Agency issues milk labeling guidelines

WASHINGTON (AP) — Stores and dairies can label milk as coming from cows not treated with a controversial new hormone, but the labels can't suggest the milk is any safer than that from treated animals, the government said Monday.

In guidelines to be published Tuesday, the Food and Drug Administration said companies may label milk, ice cream and other dairy products as coming from "cows not treated with" recombinant bovine somatotropin.

But that information must be put in "the proper context," the agency

That means the labels also have to carry a statement like, "No significant difference has been shown between milk derived from rbST-treated and non-rbST-treated cows," the agency said.

The genetically engineered version of the naturally occurring hormone went on the market Friday. The drug makes cows produce more milk

Some stores, dairies and food processors, worried about the consumer response, have said they would not carry products from treated animals.

Others have wanted to label their products as coming from animals that had not been treated.

The product is technically "recombinant" bST, or rbST for short, because it comes from genetic engineering. But many people just call it BST, and capitalize the "b."

The agency said labels could not carry the claim that milk is "bST-

free" because the hormone occurs naturally in milk. Labels also cannot say the milk is "rBST-free" because that would imply the milk is different.

The labeling guidelines reinforce what the agency said last Nov. 5 when it approved the drug: that there is virtually no difference between milk from treated cows and non-treated cows.

That message was reaffirmed by the American Medical Association and American Dietetic Association.

However, some biotechnology critics, humane groups and consumer groups say the drug poses risks that have not been thoroughly addressed.

They say cows that produce more milk also have a higher risk of udder infections that must be treated with antibiotics. They say those residues could make it into the milk supply, threatening people who are allergic to antibiotics and encouraging the growth of resistant strains.

The FDA said the milk supply is tested against antibiotic residues already. The agency is also supervising a program by the developer. Monsanto Co., to monitor the milk supply.

The agency, in granting approval, also permitted voluntary labeling but said it must follow long-standing agency requirements to be "truthful" and "not misleading."

The agency said extensive record-keeping will also be needed to prove claims that the cows were not treated.

Child of former house leader in critical condition

PORTLAND (AP) — A premature baby born Monday to former state House Majority Leader Greg Walden and his wife Mylene was in critical condition at Doernbecher Children's Hospital with a congenital heart defect.

Walden called off his campaign for the Republican nomination for governor last fall when the couple learned the child suffered from hypoplastic left heart syndrome, in which the left side of the heart fails to develop properly.

Garrison Daniel Walden was born shortly after 3 a.m. and weighed 4 pounds, 12 ounces, said Oregon Health Sciences University spokeswoman Marcia Williams. The boy, six weeks premature, was in the neonatal intensive care unit at Doernbecher.

Walden said last fall the child would have to undergo three open heart surgeries in two years including one shortly after birth.

Soon after the diagnosis,

Walden resigned as House majority leader and announced he would not seek re-election this year to the Legislature.

The couple has one other child, 3-year-old Anthony.

Walden, 36, is a Hood River radio station owner. He entered the House in 1989 and became majority leader in 1991.

He abandoned his quest for the GOP nomination for governor last Oct. 25, the day before he was to have formally announced his candidacy. But he said he would not rule out a return to politics. Walden has a moderate to conservative voting record and once worked for former Republican U.S. Rep. Denny Smith. Smith is running for the Republican gubernatorial nomination in the May 17 primary election.

The baby's heart defect was spotted during an ultrasound examination.

The condition makes the left ventricle, the aorta and a valve too small. In the operation, known as the Norwood procedure, surgeons cause the right ventricle to serve the whole body instead of only the lungs.

Oregonians cluck it up on ABC show

SALEM (AP)— What would Oregonians do to get on TV?

Well, Kathi Smith clucked like a chicken.

She was among about 125 people who auditioned Sunday at Salem's Lancaster Mall for the producers of ABC's The New America's Funniest People.

In fact, Smith, of Corvallis, clucked a rendition "The Wedding March."

"I was going to do 'Oklahoma,' but I didn't think that everybody would know the song," she said.

Austin Ensey, 13, painted his fingers to look like the members of his favorite rock band, Aerosmith, stuck them through holes in a shoebox and wiggled them to a tape of "Walk This Way."

Tom Augustyn and his 11year-old son, Anthony, reenacted the message on their answering machine.

"I can't come to the phone right now because I'm feeding my Doberman," Anthony said, as his father hunched on all fours wearing his belt around his neck and barked like a dog.

"I've always been one of those closet comedians," Tom said..







ΑΚΨ

Professional Business Fraternity

Repair project to save state Capitol in the works

SALEM (AP) — Oregon's marble-clad Capitol looks as solid as a rock, but parts of its insides are crumbling.

Some walls and the brick and clay filler underneath them were jarred out of place last March 27 by a strong earthquake centered northeast of Salem.

A two-year repair and reinforcement project is to begin soon, costing millions. But even that will not do all that engineers say should be done to protect one of the state's best known landmarks from a more severe quake.

The Capitol was completed in 1938, at a cost of \$2.5 million. A large addition was added in 1976, costing \$12 million.

A preliminary estimate is that the earthquake damage repairs will cost about \$2.5 million. The Legislature allocated another \$4.3 million for reinforcement, or what the engineers call "seismic upgrade."

Most of the damage from last year's temblor is in the rotunda area in the middle of the building, which is topped by a dome 106 feet above the floor.

Chipped plaster and small cracks in walls were seen the day of the quake. But a closer look later revealed more serious problems.

Clay tiles and brick-and-mortar areas between the inner and outer walls shook loose and are crumbling in some places. Marble-covered walls in the rotunda were wrenched loose from their connections to the floor.

"The structural engineer says the walls

have lost their structural integrity," said Wade Lange, Capitol operations manager.

Or to put it another way, the walls could fall down, he said. The rotunda has been closed to the public since last spring.

Many complications face the project, which is to begin about mid-April.

First, four oil-on-canvas murals must be slowly peeled from the walls and stored until the work is done. The murals, each 26 feet by 11 feet, depict scenes in Oregon history.

The murals are fastened to walls with a lead-based adhesive, and some walls also are covered with lead-based paint. Because lead now is considered a hazardous substance, Lange said, special precautions have to be taken in removing it.

Tualatin, Bend lead population growth

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — The Portland suburbs and Deschutes County led the population growth in Oregon that opened the decade, and no change in that pattern is expected before the decade is out.

Figures released Monday by the U.S. Census Bureau showed that the Portland suburb of Tualatin led Oregon cities with a 14.8 percent growth rate from 1990 to 1992, to 17,231 people.

Deschutes County in central
Oregon grew at a 12.4 percent
rate, to 84,234 people, with the
county seat of Bend expanding

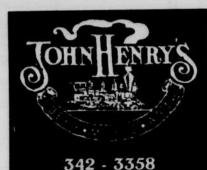
by 10 percent to 22,514.

Neighboring Jefferson and Crook counties also were among the fastest growing areas in Oregon, along with Washington and Clackamas counties, which contain most of Portland's suburbs. Ed Schafer, the director of the Oregon State Data Center at Portland State University, said the growth pattern will continue because of a strong Oregon economy.

"I think we'll see continued growth within the state in general, but concentrated primarily in the Portland metropolitan area with some concentrations in central Oregon," Schafer said. Much of the growth comes from Californians moving to Oregon to escape the weakening California economy and high housing costs, Schafer said.

"We have lower housing costs than most major cities in California or in Western Washington," Schafer said. "We also have a cost of living that's somewhat less than other areas along the Pacific Coast."





136 E. 11th . Eugene, OR.

ENTERTAINMENT NIGHTLY

MONDAY MOVIE NIGHT
POOL TABLES
FREE DARTS & FOOSBALL
ASSORTED EATS
smoking preferred