

isotopes on the biological systems of animals, and the movement of radioactive materials in food.

Veterinarians on the staff of the U.S. Department of Agriculture conduct similar studies dealing, for example, with the effects of radioactive fallout on agricultural production. These studies include the development of remedial measures that can alter the movements of radioisotopes in the food chain, including food animals, and reduce or eliminate the consumer's intake of radioactive materials.

9. PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT

One of the major concerns of health authorities today is the progressive contamination of our environment. Air and water pollution and food contamination concern the health community as never before. Veterinarians are aware of the responsibility they have in assuring the safe use of pesticides and food additives. The veterinary profession has contributed to research undertaken to study the movement of environmental contaminants through the food chain to man. Moreover, veterinarians are in a position to influence the safe use of animal feed additives and pesticides by their clients and others. By example, in their daily contacts with the owners of animals, and through their employment in governmental and regulatory agencies, veterinarians are in the forefront of the battle against environmental contamination.

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An important and significant part of the broad area of public health is the environment in which man lives, works, and plays. It is a scientific truth that health and disease are related to the conditions of the habitat in which a living individual resides. When the environment is polluted, contaminated, or otherwise not compatible with the physiological well being of the creatures living within it, the health of its living inhabitants will deteriorate. Therefore, public health is more than medicine. Public health depends upon the continuing surveillance and active programs of many disciplines, one of which is veterinary medicine.

The contributions of veterinary medicine to public health have been documented. The eighteen colleges of veterinary medicine in the United States are a national resource in that by far the majority of the veterinarians of the United States who are actively engaged in the practice of the profession were educated in those eighteen colleges of veterinary medicine. Through 1965, the currently existing colleges of veterinary medicine had graduated over 25,000 veterinarians, more than the total number engaged in the profession in the same year.

In addition to the educating of veterinarians, colleges of veterinary medicine are central to research in the area of animal health and disease. Human health, from the consumption of animal product foods to pets in the family household to the condition of wildlife in areas of recreation, is related to animal health. Biomedical research, in its broad application, is dependent upon the use of animals. Without veterinary medical care and study, these animals would not be the effective laboratory tools they are today and medical progress would be severely curtailed.

Colleges of veterinary medicine supply the trained manpower to maintain protein food producing animals in a high state of health and efficiency for the producer and consumer. America is the safest place in the world in which to invest in and rear livestock because it has a resource of trained veterinary medical manpower.

Only 10 nations of the world have agricultural surpluses and those are decreasing. Those 10 nations contain only 15% of the world population. By the 1980's, those surpluses may not be available to help feed the other 85% of the world population.

About 40% of the world's livestock is in the developed countries and these countries provide 80% of the world's animal protein foods. If productivity in the underdeveloped countries which have 60% of the world's livestock could be brought to the efficiency attained in the developed countries, there would be adequate protein foods for all.

In the underdeveloped countries, 60% of the people suffer from malnutrition. Three million children die each year from causes related to or aggravated by