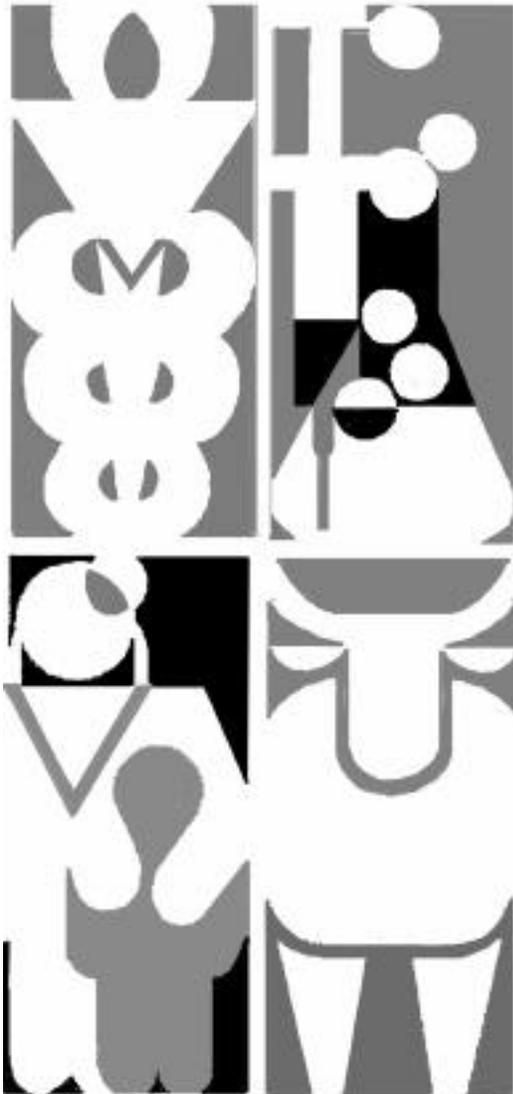


NEWSLETTER



Association of Teachers of Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine

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ATVPHPM is committed to developing and fostering the academic base for veterinary public health and preventive medicine

Visit the ATVPHPM Web site at...

<http://www.cvm.uiuc.edu/atvphpm/>

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Important: Please take a moment to look at your mailing label on the envelope. The number (e.g. 98) in the lower right corner of the mailing label is the last year for which a dues payment has been recorded. Membership dues are \$20 US annually and are payable on January 1 of each year. If, for example, your dues payment year is indicated to be 97, then to become current you should remit two years dues or \$40. The ATVPHPM Constitution and By-Laws require that members two years in arrears in payment of dues shall be dropped from membership (Article VIII)

ASSOCIATION NEWS

ATVPHPM President's Message

Greetings from Texas! As I write this the end of semester madness is upon us and it is good to have some other things to look forward to. Your executive council has been very busy organizing a special program for the next CRWAD, so keep watch for the announcements. In addition, we will have Powerpoint projection available at CRWAD 2002, courtesy of ATVPHPM and Colorado State University. We will continue to have student presentation awards (with money attached) so be thinking about who can present. Consider submitting an application for the Mark Gearhart Memorial Graduate Student Award. It is not a complicated or involved process and winners get a money award, plaque and opportunity to present at CRWAD. Finally, I am continuing to work towards an email list of all Association members. Many of you received a test mailing early in the year. By the time you read this you should have received a confirmatory email. If you have not, please contact me: mslater@cvm.tamu.edu.

There remains the topic of a name change, raised in our last newsletter. I received several emails, all in favor of a change to drop "teachers". One person expressed concern that "veterinary" may also limit our membership. Several indicated that "preventive medicine" may no longer convey the information we would like. Numerous alternative permutations were suggested: Association of Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health, Association of Veterinary Epidemiology and Population Medicine (or Population Health), Association of Preventive Veterinary Medicine and Public Health, American Society of Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health. Please let me know how you feel. I will continue to summarize and we will put it to a vote at the annual meeting at CRWAD.

Hope that you are all enjoying a productive, yet restful, summer.

Margaret Slater

ATVPHPM Symposium: One Medicine for the Future

From: "Paul S. Morley" <Paul.Morley@ColoState.edu>

We are happy to announce that the Association of Teachers of Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine (ATVPHPM) will be sponsoring a special symposium titled, "One Medicine for the Future" in

conjunction with the 2002 Conference of Research Workers in Animal Health (1:00 PM, Sunday, November 10, 2002, Millennium Hotel, St. Louis, MO). The symposium is intended to discuss the future of veterinary preventive medicine and epidemiology as they serve the health of all animals and man. This program is being convened to honor Dr. Calvin Schwabe for his lifetime achievements and contributions to veterinary preventive medicine. Dr. Schwabe will be the keynote speaker, and several of his former students and mentees will give introductory talks discussing the many ways in which veterinary preventive medicine benefits society. The ATVPHPM intends to make this award and this symposium a tradition, allowing us to honor the many deserving scientists working in this field. We hope that you will join us in honoring Dr. Schwabe at this special event!

DRAFT PROGRAM (4/9/2002)

Session 1: "The importance of animal health in modern public health practice." Dr. Marguerite Pappaioanou, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Session 2: "Measuring health and disease: progress in analytical approaches for veterinary preventive medicine." Dr. Wayne Martin, University of Guelph.

Session 3: "The role of veterinary preventive medicine for controlling emerging diseases." Dr. Mo Salman, Colorado State University.

Session 4: "Animals and the future of public health policy." Dr. Lonnie King, Michigan State University.

Session 5: "One medicine for the future." Dr. Calvin Schwabe, recipient of the Veterinary Preventive Medicine Lifetime Achievement Award.

Panel Discussion

Mark Gearhart Memorial Graduate Student Award

The Association of Teachers of Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine (ATVPHPM) is pleased to announce that it is seeking applications for the 2001 Mark Gearhart Memorial Graduate Student Award. This award will be made for the best manuscript submitted by a graduate student who is completing or has just completed advanced academic or professional training in veterinary public health or preventive veterinary medicine. The award consists of a plaque and \$300,

based upon review by a panel of ATVPHPM members. Applicants are required to submit four copies of a manuscript that is suitable for publication in a peer reviewed journal, and four copies of their curriculum vitae. The student's graduate advisor must also submit a letter stating the role the graduate student took in the project and in preparing the manuscript. Manuscripts should be suitable for publication, and should be formatted in the style used by Preventive Veterinary Medicine. However, it is not required that manuscripts be submitted to this journal.

Any graduate student is eligible to enter the competition as long as they have an advisor that is a member in good standing in the Association of Teachers of Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine. Papers may already have been published, but not earlier than July 1, 2001. Similarly, graduates are eligible as long as they have finished their program of studies within the past year (i.e., not earlier than July 1, 2001).

Manuscripts that have been submitted for publication or have been published after July 1, 2001 are acceptable. Application materials should be sent to Dr. Paul Morley, Dept. of Environmental Health, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO, 80523, and must be received before June 1, 2002 in order to be considered. The recipient of this award will be encouraged to attend the 2002 Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases and present an abstract based upon this manuscript.

We intend to continue with this award annually, which is another reason to be an active member of the ATVPHPM. You can learn more about this association by visiting our web site
<http://www.cvm.uiuc.edu/atvphpm>

For more information, contact Dr. Paul Morley (Ph: 970-491-7332; Fax: 970-491-2940; Email: Paul.Morley@Colostate.edu).

History of the Gearhart Award:

Mark Gearhart was originally from Ohio, and earned his DVM degree from The Ohio State University. He served as an intern in the large animal hospital at the University of Guelph. He then came to Colorado State University where he completed a residency in food animal medicine and an MS degree for his work in epidemiology and dairy production medicine. He stayed at CSU to continue this line of research training in pursuance of a doctoral degree. In 1989, as he was nearing the completion of his PhD, he was flying home to Ohio to visit his family when he was killed when a United Airlines DC-10 crashed near Sioux City, Iowa.

I did not have the pleasure of knowing Mark, but I wish that I had. He was known to many as an extremely intelligent and dedicated young scientist that had a tremendous love for veterinary medicine and more specifically for population medicine. He was also considered a great person to be around and a truly nice person.

The story that I have been able to uncover gets a bit fuzzy from here on, but apparently after his untimely death Dr. Ashley Robinson approached leaders in the ATVPHPM and asked that some money be dedicated to this award. The Mark Gearhart Memorial Graduate Student Award was initiated and was presented to deserving recipients for some years after that, but recently there has been a hiatus. Dr. Ian Gardner, immediate Past President of the ATVPHPM, should be credited as this force behind this recent effort to reinstate memorial award.

Paul Morley

ATVPHPM Training Session in Basic Veterinary Epidemiology and Risk Analysis

From: Mo Salman <M.D.Salman@colostate.edu>

The ATVPHPM is organizing another training session of basic veterinary epidemiology and risk analysis for the new employees of USDA:APHIS:VS. This session will be held in Ft. Collins May 13- 24, 2002. There will approximately 30 trainees. At least five instructors who are members of the ATVPHPM will be contributing to this training. The ATVPHPM in conjunction with USDA:APHIS: Centers of Epidemiology and Animal Health and USDA:APHIS: International Services will offer a second session of training in basic veterinary epidemiology and risk analysis to Spanish speaking government veterinarians from center and south America countries. The session will be held August 5 - 16, 2002 in Ft. Collins, Colorado. The USDA Cochran Program is contributing to the financial support of this session. This is the second year of offering this session.

How to Contact ATVPHPM

Applications for membership, accompanied by a check for \$20 payable to the ATVPHPM, should be sent to:

Dr. James Thorne, Secretary/Treasurer, ATVPHPM
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Membership application forms are available online at:

<http://www.cvm.uiuc.edu/atvphpm/>

Newsletter items can be sent to:

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Current and past issues of the ATVPHPM Newsletter are also available online at:

<http://www.cvm.uiuc.edu/atvphpm/>

FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE CURRICULUM MODULES FOR VETERINARY COLLEGES

USDA CSREES Higher Education Challenge Grant

Course Objectives and Outline

Revised October 19, 2001

Editor's comment: This USDA CSREES grant was awarded to investigators at participating institutions to enhance training of veterinary students in foreign animal diseases and bioterrorism. Iowa State University is leading the project. The University of California, Davis and the University of Georgia are partner institutions and three USDA experts in foreign animal disease and training are also participating. The principle investigators will be working with the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges to promote adoption of the course by other Veterinary Colleges. It is projected to be available beginning fall of 2002.

Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, the student will:

1. Understand the importance of the role of the veterinary profession in preventing the incursion of exotic animal diseases and in detecting and responding to incursions of exotic animal diseases.
2. Understand the potential devastating impact of exotic animal diseases on animal welfare, the national economy, food production and human health.
3. Appreciate the essential role of the OIE, Federal government, and State government in responding to potential exotic animal disease incursions and will have a clear understanding of how to contact the appropriate authorities when an exotic animal disease is suspected.
4. Know the immediate measures to be taken to prevent the spread of a suspected exotic animal disease until the State and/or Federal authorities can fully respond to the situation.
5. Know the seminal characteristics of OIE List A diseases and selected List B diseases and other animal diseases of premier importance to ongoing eradication programs or human health.
6. Know where to search for web-based or print materials with overview and in depth information about exotic

animal diseases.

7. Have a basic understanding of when to suspect an occurrence of exotic animal disease and how to appropriately respond.

Overview Modules

1. Impact of exotic animal disease incursions on animal welfare, U.S. and Canadian economy, food production, and human health.

2. Modes of introduction of exotic animal disease agents (fomites, vectors, infected animals and animal products, bioterrorism).

3. Role of international, national and state agencies in controlling exotic animal diseases and notification of federal and state authorities.

4. Appropriate responses to suspected exotic or notifiable animal diseases.

- Summary of history/clinical signs/post-mortem lesions which may lead to the suspicion of exotic animal disease.
- Collection and submission of specimens for laboratory examination.
- Quarantine and disinfection to prevent spread.

5. Description of recent incursions of exotic diseases.

- BSE in Europe
- Foot and mouth disease in Taiwan
- Hog cholera in the Netherlands
- Rabbit haemorrhagic disease in Iowa
- West Nile virus in U.S.
- Nipah virus in Malaysia
- Screwworm
- Leishmania in Foxhounds
- Avian influenza

Scenarios of Exotic Diseases Outbreaks

- Equine Respiratory Diseases (African Horse Sickness, Hendra, EIA)
- Rabbit Haemorrhagic Diseases (Pasteurellosis)
- Vesicular Diseases
- Mexico Cattle Abortion
- Zoo Scenario
- Poultry Diseases (AI, NDV)
- Rift Valley Fever
- Bioterrorism/Agroterrorism
- Acute Swine Disease
- Rinderpest/Salmonella/BVD/Haemorrhagic Septicemia
- Fish Scenario
- Ticks
- Equine Neurologic Scenario (WEE, VEE, WEE, West Nile)
- Ruminant Neurologic Scenario (TSE, Rabies)
- Pet Bird Scenario
- Reptile Scenario (Ticks)
- Screw worm
- Heartwater
- Safari Scenario (pox diseases, other)
- Wasting sheep and goats

Outline of Exotic Diseases

For each disease listed below information will be provided in a concise standard outline format. The outline will be searchable by species affected, clinical signs, and post-mortem lesions. At the end of the outline for each disease there will be links to in depth information on each disease, still images of clinical signs and post-mortem lesions, and videos if available. The *OIE Manual of Standards* and *OIE International Animal Health Code* are both available online at the OIE home page (www.OIE.int). In addition, the online version of the USAHA FAD book, when available, will be very useful for providing in depth information.

The standard outline for each disease will include:

- a. Name of disease and synonyms
- b. Etiologic agent
- c. Species involved
- d. Geographic distribution
- e. Clinical signs
- f. Morbidity and mortality
- g. Modes of transmission
- h. Incubation period
- i. Post mortem lesions
- j. Public health aspects
- k. Recommended actions if this disease is suspected:
 - i. Notification of federal and/or state authorities
 - ii. Samples to collect
 - iii. Quarantine, prevention of spread, effective disinfectants.
- l. Links to in depth information on this disease
 - www.oie.int
 - (*OIE Manual of Standards*)
 - (*OIE International Animal Health Code*)
 - USAHA FAD Book
- m. Link to still images and videos.

OIE List A Diseases

Foot and Mouth Disease	Sheep Pox and Goat Pox
Vesicular Stomatitis Virus	African Horse Sickness
Swine Vesicular Disease	African Swine Fever
Rinderpest	Classical Swine Fever
Peste des Petits Ruminants	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia	Newcastle Disease
Lumpy Skin Disease	Bluetongue/EHD
Rift Valley Fever	

OIE List B Diseases (which are either not in the U.S. or are notifiable diseases)

<u>Multiple Species</u>	Trypanosomiasis
Aujeszky's Disease	Haemorrhagic Septicemia
Heartwater	Malignant Catarrhal Fever
Screwworm	
Rabies	<u>Sheep and Goats</u>
TSEs	Caprine/Ovine Brucellosis
Q Fever	Contagious Agalactia
	Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia
<u>Cattle</u>	Ovine Pulmonary Adenomatosis
Bovine Babesiosis	Nairobi Sheep Disease
Brucellosis	<i>Salmonella Abortusovis</i>
Bovine Tuberculosis	Maedi-Visna
Theileriosis	

Equidae

Contagious Equine Metritis
Dourine
Epizootic Lymphangitis
Equine Encephalomyelitis (Eastern, Western, Venezuelan)
Equine Infectious Anemia
Equine Piroplasmosis
Glanders
Horse Pox
Equine Viral Arteritis
Japanese Encephalitis
Surra (*Trypanosoma evansi*)

Swine

Porcine Brucellosis

Birds

Fowl Typhoid
Avian Chlamydiosis

Lagomorphs

Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease

Fish

Viral Haemorrhagic Septicemia
Spring Viraemia of Carp
Infectious Haematopoietic Necrosis
Epizootic Haematopoietic Necrosis
Oncorhynchus masou virus disease

Exotic Agents Not on OIE Lists

West Nile Virus
Nipah Virus
Hendra Virus
Akabane
Bovine Ephemeral Fever
Louping - Ill
Parafilaria in Cattle

Foreign Arthropod Pests of Livestock

(See USAHA FAD Handbook: Appendix A)

For further information or comment contact:

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INTERNET RESOURCES

WHO Websites on Infectious Diseases

From: WEEKLY EPIDEMIOLOGICAL RECORD, NO. 47, 23 NOVEMBER 2001		
Antimicrobial resistance information bank	http://oms2.b3e.jussieu.fr/arinfoank/	Banque de données sur la pharmacorésistance
Buruli ulcer	http://www.who.int/gtb-buruli	Ulcère de Buruli
Eradication/elimination programmes	http://www.who.int/infectious-disease-news/	Programmes d'éradication/élimination
Filariasis	http://www.filariasis.org	Filariose
Geographical information systems	http://www.who.int/emc/healthmap/healthmap.html	Systèmes d'information géographique
Health topics	http://www.who.int	La santé de A à Z
Infectious diseases	http://www.who.int/health-topics/idindex.htm	Maladies infectieuses
Influenza network (FluNet)	http://oms.b3e.jussieu.fr/flunet/	Réseau grippe (FluNet)
Integrated management of childhood illnesses	http://www.who.int/chd/	Prise en charge intégrée des maladies de l'enfance
International travel and health	http://www.who.int/ith/	Voyages internationaux et santé

Intestinal parasites	http://www.who.int/ctd/intpara	Parasites intestinaux
Leprosy	http://www.who.int/lep/	Lèpre
Malaria	http://www.rbm.who.int	Paludisme
Newsletter (Action against infection)	http://www.who.int/infectious-disease-news/	Bulletin (Agir contre les infections)
Outbreaks	http://www.who.int/disease-outbreak_news	Flambées d'épidémies
Poliomyelitis	http://www.who.int/gpv/	Poliomyélite
Rabies network (RABNET)	http://oms.b3e.jussieu.fr/rabnet/	Réseau rage (RABNET)
Report on infectious diseases	http://www.who.int/infectious-disease-report/	Rapport sur les maladies infectieuses
Salmonella surveillance network	http://www.who.int/salmsurv/	Réseau de surveillance de la salmonellose
Surveillance and response	http://www.who.int/emc/	Surveillance et action
Tropical disease research	http://www.who.int/tdr/	Recherche sur les maladies tropicales
Tuberculosis	http://www.who.int/gtb/ ; http://www.stoptb.org	Tuberculose
Vaccines	http://www.who.int/gpv/	Vaccins
Weekly epidemiological record	http://www.who.int/wer/	Relevé épidémiologique hebdomadaire
WHO pesticide evaluation scheme (WHOPES)	http://www.who.int/ctd/whopes/	Schéma OMS d'évaluation des pesticides (WHOPES)

NEWS & COMMENTARY

Short Course – Applications of Microbiology, Molecular Biology and Epidemiology in Food Safety



A "field report" from:

Dr. Randall S. Singer
Division of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine; College of Veterinary Medicine; University of Illinois; Urbana, IL 68102
rsinger@cvm.uiuc.edu

Beginning on February 25, 2002, I led an applied 8-day course in Chile entitled "Applications of Microbiology, Molecular Biology and Epidemiology in Food Safety." The course was taught at the Universidad de Concepción, Campus Chillán, Chile. The primary reason for selecting this site within Chile was due to their Masters Program in Food Safety. Co-instructors for the course included Dr. Juanita López-Martín, the Director of the Department of Pathology and Preventive Medicine, and Dr. Claudia Muñoz-Zanzi, currently a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of Illinois. The entire course was taught in Spanish, and the 250-page

set of notes consisted of journal articles in English, laboratory protocols and reagent preparations in Spanish, as well as summary notes in Spanish.

The purpose of the course was to apply and integrate the principles of microbiology, molecular biology and epidemiology to the area of food safety. The course emphasized the theory behind these principles, but more important, the course enabled each participant to utilize various methods in these disciplines while investigating specific problems in food safety. The course was comprised of lectures, laboratories and field trips in order to develop a solid understanding of and appreciation for the relationship between microbiology, molecular biology and epidemiology in food safety. In total, 21 individuals participated in the course, and this group was comprised of 4 people from the poultry industry, 2 from the government, 1 from a private diagnostic laboratory, 9 students from the M.S. program in food safety, and 5 from the faculty at the University. This diverse group of participants provided many different backgrounds and opinions to the problems that were discussed during the course.

The first day of the course was one of the most difficult, as we spent the entire day in the lecture hall. We covered a wide variety of topics, including epidemiologic

principles, case studies of molecular epidemiology in agriculture, principles of molecular biology as they relate to food safety, and preparation of the reagents for PCR. Other topics that were covered in future lectures included quantitative risk assessment (with case studies) and study design in molecular epidemiology with examples. Beginning on day 2, each participant performed four different PCR assays, which included PCR from bacterial colonies for Salmonella detection, PCR from poultry litter samples for Salmonella detection, Rep-PCR for DNA fingerprinting of Salmonella, and PCR for the detection of the bla_{CMY-2} gene which confers resistance to third-generation cephalosporins. On day 3 we took a day trip to an organic layer operation and a conventional layer operation in order to apply some of the food safety principles that we had discussed. We collected many samples on this trip which were then cultured and assayed in subsequent laboratories. The afternoon of day 7 and the entire day 8 comprised the final project for the participants. The class was divided into 4 groups, and each group was given a recent journal article on a food safety topic. The articles combined the principles of microbiology, molecular biology and epidemiology that had been emphasized during the course. Each group reviewed their article, and then, on the final day, they presented a summary and critique of the article in a PowerPoint presentation.

Overall I feel that the course was a complete success (what else would I say after putting in so much effort?). Seriously, though, the participants appeared to understand the issue of food safety in a much broader, ecological way. At the same time, they gained an appreciation for the molecular component of food safety microbiology. Most important, though, was the appreciation they gained for an accurate evaluation of molecular and epidemiological data, and specifically, what inferences can be made appropriately from different data types and study designs. Many of the participants would have liked additional lectures in topics such as primer design and other molecular techniques, as well as epidemiologic methods and study design. The course would have to have been longer if these topics were to be covered. With some revisions to the notes and inclusion of additional current topics, I hope to be able to offer this course again prior to ISVEE X. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

The course was funded through an ASM International Professorship Award, the Universidad de Concepción, Chillán, and the University of Illinois.



Dairy cows in the Osorno region of Chile, the major dairy producing region of the country, underneath the volcano Casablanca.

Editor's comment: The preceding report is the first of what I hope will be regular contributions from ATVPHPM members and others describing their outreach activities. We can learn much from each other, and published reports such as this one may actually enhance your stature at your home institution or organization! If you have participated in any outreach activities please take a moment to prepare and send me a brief report for inclusion in the ATVPHPM Newsletter. RD Smith, ATVPHPM Newsletter Editor

Veterinarian Faces Fine for Burning Infected Carcasses

From: ProMED-mail
Source: New York Times

The veterinarian who discovered the Ames strain of anthrax is being fined by the State of Texas for burning carcasses infected with anthrax and other diseases - the only safe method, he says, to get rid of the health danger.

Public health officials have struggled for decades to dispose of dead infected animals in a way that protects nearby human populations from accidental exposure and death. The World Health Organization says the preferred method is carcass burning, whether in pits, with flame guns, on the open ground, or in commercial incinerators. High temperatures, the agency stipulates, are the best way to make sure that all anthrax spores are destroyed.

But the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission last year proposed fining the veterinarian, Michael L. Vickers, \$9000 for burning infected carcasses in a pit behind his office, Las Palmas Veterinary Hospital, on Highway 281 a mile outside Falfurrias, Tex.

On Tuesday, Dr. Vickers was in Austin to fight the fine before an administrative judge hearing cases of the conservation commission. The agency, he said in a telephone interview, is more interested in promoting air quality than in safeguarding against anthrax, a bacteria with deadly spores that can live for decades underground and could be collected by terrorists for lethal assaults. In 1981, Dr. Vickers isolated from a dead cow the strain of anthrax that eventually came to be known as Ames, the type used in letter attacks that killed 5 people last fall.

But the commission maintains that Dr. Vickers broke the state law when he burned the carcasses over the last few years and must pay the fine. Until this year, veterinarians in Texas were permitted to burn infected cattle only in commercial incinerators, not open pits. The law otherwise states that the diseased bodies must go into landfills. Dr. Vickers argues that infected carcasses in landfills are time bombs waiting to go off. "Some kid is going to dig it up and die," he said.

About 20 counties in Texas have had outbreaks of anthrax in animals in the last few years, with attendant human cases. Last year, a ranch hand who skinned a buffalo fell ill but survived after 9 days of hospitalization.

Dr. Vickers won a round when the Texas Legislature passed a measure, now a law, that says veterinarians in counties with 10 000 residents or fewer can burn diseased carcasses. That frees him to burn near Falfurrias, which is in Brooks County near the Rio Grande. But Dr. Vickers is still on a crusade to free veterinarians in populous counties, as well. No commercial incinerators are available in Texas for large-animal veterinarians, he said, and if they existed, shipping infected carcasses there would entail hauling them long distances over public roads, creating health dangers. "He does have a good point," Adria Dawidczik, spokeswoman for the commission, said of the incineration problems. As for Dr. Vickers's case, Mrs. Dawidczik said, even though he can legally burn carcasses now, he still has his earlier violations, which began with a neighbor's complaints.

The two-day hearing in Austin ended yesterday. "We just laid out the facts," Dr. Vickers said. Bothering a neighbor with occasional smoke, he added, was a small price for disposing of pathogens that could endanger the lives of millions of people.

Mrs. Dawidczik said the judge would make his recommendation soon. The ultimate decision would fall to the full commission, which is expected to meet on this issue in July.

Martin Hugh-Jones, who helped the World Health Organization draft its disposal guidelines, said Dr. Vickers was clearly in the right. "We firmly recommend that animals [be] incinerated. They should be buried only if they cannot be disposed of in any other way." He added that diseased animals in landfills were fast becoming a terrorism issue, as they tended to be near towns and more accessible to malcontents. "That," he said, "is a real danger."

Food Irradiation Process is Getting Favorable Press - Survey

March 6, 2002
The Meating Place
Bryan Salvage
www.meatingplace.com

Despite continuing efforts by anti-irradiation activists to railroad the process, irradiation is generally getting positive press, based on results from a recent University of Arkansas study. The UA study, recently reported in the Food Safety Consortium newsletter, shows that positive messages about irradiation are being communicated in news reports. Equally important, negative comments about the procedure are frequently countered in those same reports.

"I hope we can provide information to the food industry on how they communicate their message and how effectively it's getting across through the news media," said Mike Thomsen, an assistant professor of agricultural economics who is coordinating the project for the Food Safety Consortium. "We want to provide information on what concerns consumers have through their media consumption habits and whether those concerns are being addressed."

The process, which ensures pathogen-free meat and poultry products through the use of electron beams, X-rays or gamma rays, is not being widely applied to many products in the grocery stores. But distribution of irradiated ground beef products, in particular, is growing at retail and foodservice.

Before consumers are willing to try irradiated products, they must be sold on the safety and effectiveness of the process. And as anti-irradiation activist groups already know so well, articles in newspapers and magazines and reports on broadcast news media can help shape public opinion on topical issues.

Specifics of the survey - Researchers found 411 news reports from 1991 to 2001 from selected newspapers and broadcast networks that at least mentioned irradiation. Editorial page items such as opinion columns and letters to the editor were not included. The survey covered nine major newspapers: The Christian Science Monitor, The New York Times, USA Today, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, the Los Angeles Times, the San Francisco Chronicle, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times. Broadcast news report transcripts were obtained for ABC News, CBS News, NBC News, CNN, National Public Radio and the PBS News Hour.

In 62 percent of the articles and broadcasts, the reports contained the statement or concept that irradiation helps control harmful pathogens. Forty-five percent of the reports stated that credible authorities have concluded that irradiation is safe. Irradiation's tendency to improve shelf life was mentioned in 19 percent of the reports. There were also negative messages, however. Twenty-one percent of the reports said irradiation was harmful and left harmful residuals in food. But this statement was countered with contrary comments in 11 percent of the reports. Fifteen percent of the reports contained contentions that irradiation adversely affects nutritional content, an assertion that was countered in 9 percent of the reports. Other negative statements include expression of consumer groups' concerns over the safety of irradiated foods in 23 percent of the articles and statements that consumer acceptance remains a major barrier to the marketing of irradiated foods in 17 percent of the reports.

"Both advocates and opponents of the technology will communicate through the media," Thomsen said. "Statements in the reports come across in terms of background information. The reporter has gathered information and asked someone for their position. The reporter is the filter through which the lay reader learns the basics of irradiation."

Coverage of irradiation issues is still an occasional rather than regular occurrence, according to a UA news release. The survey showed that articles and broadcasts were infrequent events during the 1990s, except for a spike in 1997. That was shortly after the Food and Drug Administration gave final regulatory approval to the use of irradiation on red meat, which prompted more stories than usual about the technology and its possible adoption in the marketplace.

Pasteurization and Intimacy

From: "Robert A. LaBudde" <ral@LCFLTD.COM>

Consider the raw milk/meat eating experience as similar to a sexual encounter. You are having an intimate relationship with an unknown partner, or possibly 100's of partners. Sooner or later you will encounter an infected partner. Pasteurizing the food makes a "safe-eating" experience. Unlike a condom, it's 99.99% effective.

New Project Encourages Link Between Geographic Learning, Sustainability

The National Geographic Society, the Association of American Geographers, the United Nations Environment Program, and the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) are inviting high school and college students worldwide to participate in an international project. Entitled iMy Community, Our Earth --

Geographic Learning for Sustainable Development (MyCOE), it will emphasize the linkages between geography and sustainable development.

MyCOE will showcase projects that use the methods and tools of geography to document how students' communities are changing and to explore how they might be made more sustainable. Whether digital tools, such as geographic information system (GIS) software, or more traditional manual methods, such as hand-drawn maps and charts, are used to complete the project, students around the world can participate in a geographic learning experience focused on a sustainable development theme. They can learn how geography can help address and understand important sustainable development issues.

Selected projects will be displayed at numerous international venues, including the World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, where decision makers and professionals involved with sustainable development can review the solutions developed by the students. This project is one of the deliverables that the USDA Council on Sustainable Development will take to the World Summit in August 2002. CSREES is among the several partners.

To learn how to participate, visit website <http://www.Geography.org/sustainable>. The CSREES contact is GREG CROSBY, Sustainable Development, phone 202-401-6050 or e-mail gcrosby@reeusda.gov.

MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS & COURSES

See the ATVPHPM Web site at <http://www.cvm.uiuc.edu/atvphpm/> for the most current listings.

2002 SUMMER PROGRAM

“TOOLS FOR INFECTIOUS-DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY: DIAGNOSIS, MODELING AND RISK”

June 10-14, 2002

**College of Veterinary Medicine
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY**

Introduction

As a joint effort, Cornell University and the University of Guelph will offer a summer course in epidemiologic methods. The first course, “Tools for Infectious-Disease Epidemiology,” will be offered at Cornell from June 10 – 14, 2002. The course contents are distributed among three major topics: diagnostic methods, infectious-disease models and risk assessment. Case studies and examples specifically include infectious diseases important in food safety (*E. coli*, *Salmonella* spp., *Listeria* spp.).

This course is designed for veterinarians, other animal-health professionals, and graduate students who need proficiency in infectious-disease epidemiology. Participants are expected to come to the course with a basic understanding of infectious-disease biology and diagnostic-test terminology.

After this course, participants will be able to: 1) contribute to the design of programs for disease control/prevention; and 2) interpret/evaluate protocols and literature on these topics.

The Cornell-Guelph summer program will be offered alternate summers at Cornell and Guelph; Cornell will focus this cycle on infectious disease epidemiology and Guelph on advanced statistical methods.

Faculty

Hollis N. Erb, Cornell University
Yrjö T. Gröhn, Cornell University
Hussni O. Mohammed, Cornell University
Daryl V. Nydam, Cornell University
Janet M. Scarlett, Cornell University
Ynte H. Schukken, Cornell University
Alfonso Torres, Cornell University
Lorin D. Warnick, Cornell University
John McDermott, University of Guelph

Schedule – includes lunch, a.m. & p.m. breaks

Diagnostic tests

Monday, June 10, 2002

Morning Test evaluations, sensitivity & specificity, combining tests, independence of tests.
Afternoon Animal vs. herd-level diagnostics.

Tuesday, June 11, 2002

Morning Freedom from disease, decision-tree analysis.

Modeling

Afternoon Reproduction ratio, SIR models, simple spreadsheets. Case study.

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Morning Estimation methods for the reproduction ratio. Biology and mathematics of different types of models.
Afternoon Designing vaccination programs, herd immunity. Case study.

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Risk Assessment

Morning Concepts of risk assessment.
Application to epidemiology.
Afternoon Risk-assessment tools: qualitative and quantitative methods in risk assessment. Dose-response relationships. Demonstration of concepts with the @risk program.
Evening Picnic

Friday, June 14, 2002

Morning Development of risk models.

Case Study

Afternoon Case study: combining all course components.

Housing

Hotel/Motel

* Best Western University Inn, East Hill Plaza, Phone: (607) 272-6100, (800) 528-1234
Clarion, N Triphammer Rd, Phone: (607) 257-2000, (800) 325-3535
Comfort Inn, 356 Elmira Rd (Rt 13S), Phone: (607) 272-0100
Courtyard by Marriott, 29 Thornwood Dr. (across from airport), Phone: (607) 330-1000
* EconoLodge, Cayuga Mall, N Triphammer Rd, Phone: (607) 257-1400
Embassy Motel, Varna (Rt 366 toward Dryden), Phone: (607) 272-3721
Grayhaven Motel, 657 Elmira Rd (Rt 13S), Phone: (607) 272-6434
Holiday Inn, 222 S Cayuga Street, Phone: (607) 272-1000, (800) 753-8485
Meadow Court Motel, 529 S Meadow St (Rt 13S), Phone: (607) 273-3885
Ramada Inn, 2310 N Triphammer Rd (Rt 13N), Phone: (607) 257-3100, (800) 272-6232
Statler Hotel, Cornell Campus, Phone: (607) 257-2500, (800) 541-2501

Super 8 Motel, 400 S Meadow St (Rt 13S) Phone: (607) 273-8088, (800) 843-1991
Wonderland Motel, 654 Elmira Rd (Rt 13S) Phone: (607) 272-5252
Super 8 Motel, 400 S Meadow St (Rt 13S) Phone: 273-8088, (800) 843-1991
Wonderland Motel, 654 Elmira Rd (Rt 13S) Phone: 272-5252

Dorm Housing:

<i>Basic</i>	\$33.25/night/single
(No maid service)	\$27.00/night/person/double
<i>Conference level</i>	\$42.00/night/single
(Maid service - not air conditioned)	\$34.00/night/person/double
(Maid service - air conditioned)	\$49.00/night/single
	\$39.00/night/person/double

Please add \$2/day if dorm parking is needed.

Note: Dorm housing/parking fees should be included with your registration fee.
Hotel reservations should be made directly with the hotel of your choice.

* Room blocks will be released on 5/10/02.

For further information:

Mrs. Dee Brothers
Veterinary Med Cont Educ
T1 002 VRT, Box 52
Ithaca, NY 14853-6401

Questions? Phone (607) 253-3200
Fax : (607) 253-3198
Email : dab2@cornell.edu
www.vet.cornell.edu/extension/conedu

International Course on Managing Emergency Disease Responses - Using Data

Dates: 24 to 28 June 2002

Venue : Massey University , Palmerston North , New Zealand

Course Leaders :

- Professor Roger Morris, Massey University, New Zealand
- Professor John Wilesmith, DEFRA, UK

This comprehensive course is targeted to professionals with responsibilities in emergency animal disease responses. The focus of the course is on using advanced tools for analysis and decision support to optimise resource management and decision making during emergency responses. The course covers aspects of collection, analysis and application of animal disease data during three phases of emergency disease management: preparedness, response and recovery.

- Real-world examples, including the 2001 FMD epidemic in the UK
- Computer workshops using EpiMAN software suite, ANEMIS software, and resource management software (limited enrolment!)
- State of the art methods in analysis and modeling

The course addresses data needs, data management and application, and caters to technical and operational managers or policy decision makers at the national/federal or regional/state levels. The program is structured around morning lectures by course leaders and other invited speakers with recent experience in leading response activities. Afternoon workshops are designed to provide experience with data management systems specifically designed to cope with a variety of Emergency Disease outbreaks, e.g. EpiMAN Incident Management System (EpiMAN IMS), and a resource management system for generic emergency situations.

Visit: <http://epicentre.massey.ac.nz>

SUGGESTED READING

FSIS Offers "Thinking Paper" on Mad Cow Disease

February 8, 2002

USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has announced the availability of a "thinking paper" on possible actions to minimize human exposure to meat food products from cattle that could contain the so-called Mad Cow Disease.

The thinking paper addresses possible actions to minimize human exposure to meat food products from cattle that could contain the infective agent that causes Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). BSE, commonly referred to as Mad Cow Disease, is a chronic degenerative disease affecting the nervous system of cattle. Worldwide, there have been more than 178,000 cases since the disease was first diagnosed in 1986 in Great Britain. No cases of BSE have been confirmed in the United States. Recent laboratory and epidemiological research indicate that there is a causal association between BSE and a variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, a slow degenerative disease that affects the central nervous system of humans.

The FSIS thinking paper follows the recent publication of a risk assessment conducted by the Harvard University School of Public Health to analyze and evaluate USDA's current measures to prevent BSE. FSIS requests comments on both the current thinking paper and the Harvard risk assessment.

Copies of both documents are available at website <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/oa/news/2002/bsepapers.htm>. For further information contact DANIEL ENGELJOHN, Director, Regulations and Directives Development Staff, Office of Policy, Program Development and Evaluation, USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service, phone 202-720-5627.

FMD Eradication Workshop Findings

I am pleased to announce the findings of the "Exploratory Workshop on Foot and Mouth Disease Eradication from the Andean Community: Should USAID play a role?" are now available at <http://www.cast-science.org/usaaid/index.html>

I would like to thank all the participants for making this workshop a success. I would also like to thank CAST for publishing these findings on their web site, and Stephanie Michael who recorded the meeting.

I will keep you abreast of future developments. As ever, I welcome any input you may have.

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