



BSE FACTS

As you may know, USDA has placed Canada under its BSE restriction guidelines and will not accept any ruminants or ruminant products from Canada pending further investigation in the recent case involving an 8-year-old cow.

The United States remains diligent in its BSE surveillance and prevention efforts. In fiscal year 2002, USDA tested 19,990 cattle for BSE using a targeted surveillance approach designed to test the highest risk animals, including downer animals, animals that died on the farm, older animals and animals exhibiting signs of neurological distress.

BSE is not Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). BSE is not contagious; is not spread via animal to animal contact; does not have a rapid, short incubation period; and is not a virus. BSE is spread via consumption of contaminated feed. The primary contamination concern is rendered protein products containing brain and/or spinal cord from BSE infected cattle.

This recent BSE event re-emphasizes the continual need for education, for full implementation of the feed ban and for prevention and surveillance activities.

The U.S. has import exclusions since 1989, a feed ban to prevent

recycling of potentially infective materials since 1997 and an aggressive surveillance program. Despite the UK success in controlling their BSE epidemic, we in the U.S. must not be complacent.

FSA Now Accepting Crop Reports

The Lancaster County Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting 2003 crop acreage reports.

The deadlines for reporting free of charge are June 16 for small grains and July 15 for corn, soybeans, and all other crops.

Reports can still be accepted after these dates by paying a late fee of \$35 per farm with an additional nominal charge for acreage.

Crop reporting is now a requirement for those farms enrolled in the Direct Countercyclical Payment program (DCP), Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's), and many other programs.

FSA expects a heavy reporting season, so come prepared to know the location of your crops on an aerial map, or prepare your own map with the crop locations and acreage totaled.

Aerial photos are available ahead of time, and also on the Mapquest web site, www.mapquest.com. This will save time at the county office. We encourage large operations to call ahead of time to schedule an appointment.

The Lancaster County FSA office is located at the Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Rd., Lancaster, PA.

Automatic Swine Sorting

Finishing barns with automatic sorting technology have a direct impact on the swine industry's

most important goals uniformity, product quality, food safety, and economics.

The technology offers the following advantages to producers: more efficient management of pigs in large pens, an environment where pigs learn to sort themselves into marketing groups, less pig stress during load-out and transport, improved meat quality, and more hogs in the packer's premium box.

Broken Needles

When administering injectable drugs to livestock, broken needles can happen even with great attention to detail.

So what happens if a needle breaks off in the hide of your animal?

If the metal piece is still visible, restrain the animal immediately and attempt to retrieve the broken piece.

If unsuccessful or the metal piece is not visible, mark the animal with a special eartag and record the incident in your health records. If the animal is to be retained for breeding ensure the identification remains with it for its lifetime.

At the end of its useful breeding life, the animal must not go to slaughter for human consumption. For feedlot animals, slaughtering is acceptable within seven days of the occurrence if you haven't violated the drug withdrawal time and have notified the packer with a declaration of a casualty slaughter.

Make sure to advise the packer about the injection site damage. Market animals can also be processed for home consumption, but cannot be sold to anyone else. When in doubt the animal should be euthanized, rather than risk-

ing a bad experience for a consumer.

Cattlemen's Field Day

The 2003 Pennsylvania Summer Cattlemen's Field Day is scheduled for Saturday, July 19 with the main location at Em-Tran on Bossler Rd, Elizabethtown.

Tours will also be conducted to the Dwight Hess Feedlot and to Donegal Stream, where there are unique environmentally friendly enhancements to stream bank and related improvements.

The field day presentations at Em Tran will include technological advancements in artificial insemination, embryo transfer, estrus detection and synchronization and livestock cloning. The Hess Feedlot includes a slatted floor barn, a feed commodity shed and excellent animal handling facilities.

For more information about the field day contact The Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association at 814-238-5888.

Ag Progress Days

Agriculture is a demanding business. To compete, you need information on the latest management practices, research, technology and ever-changing regulations.

Mark your calendar for the 2003 Ag Progress Days, August 19-21 at the traditional Rock Springs site, where you'll find one-stop shopping that includes commercial exhibits, machinery demonstrations, cutting edge Penn State research and much more.

Livestock producers may want to visit the new Pennsylvania Livestock Evaluation Center, located next to the Ag Progress Days site.

Pennsylvania Egg Production Up 4 Percent In April

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Egg production in Pennsylvania during April 2002 totaled 554 million eggs, 4 percent more than the 534 million produced in April 2002, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service.

The total number of layers averaged 24.4 million during April, 4 percent more than the 23.3 million one year earlier. Production per 100 layers was 2,275 eggs during the month, compared with 2,288 the same month last year.

Egg-type chicks hatched dur-

ing April 2003 totaled 4.74 million, 8 percent more than the 4.40 million hatched the previous April. Broiler-type chicks hatched totaled 12.8 million during April 2003, down 2 percent from the previous year.

United States' egg production totaled 7.13 billion during April 2003, up slightly from last year. The total number of layers during April averaged 336 million, slightly lower than the average number of layers from a year ago. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,123 eggs, slightly higher than the 2,109 eggs in April 2002.

Turkey Census Reveals Good, Bad News

PITTSBORO, N.C. — The American Livestock Breeds Conservancy (ALBC) conducted a census of turkeys in the winter of 2002-2003. The results contained good as well as bad news.

The good news is that the populations of standard varieties of turkeys are increasing. The bad news is that the number of hatcheries actually breeding standard turkeys is declining. The reality is that while standard turkeys are being brought back from the brink of extinction, they are not yet safe from peril.

Breeding populations are increasing. Turkeys produce many offspring in a single year, but most end up on the dinner tables and never pass on their genes to another generation. ALBC, therefore, monitors breeding populations to determine the number of birds that are reproducing themselves.

Fifty-two hatcheries and significant breeders of standard turkeys were contacted. These included the 25 hatcheries originally surveyed in ALBC's 1997 turkey census plus 27 additional hatcheries and individual breeders that have since sold turkeys.

To obtain the ALBC's complete report containing data tables, a list of participants, and hatcheries

selling heritage turkeys, please send \$5 to ALBC, Turkey Census List, P.O. Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312

To obtain a copy of "Birds of a Feather: Saving Rare Turkeys From Extinction" containing the 1997 ALBC census report, as well as variety descriptions and a history of the domestication of turkeys, send \$21.95 and \$6 shipping and handling (North Carolina residents, please add 7 percent sales tax) to ALBC, P.O. Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312.

To obtain a copy of the SPPA census, send \$5 with your request to Paula Johnson, SPPA Turkey Census, 2442 Mayfield Lane, Las Cruces, NM 88005-5108.

Sec. Veneman Appoints Advisory Committee On Meat, Poultry

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman has appointed the following persons to the National Advisory Committee On Meat and Poultry Inspection:

Deanna Baldwin, Maryland Department of Agriculture, Annapolis, Md.; Dr. Gladys Bayse, Spelman College, Stone Mountain, Ga.; Dr. David Carpenter, Southern Illinois University, Springfield, Ill.; Charlotte Christin, Center for Science in the Public Interest, Washington, D.C.; and Dr. James Denton, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Ark.

Also, Kevin Elfering, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, St. Paul, Minn.; Sandra Eskin, AARP, Bethesda, Md.; Michael Govro, Oregon Department of Agriculture,

Lake Oswego, Ore.; Dr. Joseph J. Harris, Southwest Meat Association, College Station, Texas; and Dr. Jill Hollingsworth, Food Marketing Institute, Washington, D.C.








Also appointed were Dr. Lee C. Jan, Texas Department of Health, Austin, Texas; Dr. Alice J. Johnson, National Turkey Federation, Washington, D.C.; Michael Kowalczyk, Safe Tables

Our Priority, Mount Horeb, Wis.; Dr. Irene Leech, Virginia Citizens Consumer Council, Elliston, Va.; Charles Link, Cargill Turkey Products, Mount Crawford, Va.; Dr. Catherine Logue, North Dakota State University, Fargo, N.D.; and Mark Schad, Schad Meats, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio.

ATTENTION DAIRY FARMERS

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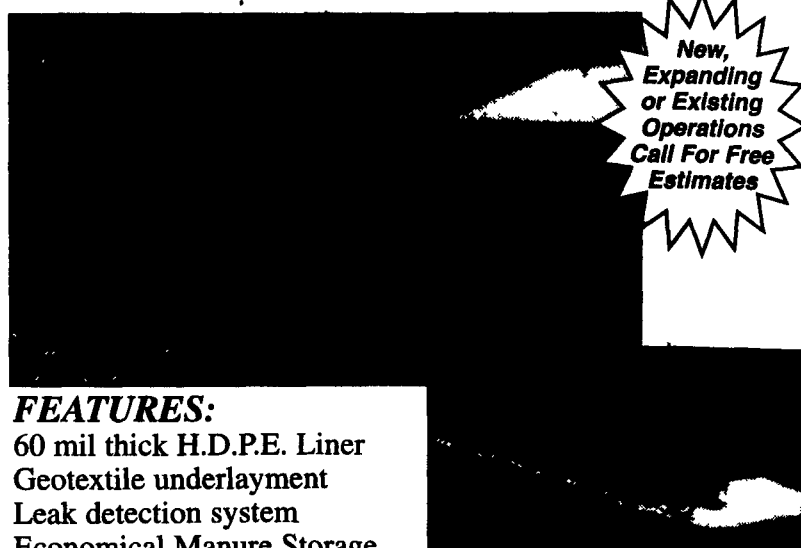
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