

# First spray vaccine for livestock

**KUALA TERENGGANU, Sun.** — Two local scientists have developed the first "pneumonic pasteurellosis" spray vaccine for livestock.

Associate Prof Effendy Mohd Wahid of Kolej Universiti Sains Teknologi Malaysia (Kustem) and Prof Mohd Zamri Saad of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) spent nearly eight years develop-

ing this pneumo-spray vaccine.

This product, known as KUSTEMvax, has been tested on livestock and proven more effective than injections, which are painful, cause lameness in some animals, and waste of syringes and needles.

From a commercial standpoint, the new method also

saves time: it takes 1,000 goats a week to be vaccinated, whereas with the new method, the same number can be vaccinated in two days.

Effendy, in an interview at Kustem today, said the project to develop the vaccine started in UPM.

He said KUSTEMvax offered a cheaper and more

effective solution as farm owners would not have to spend money on syringes and training workers to inject animals.

"It also offers extra protection to animals, especially when the spread of a disease is at its peak," he said.

He added that tests had been conducted on livestock at Mardi farms in Negeri Sembilan, Johor and Perak for the past year.

KUSTEMvax is expected to be commercialised within the next five months.

The two scientists are now working with the Life and Sciences Academy Group, a biotech company, to run further tests for the international market.

"It may be effective on our

animals, but it is no guarantee the same formula will be effective on livestock in other countries," Effendy said.

"We need to take bacterial samples from other countries and test them with our product."

He added that the product was expected to be marketed internationally in two years.