

# Veterinary Laboratory

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There is biosecurity protocol and identity protection for those bringing suspect tissues or carcasses. Each case is specifically identified with a code number and receives a document file, whereby any and all testing done, annotations made, and results found, can be recorded.

The case file for most situations is documented on the LIMS computer and information can be shared between experts within the system and diagnoses made much more quickly.

For example, if a case is received at Harrisburg and tissues are sent out for testing through a courier to either the Penn State or University of Pennsylvania arms of the tripartite system, staff at the other labs can call up the case document on the computer, and enter the test results immediately.

Eliminated are the delays in having the results returned via courier, and eliminated is unnecessary paperwork.

Gained is speed in accessing information, and thus valuable time, in the event that it becomes apparent that a dangerous pathogen has been encountered.

The information about almost any case can be shared between the three entities.

Further, in addition to the the LIMS system, each institution has a remarkable audio/visual computer communications system hooked up to a microscope, whereby the same image can be shared by two or more people on the system in different parts of the state.

The user in Harrisburg can sit and look at the computer image of the microscope image, and at the same time, also on the computer screen, see the person at one of the other laboratories with whom he or she is conferring from Harrisburg.

It's leading edge technology.

That communications linkup was completed two weeks ago. "It's working really well," Purchase said. "We've used it for several real cases."

"It's bringing a great ability to consult between the different laboratories on microscopic samples," Purchase said. "The most important thing is that we can bring (several) experts" to work on a case instantaneously.

In the meantime, Dr. Purchase has redesigned the information flow in the state Veterinary Laboratory in order to simplify operations, and create a central point for the collection of information for decision-making.

Purchase divided the lab system into five different areas of func-

tional responsibility of equal priority — clerical and administrative; toxicology and pathology; microbiology; immunology; and client services.

He said he did so to provide a better system of information man-

agement and access for decision-making, as well as to elevate client services to the level of priority recognition its deserves, rather than being passed off as a secondary clerical or administrative responsibility.

Under the priority and information flow system now instituted, the laboratory can respond and adapt to different diseases and situations as they occur, without having to lose any of those vital ele-

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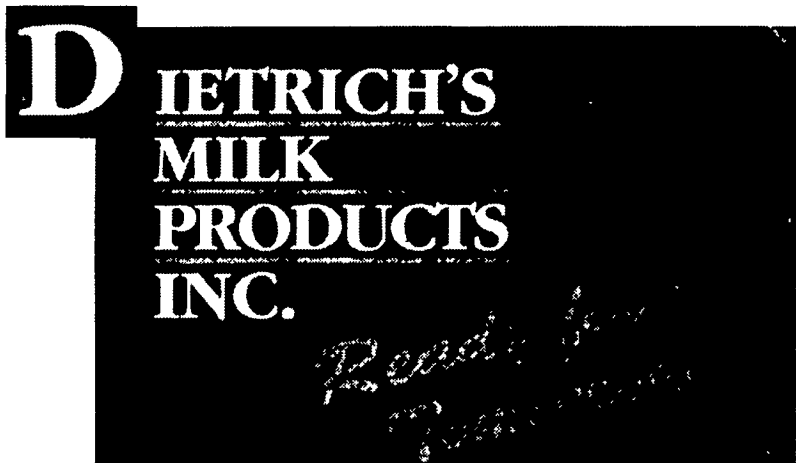
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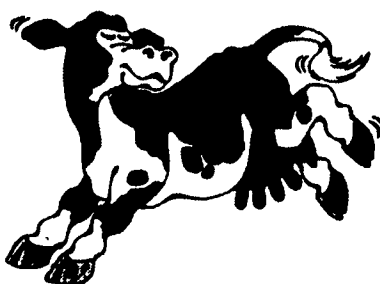
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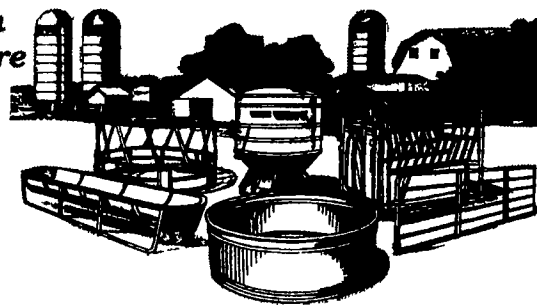


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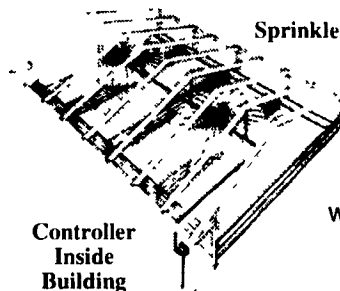
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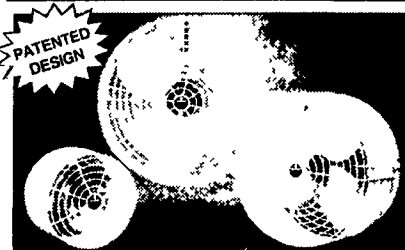


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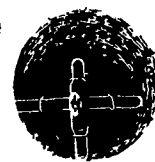
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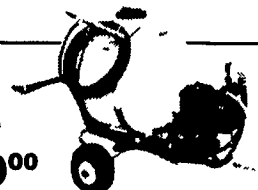
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