

PADLS: Needs Funding, BSL-3 Status

(Continued from Page A1)

ing at Ag Progress. "I hate to say how easy it is."

Rankin said that biological warfare weapons are extremely cheap to develop and field. The cost of an atomic bomb by comparison: about \$290 million.

The worst part: lab tests still have to go to Plum, Iowa, simply because the Pennsylvania diag-

mal health challenges ranging from avian influenza to foot and mouth disease and even BSE, than some of the human diseases such as smallpox or anthrax.

Human history has been affected by disease outbreak, from the Black Plague to the flu. Rankin said, "Germany lost (World War I) because of the flu."

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Pennsylvania's dilemma noted Enck: not enough trained people with proper equipment to do the job right.

Needed: \$51 million to modernize the facilities at PADLS and staff properly.

Also needed, according to Enck: biosafety level 3 (BSL-3) status so that testing of possible infectious agents (while protecting the staff) can be done in the state (instead of in Iowa) and have the tests completed in hours instead of days.

Those tests now could take a week and put a hamper on rapid detection and response.

"We can't wait a week," said Enck. "If we have foot and mouth disease, we're in terrible trouble."

Right now, PADLS doesn't have the "right biosafety level to handle those things," he said. If an outbreak would occur, "all the rest of ag would have to stop — be put on old — while our laboratory is quarantined."

The 10-year-old equipment the lab has is like "driving around a 1956 Ford," said Enck. "We need the rapid test... at our fingertips. We are going to get creamed if we don't."

Adding BSL-3 at each lab would amount to about \$52.4 million — a request being made to the state by the laboratory.

It's a question, according to Rankin, of how safe we want to be.

Said Rankin, "What do we need to protect our children, and our grandchildren, and my dog, whom I love?"

“We can't wait a week (for the test results). If we have foot and mouth disease, we're in terrible trouble.”

— Dr. John Enck Jr.
State Veterinarian
Director, Bureau Of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

nostic laboratory system, based in the southeast and south central regions of the state, isn't certified to do so and doesn't have the equipment.

"If you don't have the capability, through funding, you don't have a chance of fighting disease," said Enck.

There are about 21 major animal (zoonotic) diseases compared to nine human disease agents. It is far more prevalent to see ani-

mal health challenges ranging from avian influenza to foot and mouth disease and even BSE, than some of the human diseases such as smallpox or anthrax. Human history has been affected by disease outbreak, from the Black Plague to the flu. Rankin said, "Germany lost (World War I) because of the flu." Enck spoke about the role that

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Office Closed Labor Day

On Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 1, Lancaster Farming office is closed. The office will reopen Tuesday, Sept. 2.

For the Sept. 6 issue, there are some deadline changes:

Public Sale and Mailbox ads, 4 p.m., Friday, Aug. 29.

Classified, Section D ads — 1 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 3.

Classified, Section C, Farm Equipment ads, 1 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 3.

Section A ads, 5 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 3.

General News — noon, Thursday, Sept. 4.

'Cultured Dairy Products' Short Course Offered At Penn State

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — The "Cultured Dairy Products" short course will be offered by Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, Sept. 15-18 at the Nittany Lion Inn in State College.

The program covers the hows and whys of cultured dairy product manufacturing. It is designed for personnel working in production and quality control, research and development, and companies that provide goods and services

to the cultured dairy products industry.

Registrations will be accepted until Sept. 2. The registration fee of \$725 covers tuition, breaks, reception, and banquet. For registration information, contact the Office of Conferences and Short Courses by phone at (814) 865-8301, toll-free at (877) 778-2937, or by e-mail at shortcourse@psu.edu, or visit the Web at <http://conferences.cas.psu.edu>.

Dairy One Technician Participates in Training

ITHACA, N.Y. — Dairy One farm service technicians that have completed their first month of working in their circuit recently attended "school".

Six technicians met at the Dairy One office in Ithaca to become more familiar with the Dairy One support network and enhance their knowledge of software and customer care. Brian

Stump of Kimmell, Ind., was among those that attended along with other technicians from Pennsylvania and one technician from Connecticut.

Stump has been with Dairy One for about a year. He is a technician for farms from Anderson, Ind., to Byran, Ohio, and as far north as Greenville, Mich. He and his wife, Alice, live on the home farm where Brian has lived his entire life. He milked cows in a partnership with his father until August.

Stump's circuit includes farms with 60 cows to 3,000 cows with a total of 10,000 cows per month.

During the three-day training, Stump was able to visit and meet the people involved with each business unit. This included a trip to the Ithaca milk lab where he was able to observe the process of the milk analysis.

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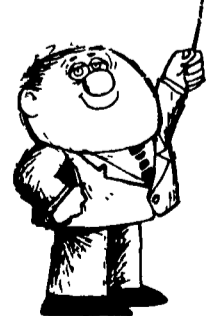


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