Amador, Calaveras, and El Dorado County

University of California Cooperative Extension

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LIVESTOCK

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

NEW RESOURCE REPRESENTATIVE

On behalf of the University of California Cooperative Extension, it is a great pleasure to introduce myself as your new Agriculture and Livestock Resource Representative. My name is Scott Oneto and I am a recent graduate of the University of California at Davis, where I studied plant biology.

Being born and raised in Amador County, I have been exposed to the livestock and agricultural arenas on many occasions. As your representative, it will be an honor to address any questions, problems, or concerns that you may be facing as a livestock producer. I look forward to meeting with each and everyone of you and discussing your particular situation. Please feel free to contact me at anytime!

A valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) shown in a typical California blue oak woodland.

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Scott Oneto

"All businesses are vulnerable to the Y2K problem. Farmers, ranchers, and other food suppliers are not immune."

Y2K: CREATING A YEAR 2000 ACTION PLAN

BY USDA YEAR 2000 PROGRAM OFFICE

Americans are becoming increasingly aware of what is popularly known as the year 2000 (Y2K) problem--the fact that some computers and computer-based equipment may not work correctly on January 1, 2000, without modifications. When the date changes from December 31, 1999, to January 1, 2000, systems and equipment that are not year 2000 compliant will face two inherent problems:

1. Inability to determine the problem date. (For example, January 3, 2000, could be read by computers as January 3, 1900.)
2. Inability to tell the number of elapsed years between two dates. (For example, the time elapsing from January 3, 1999, to January 3, 2004, could be calculated as 95 years: 04 minus 99 = 95).

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Y2K Cont.

All businesses are vulnerable to the Y2K problem. Farmers, ranchers, and other food suppliers are not immune. Every organization's systems are composed of various layers of hardware and software that can be compromised by the Y2K problem. There is no single solution, so preparing for Y2K readiness requires a flexible and immediate plan of action.

Six Steps to a Fix

In most cases, the problem is not how to fix software and hardware, but how to make sure the job gets done. This is more of a management problem than a technological one. The challenge of achieving Y2K compliance becomes more manageable when it is broken down into six sections. Every Y2K plan should include:

Awareness. Make everyone you deal with--employees, suppliers, service companies, etc.--aware of the potential for Y2K problems and what it's going to take to get your systems in compliance.

Inventory. Conduct an inventory of every automated system in your operation--automatic feeders, irrigation systems, utilities, communications, accounting, conveyors, etc. This inventory should include hardware (mainframe, mid-range, and personal computers), software (including operating systems and database systems), and embedded chips (including all machinery in your building and your transportation and production systems). Any of these systems could be vulnerable to year 2000 problems.

Assessment. After you have identified your automated systems, write or call the manufacturer and ask if his/her system or device is year 2000 compliant. Ask for written confirmation through an official letter from the manufacturer if it is, or instructions on how to proceed if it isn't.

Solutions. If you cannot get an official letter of compliance in a reasonable time before the deadline, you must move on. Because of time constraints, you may need to consider which areas in your business are most critical and in need of immediate attention. Set priorities for dealing with your systems, and address them in that order.

There are three options for addressing systems that are not Y2K compliant: (1) upgrade systems to the latest Y2K-compliant version, if it is available, (2) replace systems with systems that are Y2K compliant, and (3) fix systems by scanning all systems and programs to check for date routines or date storage fields and fix them to create compliance.

Testing. The next step is testing. When you develop your plan, make sure to include enough time for thorough testing. To test properly, the system date on the computers should be reset to 01-01-2000 and run for an extended period. Make sure your systems calculate leap year dates correctly (2000 is a leap year).

Contingency planning. We do not know for sure what the year 2000 will bring, but the prudent manager will start now to plan for all conceivable scenarios. A good contingency plan should include ways to back up and protect your business' data, ensure continued production with minimum delay, ensure continued cash and product flow, and delineate the responsibilities of key employees during any Y2K mishaps.

Y2K has an impact not only on your operation but potentially on your interaction with support services, such as banks, supply warehouses, transportation, and more. A solid contingency plan must consider the potential impacts to your business if any of these systems malfunction.

If you have done what is suggested here, your critical systems will be protected. You, your job and your company should be fairly safe, at least from the embedded systems problem. The year 2000 problem big picture, though, shows the dependencies we have created. It is not enough to solve our own problem in isolation. We need to address the year 2000 compliance problems of our customers, our suppliers, and our State and local governments and communities. If they haven't done the same thing we have, the situation could still be a disaster for us.

Everyone is in the same boat on the year 2000 problem. If we fix everything in our businesses, we are still at risk from other systems and anyone else with whom we share data. Again, the overriding message seems clear. We are all in this together, and the more we help each other, the more we help ourselves.

Further Information

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) home page (http://www.usda.gov) provides frequent updates on Y2K activities as well as a variety of Y2K information sources including:

USDA Year 2000 Program Office, USDA Office of the Chief Information Officer (http://www.ocio.usda.gov/y2k/index.htm).

President's Council on Year 2000 Food Supply Working Group (http://www.aphis.usda.gov/oa/y2k).

USDA National Information Technology Center (http://www.ocio.usda.gov/nitc/y2k/index.html).

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (http://www.itc.nrcs.usda.gov/y2k/y2k.htm).

USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (http://www.reeusda.gov/y2k).

BAYTRIL: NEW ANTIBIOTIC FOR CATTLE

BY DR. JOHN MASS, U.C. COOPERATIVE EXTENSION VETERINARY SPECIALIST

Recently, a new antibiotic for the treatment of respiratory disease in cattle was released. This antibiotic is a member of a new class of antibiotics called fluoroquinolones. There has been a fair amount of controversy about this class of antibiotics in human medicine and veterinary medicine circles. The controversy revolves around the concern that bacterial resistance to the fluoroquinolones will develop and result in the emergence of "Super Bugs". These bacteria could infect humans, and no effective therapy would be available. Those concerned postulate that using these antibiotics in the food animals, such as cattle, would accelerate the potential of developing bacterial resistance. While this concern has theoretical potential, the practical potential is extremely small or nonexistent. This class of antibiotics is used routinely in human patients and in companion animal patients (including horses). These humans and animals are in much closer contact with other humans than the products of food animals. While the scientific merit of these concerns is questionable, the effects of this controversy will clearly affect the use of this antibiotic in cattle.

This new antibiotic will be marketed as Baytril 100 and is administered as a subcutaneous injection. The intended use is a treatment for respiratory disease in cattle. The bacterial organisms most commonly involved in respiratory diseases of cattle, such as pneumonia, include *Pasteurella haemolytica*, *Pasteurella multocida*, and *Haemophilus somnus*. These are the bacteria that Baytril 100 is effective against. Respiratory disease caused by viruses will not be directly responsive to this antibiotic (or any other antibiotics for that matter). Antibiotics are commonly used, even in viral pneumonia, to help the animal fight off secondary bacterial invaders that take the opportunity to attack damaged lung tissue. Therefore, this antibiotic will be another drug that can be used to treat respiratory disease in cattle. Other drugs that are commonly used for this purpose include: LA 200 (long acting oxytetracycline), Biomycin 200 (another long acting oxytetracycline), Nuflor (florfenicol), Polyflex (ampicillin), Excenel (ceftiofur), Micotil 300 (tilmicosin), Naxcel (ceftiofur), and several other antibiotic products too numerous too mention.

There will be significant differences in the way that this new product, Baytril, can be used. First, this will not be an "over the counter" drug (OTC drug). It will be available only from your veterinarian as a veterinary legend drug and a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship must be active. Your veterinarian will either provide the product directly to you or will write a prescription so that you can obtain the product from a certified third party (pharmacy). Secondly, this drug can only be used as therapy for respiratory disease in cattle. It cannot be used to treat foot rot, pinkeye, calf scours, or other diseases. This product must be used only according to the label. Before you decide to use this product in your cattle, consult with your veterinarian regarding all aspects of the use of this drug. Particular attention must be given to the legal limitations on the use of this product. Along these lines, if you are not currently keeping records on drug use in cattle, now is a good time to consider doing this on a routine basis. The use of this drug will be mentioned like no other in the history of food animal drugs. Therefore, good records on the use of this product in individual animals or in groups of animals will be necessary in the event of a residue problem. This is not just a new product; it is a new way of using food animal drugs. Talk this situation over with your veterinarian carefully and completely.

"...this antibiotic will be another drug that can be used to treat respiratory disease in cattle."

UPCOMING EVENTS: MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 16, 1999: Yellow Starthistle Management in Amador County. Pokerville Hall, Plymouth Fairgrounds. 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
$10 / person by 04/14/99
$15 / person at the door
For advanced registration, send a check for the full amount, made payable to **"U.C. Regents"**
U.C. Cooperative Extension, 108 Court Street, Jackson, CA 95642
For more information call: (209) 223-6482

April 17, 1999: Goat Field Day. Buckeye Farms, Calaveras County. 9:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m.
$10 / person by 04/14/99 with lunch
$8 / person by 04/14/99 without lunch
$15 / person after 04/14/99 without lunch
For advanced registration, send a check for the full amount, made payable to **"U.C. Regents"**
U.C. Cooperative Extension,
c/o Ken R. Churches, 891 Mtn. Ranch Rd.
San Andreas, CA 95249.
For more information call: (209) 754-6477

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Calaveras County

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