

Beware of brucellosis disease for dairy or breeding cattle

HARRISBURG, Pa. - "Let both the buyer and seller of breeding or dairy cattle beware of brucellosis!" This warning comes from Dr. Frank Mulhern, administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Brucellosis, or Bang's disease, is a contagious disease of livestock. Although brucellosis can affect other farm animals, its main threat is to cattle. It can also be transmitted from animals to humans as undulant fever.

Dr. Mulhern said the disease most often enters a clean herd when an unsuspecting farmer or rancher buys infected or exposed cattle. Twice in recent months, farmers who bought sick animals have taken sellers to court for damages.

"Some buyers and sellers of breeding or dairy cattle may be lulled into a false sense of security regarding brucellosis," said Dr. Mulhern.

"The national infection rate is quite low, with less than one per cent of the U.S. cattle population affected by the disease.

"But brucellosis is still

Red Lion Grange meets

"Ritualism" was the topic for the evening program at Red Lion Grange 1781, on June 18, with Master Lee Burns, in charge of the business session.

Thirty members and five visiting Grangers attended the meeting to hear William Reichart, State Deputy Master of York-Adams County, explain the proper forms of Ritual used in the Grange.

Mrs. Reichart, Women's Activity Director of York-Adams Pomona, spoke briefly on the contest that will be held when Pomona Grange meets at Gideon Grange, Hanover, on August 13, at 2:00. The contest classes open to all Grange members are: Needlework, Stuffed Animal, and Sponge Cake Baking.

Mrs. Tedrow, the Matron of the Junior Grange in Grange 109, spoke on the importance of the Junior Grange as to the future of all Subordinate Granges.

Next regular meeting of the Grange will be held July 16, at 8 p.m. Members are asked to bring and share their "hobby" during the program. Fourth Degree practice will follow the program.

There will be no meeting at Red Lion Grange on July 2, but all York-Adams County Grange members are asked to attend the Visitation Nite program at Bingleville Grange hall, with Washington Grange presenting the program, beginning at 8 p.m. The program theme will be "Nature, Don't Take It For Granted."

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costing the American cattle industry about \$30 million a year in terms of aborted calves, reduced milk yield, and the need to replace infected breeding or dairy stock," he observed.

Abortion is the most outstanding symptom of brucellosis in cattle. There is no effective cure. The interval from exposure until the disease can be detected by blood tests is variable. Most animals develop detectable antibodies within 30 to 60 days, but it may take up to seven months.

Cattlemen and dairymen can cooperate with state-federal eradication efforts and help themselves in the following ways, according to Dr. Mulhern:

-All cattle (except official calfhood vaccinates under 20 months of age for dairy breeds and 24 months of age for beef breeds) should be tested before being added to a herd. Vaccinated cattle below these ages that have calved or are near calving should also be tested.

-Additions should then be

held in isolation and retested 30 to 60 days later before mingling with the rest of the herd.

-Buy only cattle that have been officially calfhood vaccinated. In a herd that's already infected, this practice will reduce the number of susceptible cattle and lessen the spread of brucellosis.

-Transmission also can be lessened by sanitarily disposing of aborted fetuses and contaminated placental tissues, by isolating and testing suspected cattle, by

prompt removal of reactor animals, and by cleaning and disinfecting contaminated areas.

For the great majority of American cattle growers who have not experienced an abortion storm or felt other

effects of brucellosis recently, Dr. Mulhern has this message: "When your cows abort or early, suspect brucellosis. And call your veterinarian for animal health official assistance."

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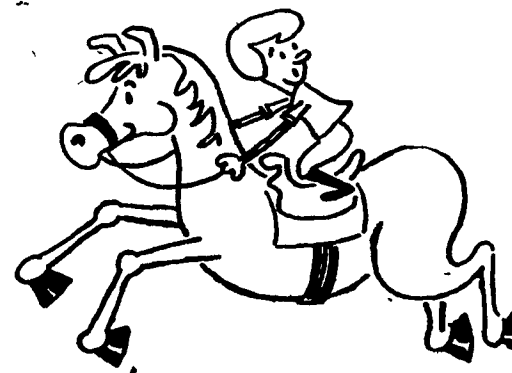
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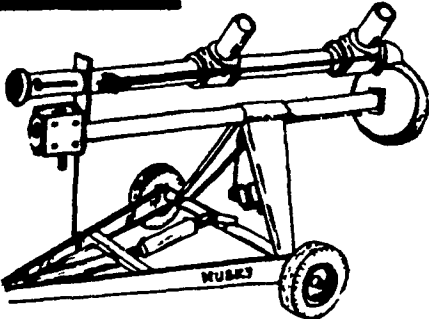


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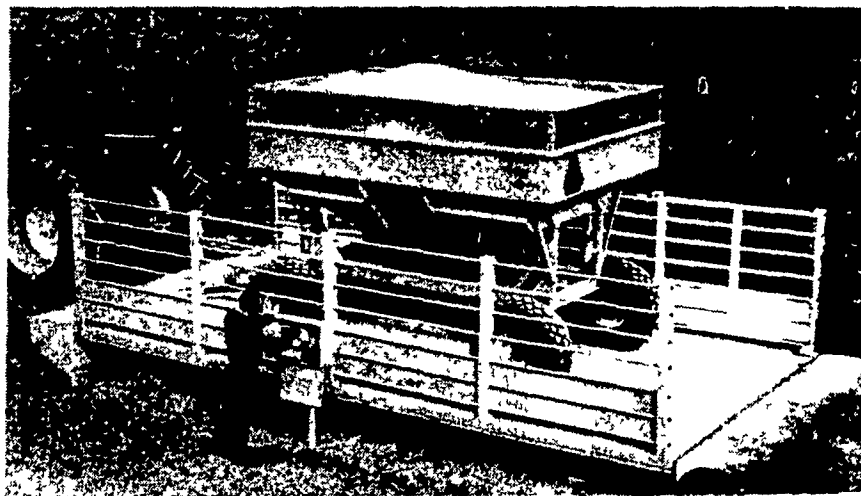
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