

\$1 Million Awarded In State Conservation Grants

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Rep. Raymond Bunt Jr. has applauded the more than \$1 million in state grants awarded for conservation easements and a park project in the 147th Legislative District.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) awarded \$285,000 to the Montgomery County Lands Trust for a conservation ease-

ment on 165 acres of land in Lower Frederick Township, the Spring Mountain Camp, and \$800,000 to the National Lands Trust for a conservation easement on 880 acres in Marlborough Township, the Musser Scout Reservation.

"I'm very pleased to see the state is providing funds for these critically important open space and habitat preservation projects in Montgomery County," Bunt

said.

"As a long-time advocate of protecting open space in our county, I strongly support these conservation easement projects and applaud the Montgomery County Lands Trust and the Natural Lands Trust for their strategic alliance that is working to protect the most critical and threatened natural areas in the county."

"The Musser Scout Reservation, in particular, is a priority natural region that deserves preservation. Its large size and the quality of its forest, the Unami Creek and other natural resources make it a true regional treasure."

The scout reservation is home to Camp Delmont, Camp Garrison and Camp Hart. It has been the site of scout activities since the early part of the last century.

"This conservation easement will help ensure that the land remains protected open space in perpetuity," Bunt said. "This state funding is a testament to the hard work and commitment of the lands trust and others, without whose vision and dedication to conserving our natural resources these projects never would have been possible."

Towamencin Township also received a state grant. It will get \$98,000 to restore Fischer's Park. The funds are for a playground, a gazebo, an addition to the existing rest facility, installment of ADA access, picnic tables, landscaping and sign and other related improvements.

The grants are provided by DCNR through the Community Conservation Partnerships Program. The program provides financial and technical assistance to municipal governments and local organizations for parks, recreation, conservation and greenways projects.

National Junior Gelbvieh Classic Heads To South Dakota

RAPID CITY, S.D. — The 2001 American Gelbvieh Junior Association (AGJA) Black Hills Gold Classic will make the Central States Fairgrounds in Rapid City, S.D., its home July 9-13.

The AGJA, the South Dakota Junior Gelbvieh Association and South Dakota Gelbvieh Association are joint sponsors of this event.

The National Junior Gelbvieh Classic attracts youth ages 7 to 21 from across the nation for a week of leadership contests and cattle shows. The last two Junior Classics have seen record attendance and numbers of cattle. This year in Rapid City will be no exception.

The events kick off with opening ceremonies on Mon., July 9. That evening will feature a bus trip to the Mount Rushmore Lighting Ceremony. The next three days feature a variety of contests including livestock judging, team fitting, photography contest, poster contest, quiz bowl, advertising, sales talk, showmanship and impromptu speaking.

The week tops off with the

steer show on Thurs., July 12 and the breeding heifer and bred and owned bull show on Fri., July 13. Clint Rusk of West Lafayette, Ind., will judge this year's show. The final event of the week will be the Awards Banquet and State Basket Auction Friday evening.

To participate in this year's Black Hills Gold Classic, a youth must be between the ages of 7 and 21 by Jan. 1, 2001. If you are not currently a member of the American Gelbvieh Junior Association, you must become an AGJA member by June 18. Contact the American Gelbvieh Association office for a membership application. To show cattle at this year's Classic, the cattle must be in the youth's name by June 1, 2001.

For more information on the AGJA Black Hills Gold Classic or to join the American Gelbvieh Junior Association, contact Patrick Doyle at the AGA office, (303) 465-2333 or email patrickd@gelbvieh.org. A tentative schedule is available to view on the AGA website at www.gelbvieh.org.

N.Y. Farm Bureau Applauds House Vote To Eliminate Death Taxes

GLENMONT, N.Y. — New York Farm Bureau, the largest general farm advocacy organization in the state, commends the U.S. House of Representatives for their vote to repeal the death tax. Death taxes impose a tremendous burden on family farmers and other small business owners who pour their lives into building something for their families, only to lose that gift at the time of their death. Repeal of this tax can erase the burdens and uncertainties associated with estate tax planning.

"Due to the current estate tax structure, surviving farm family members often have to sell land or equipment to generate enough money to pay the estate tax bill, ultimately devastating the farm,"

stated John W. Lincoln, president of New York Farm Bureau. "If the farmland is located near an urban center, as much of the farmland is in New York State, the sale often results in that farm ending up in the hands of developers."

The support from those New York Representatives who voted in favor of repealing the death tax to help save family farms is greatly appreciated by New York Farm Bureau. Needs across the country vary, and support from all members of the House of Representatives was difficult to acquire, but proved successful. Property values in New York are much higher than in other states. Therefore, estate taxes are much more draining to New York

farmers and farmers in the northeast, making the issue a priority for the region. The bill to repeal death taxes will now need to be passed by the U.S. Senate and then signed by President Bush. The bill being considered now in the Senate will eliminate death taxes immediately.

"Elimination of the death tax and increase in the threshold is very much needed," added Lincoln. "Farming requires high operating costs to maintain the operation, making farmers rich in terms of land and equipment but at the same time cash poor. Capital is needed for constant reinvestment in order to maintain the farming operation and should not be needlessly taken away through death taxes."

Balance® Pro Gains Registration In Pennsylvania

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C. — Balance Pro herbicide for corn is now available for use in Pennsylvania. Balance Pro is a low-dose, broad-spectrum herbicide for corn that controls more than 50 of the toughest weeds in corn, including foxtail, lambsquarters (including triazine-resistant species) waterhemp and velvetleaf when applied pre-plant or pre-emerge.

One of the product's unique

characteristics is its ability to recharge. If weeds emerge during periods of dry weather, Balance Pro will recharge with as little as a half-inch of rain and control weeds up to two-inches tall.

"With some meteorologists predicting extended dry weather across the state in the next few weeks, that benefit may prove especially attractive to corn growers in Pennsylvania," said Rob Schrick, Balance Pro prod-

uct lead for Aventis CropScience.

Balance Pro can be used in a one-pass program, as a burn-down, in a tankmix, as an early pre-plant, a pre-plant incorporated or in a sequential program.

"Balance Pro is one of the most effective corn herbicides available," Schrick said, "and now Pennsylvania corn growers will be able to benefit from its outstanding weed control."

Why Do Vaccines Fail?

Many commercial vaccines are available for use in a variety of dairy cattle of all ages and stages of lactation, and numerous infectious agents (also termed pathogens) are represented. Vaccines undergo a licensing process to insure their ability and effectiveness to protect against disease. Many of the pathogens affecting cows are well identified.

Nonetheless, at times the results in terms of protection seem less than adequate. How the immune system responds to a vaccine is a complex interaction of many types of cells, and the failure of just one small step in this interaction can result in poor immunity. When a disease outbreak occurs due to a pathogen against which the cows were vaccinated, the question arises, why didn't the vaccine protect our herd? There are several possible reasons.

1. The vaccine actually offered incomplete protection. Depending on the pathogen, some vaccines provide incomplete protection. This reduces the severity of infections, but may not necessarily prevent infections.

2. The wild (disease causing) type of the pathogen is a version that is not presented in the vaccine, so the immune system cannot recognize it sufficiently well to mount a memory response. Particularly for viruses, new strains can appear that were not previously used in development of commercially prepared vaccines.

3. The vaccine was not stored properly, had expired, or was not administered according to directions. Vaccines are more sensitive than many drugs with respect to storage temperature. Dry vaccines that are mixed and reconstituted with a solution should not be stored longer than the day they are mixed. Booster injections refer to a repeat vaccination, often within 2 to 4 weeks after the initial vaccination. 4. The vaccine was mixed with another vaccine or drug. This should never happen. If two vaccines are given, use two separate injection sites and syringes. Vaccines are a suspension that includes the pathogen and an adjuvant.

5. The cow's immune system wasn't competent, or "ready" to respond to the vaccination. Research has demonstrated that leukocytes from cows at calving have impaired function, and this includes the lymphocytes that are critical for memory and antibody production. Cows vaccinated at calving do not produce antibodies as well as cows vaccinated at other times in the lactation cycle.

6. The cows are given too many vaccines at one time.

In some herd situations, cows receive up to 15 different pathogen types during one vaccination session. It is uncertain what effect this has on the cow's ability to respond most effectively to any one pathogen. If less than desirable results are being achieved, it might be appropriate to reduce the number of vaccines administered at any one time.

Summary

- Some vaccines may not provide complete protection, but they may reduce mortality and economic loss compared with no vaccination.

- Some vaccines will not protect completely against new wild type pathogens (especially viruses).

- If vaccines are not stored at proper temperature and prepared exactly according to label, don't expect optimal protection.

- Never mix a single vaccine with other vaccine or drug preparations.

- Administer vaccines at the proper time in the animal's life cycle according to the label. Vaccination near the time of calving or during health disturbances or several infections should be avoided.

- It may not be most effective to give multiple different vaccines at the same time.

- Work with your veterinarian to determine the exact pathogen(s) causing problems when developing your comprehensive vaccination program.

This article, written by Ron Erskine, Michigan State University, is reprinted from the "Michigan Dairy Review," April 2000.

Customer Practices Studied To Help Improve Beef Satisfaction

DENVER, Colo. — Three beef cuts have been studied through the checkoff to help better understand consumer likes and practices and increase demand for both higher-valued and underutilized cuts.

The research was conducted at a leading university and coordinated by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association under contract to the Cattlemen's Beef Board.

Goals of the "Beef Customer Satisfaction II" research were to:

- Determine the relationship of quality in lower-valued cuts such as the clod;

- Learn the value of preparation instructions on the top sirloin steak, which can be undesirably tough when overcooked;

- Investigate whether new technologies, such as calcium chloride injection, improve the top sirloin's tenderness when the product is prepared to a higher degree of doneness; and

- Determine whether calcium chloride injection could be used

to enhance the acceptability of lower-priced steaks.

The research found that for the clod steak, in-home factors such as cooking methods and degrees of doneness influenced consumer satisfaction more than did the quality grade. Researchers concluded that preparation techniques that improve flavor without reducing tenderness improve customer satisfaction.

Customer satisfaction of top round steaks, meanwhile, were not improved by the introduction of the calcium chloride marinade.

Research found that flavor predominantly determined whether consumers liked the top sirloin steak, followed by tenderness and juiciness. Cooking method also had an influence on palatability of this cut, with fried being the method with the highest ratings and broiled being lowest. The calcium chloride marinade had no effect on tenderness or customer satisfaction.

Whether participants liked the flavor was the major factor driving customer satisfaction for all three categories of beef cuts analyzed.