received the letter, but they can only advise the individual county fair boards about the situation.

"We're suggesting (to the county boards), before any cattle be admitted, that (each) animal does have an original vaccination and booster 30 days afterward. But (the owner) must have a certificate," Mignot said, adding, "It's only a recommendation."

Through his contacts, Mignot said he has received word that shows at least may well be small.

"We are hearing, generally throughout, that most of the farmers are choosing not to exhibit their cattle this year. As you well know, they're not going to run the risk," Mignot said. "That seems to be what we're hearing."

In the meantime, there is no clearinghouse for updated fair information. *Lancaster Farming* intends to publish updates weekly, as fair personnel can provide. The recommendation for all shows, industry wide, is to call the organizers of the event and ask.

For a fairboard, there appears to be no direct financial incentive not to close a show, except for a diminished attendance.

According to Larry Nieman, administration of the state Fair Fund Program, each established

fair is eligible to receive state funds which reimburse the fairs for half the amount spent, up to \$15,000, in the awarding of show premiums, which are cash awards.

The state has a listing of the premiums that it will support and the categories and types of shows.

Nieman said that if a fairboard would opt to drop showing cattle for a year, it wouldn't affect their reimbursement for monetary outlays for other shows. In other words, if a fairboard spent \$30,000 on show premiums, they are to be reimbursed \$15,000 by the state fair fund, according to Nieman. If that amount drops \$28,000, for example, the board will get \$14,000, according to Nieman's explanation.

As far what is happening with the state's 4-H and FFA shows, Dale Olver, a dairy specialist with the Penn State University College of Agricultural Sciences Dairy Extension and 4-H program, said that each of the district shows are still considering what actions to take, beyond implementing the recommendations for requiring vaccinations, certificates and maintaining biosecurity measures.

"We haven't changed state (4-H and FFA showing) rules, but a lot of districts are requiring vaccinations," he said, adding that the required booster shots take 30 days to be given. The show season begins in some areas before then.

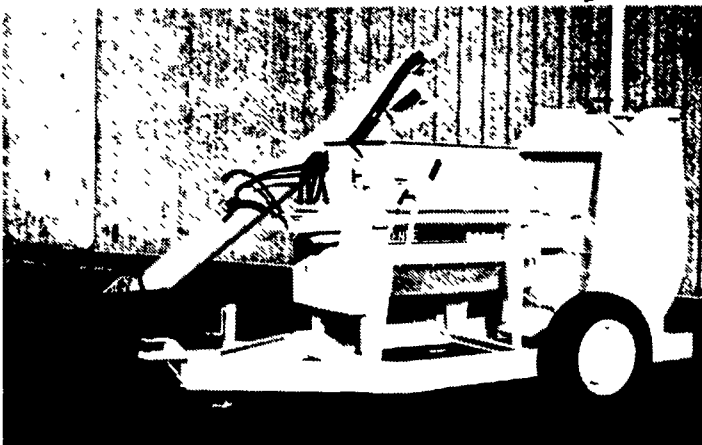
As far as show closings, he said, "I haven't heard of too many, but there are many discussing it. The early shows, (scheduled to be held) at the end of July, had the most discussions."

Again, he said the best way to find out if the show is to be held is to call the show managers.

"I think this is a time when people really need to find out what their risk is for going to shows," Olver said. "The vet can be very helpful in doing that."

# THE NEW WHITE LINE FROM HENKE

*The New Spirit of Performance*



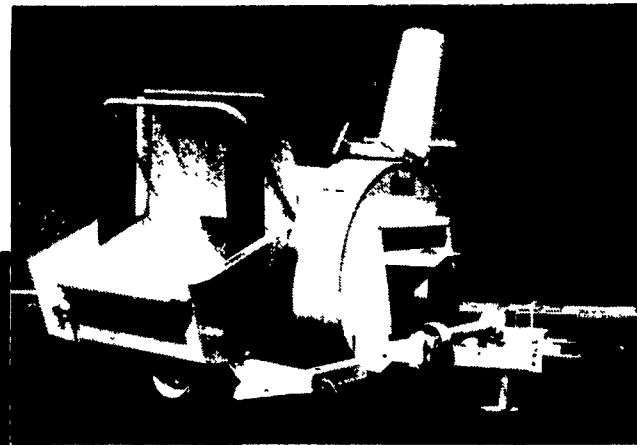
## Roller/Blower Mills

Henke blower mills are built for course cracking high moisture shell corn and blowing it into vertical silos. Blower mills are equipped with Henke's 7 inch diameter steel rolls and 60 inch blowers. Blower mills are available with 36 inch or 45 inch roll lengths.



## KwikKrusher

The Henke KwikKrusher is built to process either dry or high moisture ear corn. The KwikKrusher is equipped with 7 inch diameter steel rolls manufactured in our own plant. The KwikKrusher is available in 24 inch and 36 inch models with either an elevator discharge or with a blower discharge for filling vertical silos



## Forage Blower 1140

The Henke Model 1140 Forage Blower is built for the farmer who requires high capacity to fill tall silos. Use 9" pipe or for additional capacity use 11" pipe - removable 11" square to 9" round transition - standard. The Large 11" x 40" blower drum houses a 1/2" thick heavy steel rotor which has six heavy curved paddles that direct material to the center of the blower pipe. The 1140 blower is also equipped with a water inlet, four adjustable leveling stands, adjustable tongue jack, wind guard, easily replaceable blower wear band and an optional magnet.

# HENKE

*The New Spirit of Performance*

1-800-228-1405

Henke Machine, Inc.

Call For Dealer Nearest To You  
3330 E. 23rd St. Columbus, NE 68602

# HENKE

*The New Spirit of Performance*

1-800-228-1405