

Cattlemen Alerted

The U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today warned cattlemen to be alert for signs of anaplasmosis, a serious blood disease of cattle. Horseflies—the most common insect spreaders of the disease—are now

emerging in large numbers and will remain active through early October in much of the country.

According to officials of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), anaplasmosis,

characterized by anemia, is infectious but not contagious. This means the organism must get into the blood stream of an animal either from an insect bite or careless handling of medical or other instruments.

In areas where the mosquito population is very

heavy, mosquitoes can spread the disease. In other areas, principally in the west, certain ticks can also serve as spreaders of the disease.

Man can also spread anaplasmosis. This is especially true of those who engage in do-it-yourself

veterinary service. In the hands of careless individuals, hypodermic needles, nose leads and dehorning can be transmitters of the disease.

Anaplasmosis is particularly severe in mature

cattle, often causing 30 to 50 percent death losses among infected animals. Annual losses to the livestock industry nationally are estimated at well over \$100 million.

What should cattlemen look for? When an animal becomes weak and lags behind the herd, anaplasmosis should be suspected. The skin first becomes pale around the eyes, on the muzzle, lips and teats, and then turns yellow.

Following the acute stage of the disease, infectious organisms remain in the body of survivors, and these animals become carriers. Significantly, some animals—especially younger ones—become carriers without showing any signs of illness.

If anaplasmosis is suspected, APHIS officials urge cattlemen to consult their veterinarians about control and preventive measures. Most important, they emphasize, is testing to identify carriers.

Laboratories in all states are now equipped to perform the rapid card test for anaplasmosis, at no cost to herd owners except the veterinary fee for drawing blood samples.

Unfortunately, this is not the best time of the year to test, because blood samples from animals recently infected will not react to the test. They must have the infection 30 days or more to show a reaction.

Ideally, testing should be carried out during the winter, APHIS officials explained. Then, depending upon the size of the herd and the number of carriers found, one of five alternate plans should be put into effect:

--If only a few carriers are found, send them to slaughter.

--If a large number are found and facilities are available, separate the carriers from healthy animals and maintain them as two separate "herds." This works because the horsefly must bite an infected animal and then a healthy animal within five minutes to transfer the disease.

--Treat carrier animals with high levels of antibiotics (tetracyclines) in the feed to eliminate infection. Withdrawal time should be observed.

--Vaccinate negative (noninfected) animals. APHIS officials note, however, that vaccination is occasionally associated with anemia in newborn calves and can complicate future testing since vaccinated animals may show reaction to the blood test.

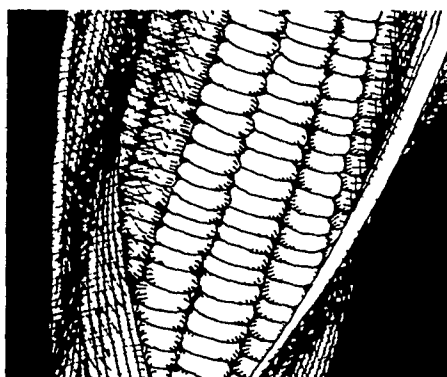
Silver Spurs Show Aug. 18

Silver Spurs 4-H Horse and Pony Club will hold their 8th Annual Open Horse Show this Sunday, August 18, at the Lancaster County Riding and Tennis Club beginning at 11:00 a.m. sharp.

There will be 38 classes including western, english, jumping and roadster.

Western Judge will be James Catagnus, Norristown, Pa. and English Judge will be Leonard Fischback from Boonton, New Jersey.

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