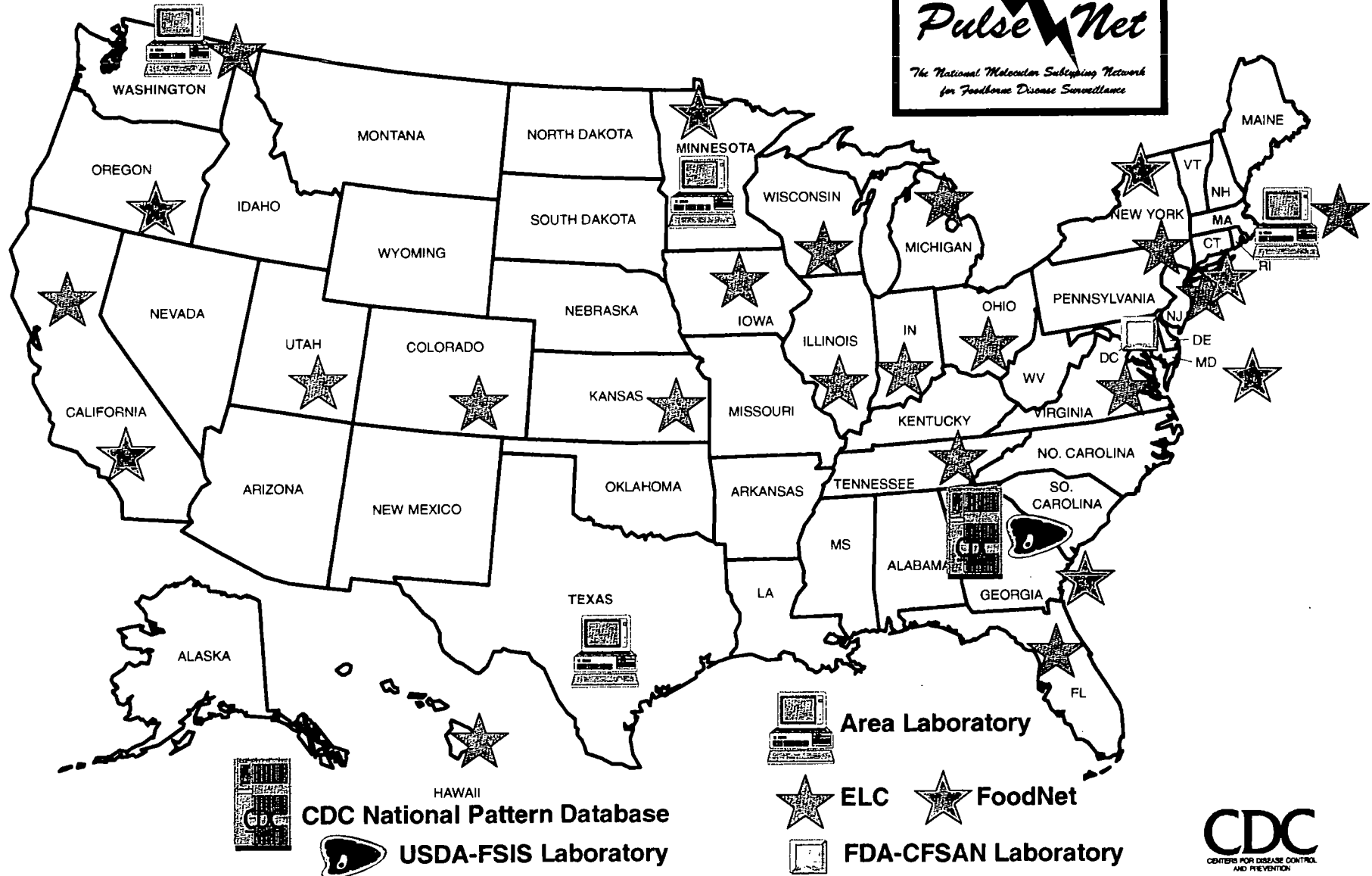
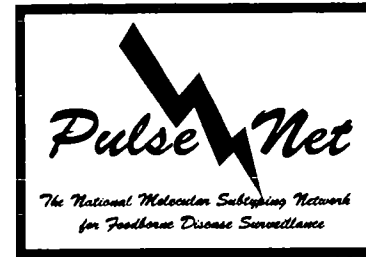
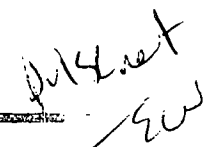


PulseNet





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Top News

Food Illness Computer Web Planned

Sports

By CURT ANDERSON AP Farm Writer

Lotteries

WASHINGTON (AP) -- All 50 states will be linked together by next year on a computer web to track and respond to outbreaks of foodborne illness under a new Clinton administration initiative.

International

National

Vice President Al Gore, who is scheduled to formally unveil the network on Friday, said it would enable investigators to identify outbreaks five times faster than is possible now.

Washington

Business

"With this efficient new computer network, we can more effectively trace widespread foodborne disease outbreaks and warn millions of Americans to stay away from contaminated food products," he said in a written statement Thursday night.

Wall Street

Entertainment

Health/Science

The move is the administration's latest effort to reduce the estimated 9,000 deaths and 33 million illnesses caused by foodborne pathogens each year. Previous efforts include issuing new guidelines to farms and food processors on how to guard against contamination and adopting new inspection techniques at meat and poultry plants.

Regional

The network, dubbed Pulsenet, will use the computer Internet to link the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, the Agriculture Department, four laboratories and state health departments together.

This will enable officials to quickly identify pathogens like E. coli in illness outbreaks using the DNA of the bacteria found in the contaminated food and in patients who are suffering from gastric problems.

The DNA "fingerprint" of the pathogen could then be quickly transmitted around the country to determine how widespread the outbreak is and what should be done to combat it, such as a product recall.

Caroline Smith DeWaal, food safety director at the Center for Science in the Public Interest, said the current government FoodNet system only tracks such outbreaks in a few states and can't cope with a large-scale outbreak.

"There are huge gaps," she said Thursday.

FoodNet was used to identify the E. coli strain that sickened people in Colorado last year after they ate contaminated ground beef from Hudson Foods Co., resulting in a recall of 25 million pounds of meat. Yet the extent of that outbreak could not be tracked nationally.

“We will never really know how big that outbreak was,” DeWaal said.

Agriculture Department statistics show that in 1997, the existing FoodNet network confirmed more than 8,000 human illnesses traced to seven foodborne pathogens, including E. coli, salmonella, campylobacter and listeria. The new network, Gore said, will work even better.

Beginning Friday, Pulsenet will link epidemiologists in Massachusetts, Minnesota, Texas, Washington, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Utah, Virginia and Wisconsin. The remaining states will be hooked up by 1999.

Gore said a new federal-state partnership will also be formed to better respond to the illness outbreaks.

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05/21

04/30/98 THU 18:49 FAX 202 219 0173 WOMEN'S BUREAU SD

Equal Pay

Women's Bureau Commemorative Report
June 10th, 35th Anniversary of the Equal Pay Act
June 5th, 78th Anniversary of the Women's Bureau

Purpose: To commemorate the 35th Anniversary of the Equal Pay and the 78th anniversary of the Women's Bureau, the Women's Bureau will write a new report that profiles the evolution of women at work from 1960 to the present.

Message: The Equal Pay Act is a significant law that has been critical to the progress of women in the labor force. Thirty-five years after its passage, there is much to celebrate -- yet still further that women can go. This report will include a factual analysis of the top jobs held by women in 1960, and in five year intervals there after until 1997. In addition, women's educational status, wages in comparison with men, proportional share of occupations, and the evolution of new jobs as a result of technology will be assessed. Side bars of women in nontraditional jobs will be included, along with an analysis of how the actual nontraditional occupations have evolved over time.

Along with the factual analysis, pictures and anecdotal experiences of women, women's advocates, elected officials, business leaders and others will be interspersed as side bars throughout the report. These will include women who brought cases under the Equal Pay Act, women who fought for passage of the Equal Pay Act, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Chair of the EEOC when the EPA was transferred from Labor to EEOC, reports from newspapers and magazines throughout the time frame reporting or commenting on the equal pay issue.

Outline of Report

Letter from Labor Secretary Alexis M. Herman

1. THE 60's to mid 70's:

WHERE WE WERE IN 1960, 1965 and 1970

Statistical Profile: Top ten occupations for women; overall wage gap between women and men; wage gap between women and men in top ten occupations; Women's educational level; Full-time vs. Part-time work; Marital status and presence of children for working women; Women entrepreneurs.

Anecdotal quotes: Esther Peterson, Author Goldberg, President Kennedy, Eleanor Roosevelt, Dr. Height, Women's advocates. What companies said about implementing the Equal Pay Act, how women themselves felt about the law. First few women to bring cases under the Act. Outrageous comments, newspaper headlines, etc.

2. The mid 70's to early 80's:

WHERE WE WERE IN 1975, 1980 and 1985

Statistical Profile: Top ten occupations for women; overall wage gap between women and men; wage gap between women and men in top ten occupations; Women's educational level; Full-time vs. Part-time work; Marital status and presence of children for working women; Women entrepreneurs.

Issues to Arise: In which occupations did women make inroads? What changes have there been in marital status and presence of children among working women? How have occupations changed for women? What is relationship between advances in technology and jobs? What new fields, industries have developed as a result of women's presence in the labor force, i.e. need for child care, other services

Anecdotal quotes: Former Women's Bureau Director Alexis Herman, Former EEOC Chair Eleanor Holmes Norton, women who brought cases under the Act, union leaders and women's advocates who began talking about pay equity,

3. From the 1990's into the New Millennium

WHERE WE WERE IN 1990, 1995 and WHERE WE ARE TODAY (1997 stats)

Statistical Profile: Top ten occupations for women; overall wage gap between women and men; wage gap between women and men in top ten occupations; Women's educational level; Full-time vs. Part-time work; Marital status and presence of children for working women; Women entrepreneurs.

Issues to Arise: Explosion of women as entrepreneurs; entrance into managerial jobs; relationship between advances in communications technology and women's jobs. Projections for the future outlook of jobs and industries.

Anecdotal quotes: Current Labor Secretary Alexis Herman, Senators Tom Daschle and Tom Harkin, President Clinton (Equal Pay Proclamation), Vice President Gore (April 3rd Equal Pay Day remarks), Representatives Eleanor Holmes Norton and Connie Morella.

4. Issues to watch in the new century

Women as entrepreneurs, women as consumers and managers; Technological advances in jobs: from the factory to the office to the home? Will technology enable new workplaces, work times and work habits -- how will women be affected? The business of caring - child and elder care issues.

Anecdotal quotes: Tom Peters, management consultant, young women--New Moon magazine editors, President Clinton, others....