

Altering wife's perfect dishes is blasted by sympathetic cook

DEAR ABBY: Regarding "Recipe for Disaster in Texas" (Feb. 17), I have to say I disagreed with your response. Although Michelin won't be awarding me any stars, I consider myself a good cook, and I strive to make unique, flavorful meals for my family.



My husband frequently feels the need to doctor my recipes, and I think it's disrespectful of the time and care I took in preparing the meal.

He insists on combining ingredients that don't belong together. He puts cheddar cheese on spaghetti Bolognese and ranch dressing on chicken teriyaki. He knows this isn't appropriate, and

he would never ask for this modification in a restaurant.

"Recipe" should learn to appreciate that his wife is preparing meals for him. If he can do better, he can take over the cooking.

DEAR ABBY

— FLAVOR QUEEN OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEAR QUEEN:

I enjoyed the responses to that letter about a husband reseasoning his wife's gourmet meals to her distinct displeasure. Some of the online comments made me chuckle, so I'll share them, too. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: While I was in the military, it was normal to add salt, pepper and ketchup to everything without tasting it first.

The habit has followed me for 50 years, no matter where I am. I tell the host that it's normal for me and to not take it personally. Mac 'n' cheese needs ketchup; veggies, potatoes, eggs and watermelon need salt; most everything else needs pepper.

For me to taste something, it has to burn my tongue.

— VIETNAM VET IN MISSOURI

DEAR ABBY: That wife sounds like an oversensitive control freak. Personally, I can't handle peppers, but I do like lots of cheese and sour cream on my enchiladas.

My wife, who does the majority of the cooking, knows my preference, so she does me the honor of putting more of that on my enchi-

ladas. I also like to dip my fries into mayo instead of ketchup, so she obliges.

This is what we do for people we love. We don't threaten, "My way or the highway, Bub!"

— G.S. IN ABBYLAND

DEAR ABBY: I laughed when I was told to substitute "healthy" plain yogurt for sour cream. It never tasted anything like sour cream to me. Then I got some Greek yogurt and realized it works just as well. (It's an excellent protein source, and many older adults need more as we age.) Now I add plenty without feeling guilty.

— ONLINE LOVER

DEAR ABBY: My husband jokes that he has Mexican taste buds but a white guy stomach.

Thank heavens we have separate bathrooms.

— C.K. ON THE NET

DEAR ABBY: I know when my husband gets out the Tabasco the meal is not quite to his liking. I don't usually mind, because I don't cook just for him. I cook for the entire family. (And he thinks I'm an amazing cook.)

— P.M. ON THE WEB

DEAR ABBY: Oh, yes — Tabasco sauce. My dad had so much of it in his lifetime, he should have been McIlhenny's pitchman. I can see the ad now: Announcer: What do YOU have Tabasco with?

Man: I have it with chili!
Woman: I have it with eggs!
My dad: I have it with a straw.
— "ABBDICT" A.C.

Monkeys, ferrets offer needed clues in COVID-19 vaccine race

By Lauran Neergaard
Associated Press

The global race for a COVID-19 vaccine boils down to some critical questions: How much must the shots rev up someone's immune system to really work? And could revving it the wrong way cause harm?

Even as companies recruit tens of thousands of people for larger vaccine studies this summer, behind the scenes scientists still are testing ferrets, monkeys and other animals in hopes of clues to those basic questions — steps that in a pre-pandemic era would have been finished first.

"We are in essence doing a great experiment," said Ralph Baric, a coronavirus expert at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, whose lab is testing several vaccine candidates in animals.

The speed-up is necessary to try to stop a virus that has triggered a pandemic, killing more than 360,000 worldwide and shuttering economies. But "there's no question there is more risk in the current strategy than what has ever been done before," Baric said.

The animal testing lets scientists see how the body reacts

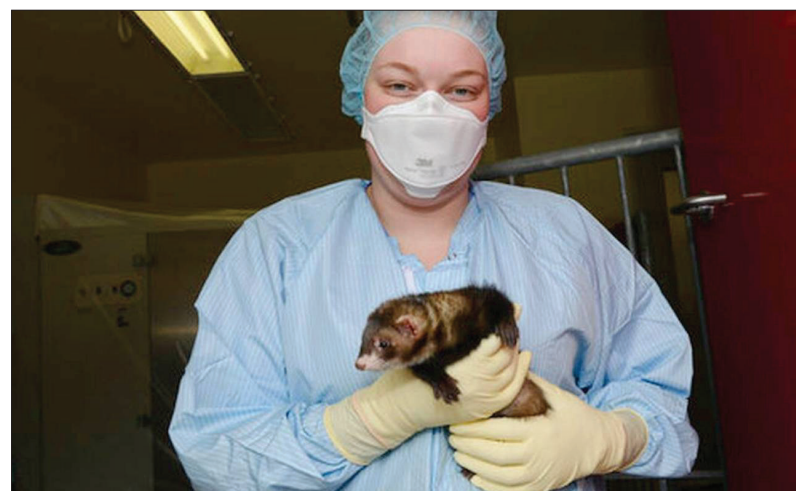


Photo by VIDO-InterVac at the University of Saskatchewan via AP. In this April 2014 photo, a researcher holds a ferret at their facility in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. In 2020, the lab is working with 300 ferrets to develop a COVID-19 vaccine candidate as well as testing other vaccine candidates and therapeutics.

to vaccines in ways studies in people never can, said Kate Broderick, research chief at Inovio Pharmaceuticals.

With animals, "we're able to perform autopsies and look specifically at their lung tissue and get a really deep dive in looking at how their lungs have reacted," Broderick said.

She's awaiting results from mice, ferrets and monkeys that are being exposed to the coronavirus

after receiving Inovio's vaccine. Since no species perfectly mimics human infection, testing a trio broadens the look at safety.

And there's some good news on the safety front as the first animal data from various research teams starts to trickle out. So far, there are no signs of a worrisome side effect called disease enhancement, which Dr. Anthony Fauci of the U.S. National Institutes of Health calls reassuring.

Enhancement is just what the name implies: Very rarely, a vaccine doesn't stimulate the immune system in quite the right way, producing antibodies that not only can't fully block infection but that make any resulting disease worse.

That first happened in the 1960s with failure of a vaccine for respiratory syncytial virus, RSV, an infection dangerous to young children. More recently, it has complicated efforts at vaccines against mosquito-spread dengue fever.

And some attempted vaccines for SARS, a cousin of COVID-19, seemed to cause enhancement in animal testing.

Fast forward to the pandemic. Three recently reported studies in monkeys tested different COVID-19 vaccine approaches, including shots made by Oxford University and China's Sinovac. The studies were small, but none of the monkeys showed evidence of immune-enhanced disease when scientists later dripped the coronavirus directly into the animals' noses or windpipes.

Some of the best evidence so far that a vaccine might work also comes from those monkey studies. Oxford and Sinovac created very different types of

COVID-19 vaccines, and in separate studies, each team recently reported that vaccinated monkeys were protected from pneumonia while monkeys given a dummy shot got sick.

But protection against severe disease is just a first step. Could a vaccine also stop the virus's spread? The Oxford study raises some doubt.

Those researchers found as much virus lingering in the vaccinated monkeys' noses as in the unvaccinated. Even though the experiment exposed monkeys to high levels of the coronavirus, it raised troubling questions.

The type of vaccine — how it targets the "spike" protein that coats the coronavirus — may make a difference.

In monkeys, the new coronavirus lodges in the lungs but seldom makes them super sick. Ferrets — the preferred animal for flu vaccine development — may help tell if potential COVID-19 vaccines might stop the viral spread.

"Ferrets develop a fever. They also cough and sneeze," infecting each other much like people do, said vaccine researcher Alyson Kelvin of Canada's Dalhousie University.

weather

TONIGHT	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
Partly cloudy	A thunderstorm in spots	A t-storm in the area	Cloudy with a few showers	Mostly cloudy, a shower
Baker City 47 Comfort Index™ 10	84 50 6	60 40 3	52 36 2	58 35 2
La Grande 47 Comfort Index™ 10	77 49 8	60 41 4	52 41 0	56 35 0
Enterprise 45 Comfort Index™ 10	76 48 8	53 39 4	47 38 0	52 32 1

Comfort Index takes into account how the weather will feel based on a combination of factors. A rating of 10 feels very comfortable while a rating of 0 feels very uncomfortable.

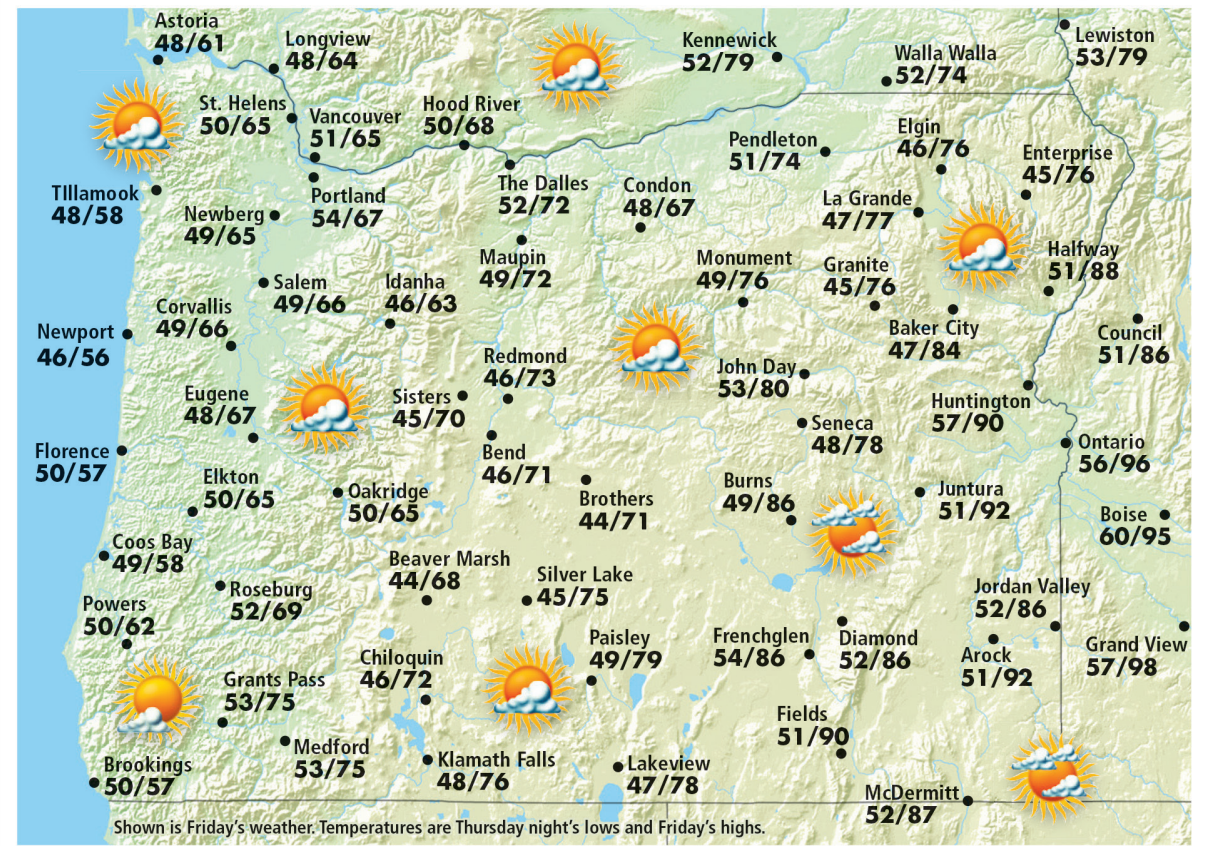
ALMANAC	TUESDAY EXTREMES		
TEMPERATURES	Baker City	La Grande	Elgin
High Tuesday	84°	81°	84°
Low Tuesday	39°	38°	36°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Tuesday	0.00	0.00	Trace
Month to date	Trace	Trace	Trace
Normal month to date	0.10	0.13	0.15
Year to date	2.10	10.96	22.88
Normal year to date	4.65	7.97	12.15

AGRICULTURAL INFO.	HAY INFORMATION FRIDAY
Lowest relative humidity	40%
Afternoon wind	SSW at 6 to 12 mph
Hours of sunshine	11.2
Evapotranspiration	0.15

RESERVOIR STORAGE	SUN & MOON
Phillips Reservoir	54% of capacity
Unity Reservoir	99% of capacity
Owyhee Reservoir	80% of capacity
McKay Reservoir	100% of capacity
Wallowa Lake	79% of capacity
Thief Valley Reservoir	103% of capacity

STREAM FLOWS	
Grande Ronde at Troy	9180 cfs
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	633 cfs
Burnt River near Unity	94 cfs
Umatilla River near Gibbon	295 cfs
Minam River at Minam	2490 cfs
Powder River near Richland	847 cfs

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION



REGIONAL CITIES		RECREATION FORECAST FRIDAY			
City	FRI. HI/Lo/W	SAT. HI/Lo/W	City	FRI. HI/Lo/W	SAT. HI/Lo/W
Astoria	61/47/pc	59/47/pc	Lewiston	79/56/pc	64/48/t
Bend	71/41/pc	60/38/pc	Longview	64/46/c	59/46/sh
Boise	95/56/pc	66/46/sh	Meacham	74/47/pc	57/41/pc
Brookings	57/46/pc	54/45/sh	Medford	75/49/pc	60/46/t
Burns	86/46/c	61/35/pc	Newport	56/45/pc	56/46/sh
Coos Bay	58/47/c	58/46/sh	Olympia	66/46/c	60/44/sh
Corvallis	66/46/c	59/46/sh	Ontario	96/58/pc	69/48/pc
Council	86/54/c	60/42/pc	Pasco	78/55/pc	73/49/pc
Elgin	76/48/pc	59/42/pc	Pendleton	74/52/pc	67/47/pc
Eugene	67/46/c	59/45/sh	Portland	67/51/c	61/49/sh
Hermiston	79/55/pc	73/50/pc	Powers	62/46/c	58/45/sh
Hood River	68/48/c	64/47/sh	Redmond	73/43/pc	61/36/pc
Imnaha	82/53/pc	58/42/pc	Roseburg	69/50/c	59/46/t
John Day	80/51/pc	61/41/pc	Salem	66/46/c	60/46/sh
Joseph	77/47/pc	52/37/pc	Spokane	72/51/sh	64/45/t
Kennewick	79/56/pc	74/49/pc	The Dalles	72/51/c	67/47/pc
Klamath Falls	76/40/pc	55/34/t	Ukiah	71/44/pc	58/38/pc
Lakeview	78/44/pc	54/33/c	Walla Walla	74/51/c	65/47/pc

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