

Glickman Declares Bovine Tuberculosis Emergency

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman recently signed a declaration of emergency, authorizing the transfer of \$44 million this year to expand the bovine tuberculosis eradication program in the U.S. This is an initial payment on what is expected to be a multiyear effort.

"These emergency funds will be used to help curb this disease in the United States," Glickman said. "The spread of the disease in this country could compromise international and domestic trade of U.S. animals and

animal products and threaten producers with losses and consumers with price increases."

Bovine tuberculosis is a chronic and debilitating disease that primarily affects cattle, bison, and cervine species, which include elk and deer. Recent scientific tests have identified a significant bovine tuberculosis threat from infected wildlife, especially free-ranging deer, which in turn, transmit the disease to nearby cattle.

In Michigan, eight herds of cattle were infected with tuberculosis and the U.S. cattle population is being threatened by

recurring infections of dairy herds in Texas along the U.S. Mexican border.

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service will expand the bovine tuberculosis eradication program by surveying for bovine tuberculosis in U.S. wildlife and zoos, improving federal diagnostics capabilities and national surveillance for the disease, making indemnity payments to farmers for the depopulation of infected and high-risk herds, and establishing identification requirements for animals imported into the U.S. for feeding and slaughter.

This emergency declaration is effective immediately and is available on the web at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

Association Continues

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making the association's food booth a success. The couple put in 12-hour days during the Ephrata Fair week. The booth grossed \$6,400 this year. After expenses, High presented a \$2,749 check to the association.

Petit reported a balance of \$7,435 in the association's treasury.

Special guests included Penn Manor FFA members Brian Rankin, Mike Ross, and Andrew Herr. The three 10th graders recently placed first in poultry evaluation and technology for eastern regional competition.

Team members qualified at the state level before competing at the Big E, Sept. 15-17. To attain the title, members graded chicken patties, carcass birds, cartons of eggs, and live poultry.

According to team member Herr, members met weekly after school to perfect their judging skills. They competed against

teams from 13 states at the Big E. In addition to becoming the champion team, members also received individual high scores. Ross was the highest scorer over all; Rankin, third; and Herr, fifth.

Voted as board members were Seth Bowman, Tom Karr, and Guy Martin. Continuing terms are board members Ronnie Clark, Daniel Heller, Rich Roenigk, and Dr. John Schwartz, adviser.

Membership dues are \$25 annually, which includes a free subscription to Poultry Times and a quarterly newsletter to keep members informed about activities, issues, and events.

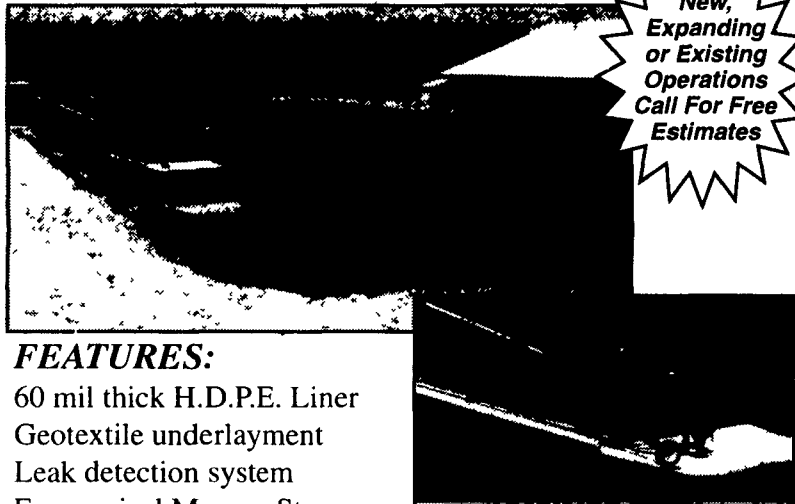
In addition to providing educational opportunities, the association organizes social events for poultry gatherings.

The duo of Raught and Shane provided music and comedy during the evening festivities.

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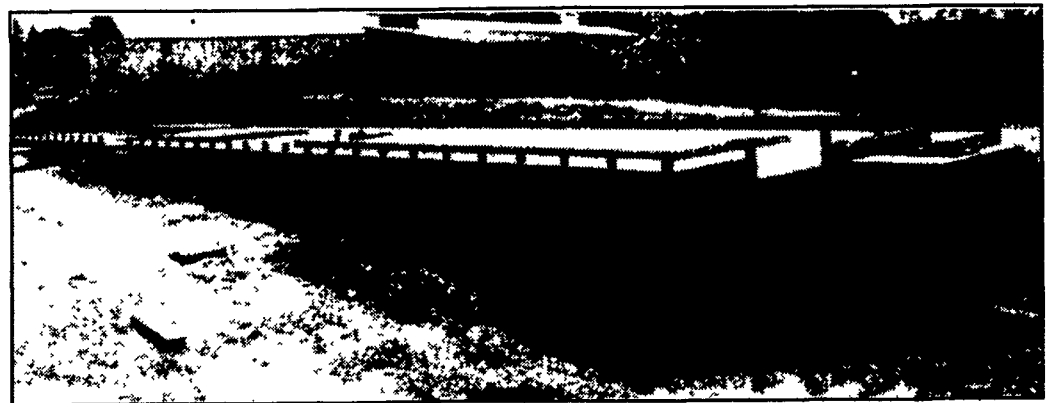
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