

# MALI

One of the Poorest Countries in the World  
Struggling to Save Its People and Culture



**Speaker:** Dr. Kathy Detweiler who has lived several years in the country of Mali will speak on her experiences there. She will also be bringing and discussing several art objects native to the land.

Tuesday April 5, 1988  
7:00 p.m.  
206 MSC  
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MSC Jordan Institute for International Awareness

## B Street

by Jon Caldara



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by Kevin Thomas



## Warped

by Scott McCullar



# Scientists try to create vaccine for brucellosis

By Kathleen Reilly  
Reporter

Since 1980, nine scientists at Texas A&M's College of Veterinary Medicine have been working on a vaccine to help control brucellosis, a cattle ailment commonly known as Bang's disease.

The disease is named after Bernhard L.F. Bang.

Dr. L. Garry Adams, a veterinary pathologist, and his colleagues have made a team effort to develop a new vaccine without the drawbacks of the currently used Strain 19 vaccine. The new vaccine is "not a silver bullet by any means," Adams said, but just another control method.

With Strain 19, animals tested for brucellosis may appear to be infected when they actually are not—a false positive reaction.

Unlike Strain 19, the vaccine does not produce false positive test results and cannot infect humans, he said.

Adams said that with the new vaccine, there is less than a 5 percent chance for a false positive result if the test is administered correctly. The correct dosage, given to an animal of the correct age, should not give a false positive reaction. However, sometimes animals are too old when vaccinated and a positive test result is returned, he said.

Distinguishing the vaccinated animals from other animals is also a problem. Once vaccinated, animals are usually given ear tags and tattooed, Adams said. Tags can fall off and tattoos can become illegible. These two problems can make iden-

tification of vaccinated cattle difficult, if not impossible, he said.

Adams also said one diseased animal may require the herd to be quarantined. Quarantine can last anywhere from three months to more than three years. A perpetual quarantine of three years or more occurs for many reasons.

Calves born in the herd may be infected. They must be vaccinated, then tested for the disease again. During this time, the owner has lost any chance of realizing any gain from the herd, he said.

Brucellosis also has been found to cause meningitis, undulant fever and arthritis in humans.

Adams said the vaccine that he and his colleagues are working on is a "killed vaccine." Dead bacteria are used to initiate antibody production. Strain 19 uses a "live vaccine," a weakened, but not dead, bacteria. Because the bacteria is still alive, Adams said, this vaccine can infect humans.

Under the current system, veterinarians and slaughterhouse workers are most susceptible to the disease, Adams said. Farmers who come in contact with infected material—especially the placenta, other birth tissues and manure—are also vulnerable.

Adams said Texas has the highest incidence of quarantined herds. One reason is that Texas, with 150,000 herds, has more cattle than any other state and the most of these

herds are concentrated in the eastern part of the state.

Texas has year-round breeding. Seasonal breeding can be used to control the disease, Adams said. Control of birthing periods or of times when the disease is most transmittable will help control perpetual quarantines.

The scientists are working at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station and the A&M College of Veterinary Medicine. Scientists working with Adams are Richard P. Garford, epidemiologist; Donald S. Davis, wildlife biologist; Thomas Ficht, molecular biologist; Ed Smith III, cellular immunologist; Blair A. Sowa, protein biochemist; Joe W. Templeton, immunogeneticist; John D. Williams, statistician; and Albert M. Wu, carbohydrate biochemist.

Adams said a patent is pending on the vaccine. If approved and marketed, the vaccine should be available in a few years. He said he would prefer that farmers work with local veterinarians in administering the vaccine after the United States Department of Agriculture approves it.

Vaccination is just one means of controlling brucellosis, Adams said. Proper management is important. Cattle should be tested before being purchased and again before being added to the herd, he said. Good diagnostic tests that are consistent with regularity, breeding and hygiene are also necessary.

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