



## Bellwether Magazine

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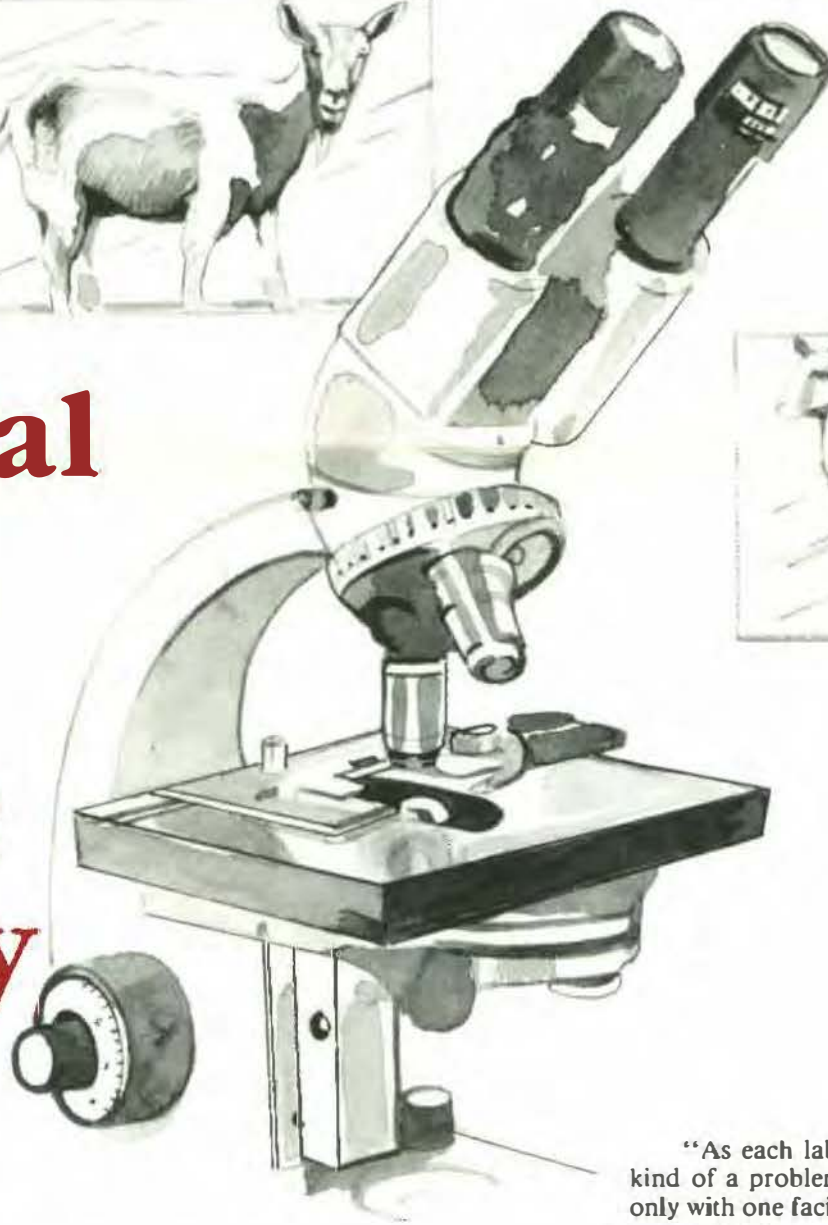
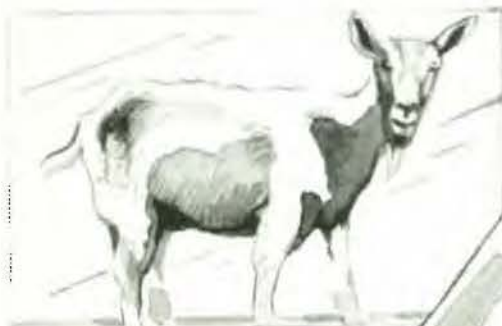
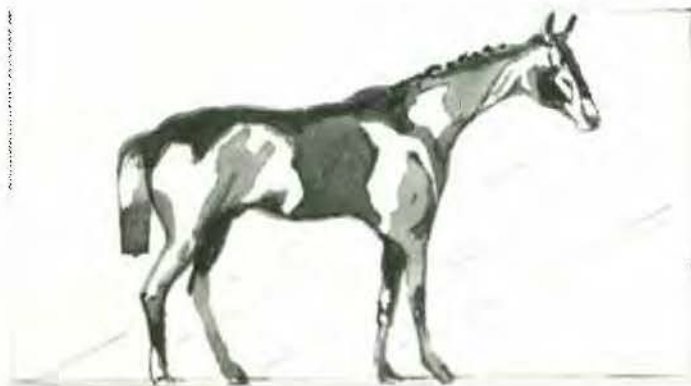
# Agricultural Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory

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## Agricultural Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory

The Animal Health and Diagnostic Commission of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has established a comprehensive mammalian diagnostic laboratory system to provide services to the agriculture industry. The School's laboratory of large animal pathology is an integral part of the new three-laboratory network.

"Basic services are provided at each of the three locations," said Dr. Helen Acland, associate professor of pathology and head of the laboratory of large animal pathology. "In addition each of the laboratories offers specific specialized diagnostic services. This eliminates duplication and is more cost-effective."

Penn's laboratory at New Bolton offers, in addition to basic services, specialized services in microbiology and toxicology, the latter in cooperation with West Chester University. The other two laboratories in the network, the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture Diagnostic Laboratory at

Summerdale and the laboratory at Penn State University, have their own specialties. The Summerdale location concentrates on regulatory serology and the Penn State facility handles diagnostic virology.

"A client can bring the animal or blood or other samples to any of the three locations," said Dr. Acland. "If specialized tests are required, the receiving laboratory sends the samples to the appropriate laboratory and be the contact with the client." Fees for these services are subsidized by the Commonwealth, resulting in minimal expenses to the livestock owner.

"Prompt identification of an infectious disease or a toxic substance can prevent losses in a herd or flock," said Dr. Acland.

"As each laboratory is equipped to accept any kind of a problem, the livestock owner has to deal only with one facility and not worry about having to send samples to different locations."

The New Bolton Center laboratory for large animal pathology works closely with the School's microbiology and clinical pathology laboratories and thus is able to offer a multitude of tests, ranging from biopsy analysis to culture and sensitivity tests to clinical chemistry. The pathology laboratory services are available around the clock for emergencies. "We have always been a major diagnostic resource to the agriculture industry," said Dr. Acland. "Now as part of the Commonwealth Animal Health and Diagnostic System we can provide even more comprehensive services to our clients and expand our training facilities for veterinary students."

Clients can reach the laboratory at (215) 444-5800, extension 2211, to make arrangements to drop off samples or animals for necropsy.