

Dover Ag Science Teacher Attends National Training Seminar

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Lancaster Farming Staff
DOVER (York Co.) — Dover Area High School ag science teacher and FFA adviser Ronald Weaner was one of 17 agriculture teachers around the country selected to attend a national training seminar for applied environmental science.



Ronald Weaner

Early this month, Weaner traveled to the airport in Dallas, Texas to participate in a national train-the-trainer environmental science workshop conducted by the National Council for Agricultural Education.

From Nov. 5-7, agricultural teachers from 16 states participated in activities and discussions related to ecology and natural resources at the eight-hour workshop. According to the council, the teachers examined how people

interact with their environment, how plants and animals affect the environment, and the goal of

environmental regulations.

After training, Weaner, selected at the state level by Pennsylvania's vocational education department, is certified to conduct applied environmental science training workshops for local agriculture and science teachers in Pennsylvania.

The project was directed by Dr. Robert Birkenholz and Dr. Bryan Garton, professors of agricultural education at the University of Missouri.

According to Weaner, the applied environmental sciences curriculum is used in schools. The seminar provided useful classroom materials, including overheads and handouts, on water quality studies, soil nutrient management, soil science, and other items useful for teachers.

At Dover, Weaner teaches ninth grade ag science technology, ag mechanics from 10-12th grade, and wildlife management and natural resources conservation.

By attending the Dallas conference, Weaner will be presenting the curriculum program he learned to the Pennsylvania agriculture teachers conference scheduled July 10-13 in Shippensburg. The conference is conducted at a Shippensburg hotel by ag teachers in Adams and Cumberland counties.

As for the information, "I plan to use quite a bit of it," he said. "It contains some new resources for us."

The program was also a cultural exchange, of sorts, Weaner noted. His roommate at the seminar was an ag teacher from Gillette, Wyo.

— and someone who never visited states in the East.

For a person from Wyoming who knows little about the East, the differences are notable. It would be like living in China and coming to America for the first time, according to Weaner.

But the work presented will make the job of "putting lessons together a little bit easier," said Weaner.

Applied environmental science instructional materials are delivered to teachers across the nation by the council in partnership with the National Association of Agricultural Educators. The council provides leadership, coordination, and support for the continuous improvement and diversity of agricultural education.

New Bolton Center Offers Virus Advice

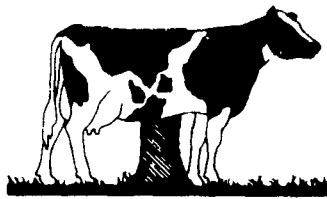
Dr. Jon Palmer, Veterinary Infectious Disease Specialist at New Bolton Center, University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine, asks members of the equine community to be aware of the simple precautionary steps that can be taken to reduce exposure to the mosquito-borne West Nile Virus.

West Nile Virus causes encephalitis, or inflammation of the brain. It is transmitted by mosquitoes from birds, not by animal-to-animal, or animal-to-person contact. The incubation period is 1 to 2 weeks, and signs in horses include a mild flu-like syndrome (depression, listlessness and sometimes fever) or more serious neurologic signs such as weakness, incoordination (stumbling), circling, hyperexcitability, convulsions, paralysis, coma, or even death.

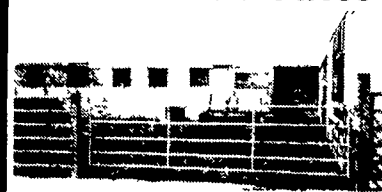
There is no vaccine to prevent West Nile Virus. Although there is no specific medication or treatment for the disease, the signs can be treated by your veterinarian to help the horse through the problem. Horses are considered "terminal hosts" which means that they are not a source of infection or other horses or people. It is highly unlikely that a mosquito feeding on an infected horse could ingest enough of the virus to transmit it to other animals. Thus, it is not necessary to quarantine an infected horse or a farm where infection has occurred and unlike Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA, Swamp Fever), it is not necessary to euthanize infected horses. In outbreaks which have occurred in the Mediterranean basin about half

of the horses with serious disease have recovered and have posed no risk to other horses.

You can decrease the chances of exposure to the virus by preventing or limiting your animal's exposure to mosquitoes. Horses should be stabled inside from dusk to dawn, and insect repellents should be used until there is a killing frost (These precautions may or may not be necessary in the spring.)



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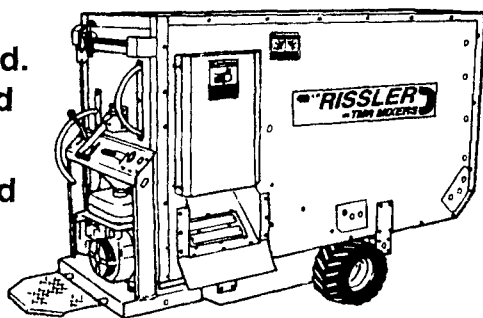
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