

State Veterinary Laboratory Is Strong Defense Against Disease

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HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Pennsylvania Veterinary Laboratory has been up and running for more than a year, and recently received full accreditation.

That accomplishment is significant for the Pennsylvania livestock industry.

Without such accreditation, and the qualifications and testing accuracy it recognizes, the state can not conduct its own regulatory and diagnostic testing, and has to depend on testing laboratories out

of state, some at long distances.

With it, Pennsylvania can conduct its own regulatory testing to achieve compliance with requirements of nations receiving Pennsylvania's export trade.

With it, turnaround time on testing results is optimized, and costs minimized for Pennsylvania livestock producers.

With it, Pennsylvania can maintain regulatory testing programs, such as for brucellosis in cattle, to achieve a certain status of livestock health recognized by the international community that allows for less restrictive paperwork and constraints in selling and



Here, Bill Logoda pulls a tray out of a special incubator and shows a flat of special, virus and bacteria-free eggs that are used in testing for the actual presence of avian influenza virus. Samples are injected into the expensive, host eggs



Dr. Graham Purchase, director of the Pennsylvania Veterinary Laboratory, stands at the loading dock where a cow is being received for testing and necropsy. Biosecurity is a top concern at the new facility that features state-of-the art communications and research and testing technology.

shipping cattle from Pennsylvania.

While measuring the exact economic benefits to Pennsylvania would be difficult, it is not difficult to understand that it helps provide the means for a multi-million dollar industry to exist, as well as providing a catalyst for increased growth.

If the diagnostic and disease monitoring testing and research services were only concerned with the health and safety of the state's poultry, swine and cattle industries, it would be an investment

yielding great returns. The three species of Pennsylvania livestock were valued at \$1,361,550,000 for 1995-96, according to Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service.

With exporting possibilities opened because of better testing availability, and a strong testing program that can reassure concerned buyers of the quality of Pennsylvania commodities and safety of purchasing them, the inherent value of Pennsylvania livestock can be assumed to have increased.

From there, it's up to marketers and trade negotiators to do their part to make that inherent value realized to its potential.

The cost of testing, though not inexpensive, is a very small percentage of the value that it creates and protects.

For human health concerns, the activities of the state diagnostic laboratory system are important also.

The entire livestock testing program is designed to ensure safe food, and safe animal production in the vicinity of humans — not just a first line defense against the always present danger of communicable disease destroying the value of livestock, or preventing its export.

The strength of the testing and monitoring program for Pennsylvania's agricultural industry comes from its unique program — the Pennsylvania Animal Diagnostic Laboratories System (PADLS).

It is called a "tripartite" system because it involves three different institutions — the PDA, the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Sciences, and the Pennsylvania State University.

Rather than have the state attempt to build and operate every type of laboratory needed, the work already being done at the state's pre-eminent veterinary school and at Penn State University are being utilized. Both of those universities receive state funds for research and operations.

Each lab in the tripartite system specializes and brings different strengths in research, reference materials, and in testing abilities.

Now linked together through a computerized system, "Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS)," so that staff at all three institutions can work together on projects and share information simultaneously, the tripartite sys-

Enck Heads PDA Animal Health, Diagnostic Bureau

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of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center and Pennsylvania State University," Hayes said. "Dr. Enck will help to facilitate this effort and help Pennsylvania continue to be a leader in animal health."

Enck founded the Carlisle Animal Veterinary Clinic in 1971, later developing the Carlisle Large Animal Veterinary Clinic to serve the dairy industry. That clinic now primarily serves the equine industry with a variety of other animals. He has experience in preparing cattle, horses and pigs for both international and interstate export.

A member of the American Veterinary Medical Association since 1970, he is also a member of the Agriculture Liaison Committee and has served as its vice president for one term. In other activities, he is a member of the American Association of Equine Practitioners, and has served as president of the Cumberland Valley Veterinary Medical Association.

For the past two years, he also served as president of the Cumberland County Extension Association, and has been a member of its Dairy, Equine, and Building committees.

He earned his veterinary medi-

cine degree in 1970 from the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, while he earned a bachelor's degree in animal science from Penn State University.

In 1984, he received the UP School of Veterinary Medicine's Centennial Award of Merit.

Bradley Jones Market Development

In other news, Bradley R. Jones, of Camp Hill, has been appointed to serve as director of the state Bureau of Market Development.

Jones had served for more than a year as executive director the Pa. Hardwoods Development Council, until the appointment was made June 2.

In his new position, he is to oversee the promotion of products grown and made in Pennsylvania.

"Brad Jones will work to fulfill the Ridge Administration's goals of nurturing present markets and of seeking new opportunities on both the domestic and international fronts for Pennsylvania's agricultural products," Hayes said.

"He will be responsible for the commodity and promotion programs, matching fund program for county fairs, commodity matching

grant program, and livestock and produce auctions."

According to Hayes, "Brad Jones has demonstrated his marketing interests while working with Pennsylvania's hardwoods industry, and his enthusiasm will be a major asset.

"Our producers and processors offer world-class products, and Brad will manage our new initiatives to advance Pennsylvania's competitive advantages and to highlight our agriculture's superior quality and diversity."

Prior to working with the Hardwoods Council, Jones had been an environmental issues manager for the American Petroleum Institute. In that position, he worked with legislative issues, managed research projects and developed public-service events to increase the effectiveness of the recycling programs.

He was an advisory board member of the Waste Watch Center and the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission. He was also a member of the board of directors of the Virginia Recycling Association.

He has a bachelor's degree in forest science.

Warren Mathias Region 6

Warren Mathias, of Hummelstown, who had served as director of the Bureau of Market Development, has been reassigned to serve as director of the state Department of Agriculture's Region 6 office.

In that capacity, he is to oversee the department's inspectors and services in Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lebanon, Lancaster, Perry and York counties.

Mathias is also a businessman, having established the Plant Pot-Pourri Garden Center in Palmyra in 1973, with a greenhouse, florist shop, gift shop and nursery. He expanded the business to include industrial and institutional accounts and used a quality management program.

He has a bachelor's degree in horticulture from Penn State University, and serves on several advisory and directorial boards, including the boards of directors for the Lebanon Valley Vocational School, and the Milton Hershey Horticultural Department, Lebanon County Extension, the Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce, and the Penn State University College of Agricultural Sciences Alumni Society.

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