

Expanding the ILM Team

This issue of the Colorado Dairy News features three members of the Integrated Livestock Management Team (ILM) Dr Paul Morley, and graduate students, Dr Heather Hirst and Dr Yoichi Mizuta.

Dr Paul Morley joined CSU last December as a veterinary epidemiologist. He received his veterinary training at Washington State University and his specialty training as a large animal medical internist (Board certified) and his PhD in veterinary epidemiology at the University of Saskatchewan. He then joined the faculty at the Ohio State University where his studies focused on respiratory disease in horses and cattle. At CSU Dr Morley is the Director of Biosecurity for the Veterinary Teaching Hospital and, as a member of the ILM, is working in several areas of cattle disease. His research projects include the antibiotic resistance patterns of E coli and Salmonella in cattle operations, rumen generated toxins in feedlot cattle, and coronavirus in dairy calves.



Dr Heather Hirst joined the ILM in January 1999. Originally from New Jersey, Heather earned her veterinary degree at the Ohio State University and then practiced in Chino, California with Veterinarian's Outlet . At this practice for 3 years, her primary duties were supervising the mastitis/milk quality laboratory, performing routine herd/health visits, presenting milker training schools, and working with clients to devise mastitis prevention and control strategies.

She has been involved with the Bulk Tank Study with Dr Page Dinsmore. Preliminary results of this study are described on page 4 of this issue. The subject of her master's thesis is Johne's disease. To date she has sampled over 9,000 dairy cows greater than 2 years of age in 12 Colorado herds for Johne's disease . Using the ELISA test to measure antibodies to M. paratb in the blood, cattle are categorized as negative/positive/ or suspect carrier, based on the antibody titer. Six months after initial testing, 10% of the cattle will be retested to confirm their disease status. In addition she is collecting data about the cows and their management in order to discern risk factors for Johne's disease

status. The results of her study will clarify many questions about the convenient but controversial ELISA test for Johne's disease.

Dr Yoichi Mizuta and his family also arrived in the beginning of the year. After five years of veterinary practice working with dairy and beef cattle in Japan, Yoichi came to Colorado to learn about agriculture in the United States through the ILM program. The thrust of his program is agricultural economics and he is working primarily with Drs Norm Dalsted in Agricultural Economics and Tom Fields in Animal Science. As a specialist veterinarian in the livestock industry, he wants to improve food production in developing countries.