

MEDICINE AND MANAGEMENT

By CARL TROOP, VMD



Bacteria, viruses causes lung infections

In our last column we discussed the importance of a proper environment for the respiratory health of the livestock. Clean, healthy lungs are essential for vigorous, thrifty animals, and a properly maintained environment is the cornerstone in any program to keep the lungs or respiratory system of the animals in top

condition. Unfortunately, in spite of the care one might exercise in providing ideal conditions, there are still many very dangerous germs around trying to find a susceptible animal in which to establish an infection.

Lung infections will, for our purposes here, be divided into two categories:

bacteria and viruses. Bacteria are very tiny animals composed of only one cell and so small they can be seen only with a microscope. Viruses are even smaller yet and cannot even be classified as an animal because it is only a small part of a cell. The bacteria and viruses can destroy the healthy cells of the livestock.

In cattle, for instance, two of the major viruses which affect the lungs are the 'Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis' virus (IBR or Rednose) and the shipping fever virus (PI3). They can infect a cow separately or can both infect a cow at the same time. Either way

the animal can become extremely ill and often die.

Bacteria can cause primary pneumonia in cattle also, but often require a weakening of the animal's defense (malnutrition, stress, or other concurrent infection). They are often opportunistic, that is, they wait around for an opportunity to develop so that they can obtain a foothold in the animals lung tissue. Animals housed in poorly ventilated areas or under undue stress are much more susceptible to bacterial infection (or any kind of infection for that matter) than those housed in a healthy environment.

It often happens that when

a cow would become ill, say, from IBR, that if she should recover from the IBR, while she was fighting off the virus, bacteria would move in the pneumonia complications would take over. The cow could recover from the initial infection but die from the pneumonia. There are several bacteria which cause respiratory diseases in cattle but the one of major importance is the pasteurella germ. It is found in all areas and can cause very severe pneumonias in cattle and calves as well as other species of animals. The pasteurella germ will also team up with the PI3 virus to cause a severe "shipping fever".

One major difference between bacteria and viruses is that many bacterial infections can be treated effectively with one antibiotic or another if treated early enough. For a virus infection, however, there is no treatment. If the animal cannot combat the virus infection with her own body defenses, she is helpless to the virus invasion. Therefore the only way to treat a virus infection is to prevent it.

There are many vaccines

available as indial or in combination of up to four of the organisms which can cause respiratory problems. And if one is considering or using a respiratory vaccination program, now is the time to implement it. The winter stabling period is when most problems occur and by vaccinating now, protection is highest when needed most. Choice of which, if any, vaccine or vaccines to be used should be carefully discussed with a veterinarian taking into consideration problems which occurred in the past. In many cases treatments are not very effective, and in the case of respiratory diseases, especially the viruses, an ounce of prevention is certainly worth much more than a pound of cure.

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Dr. Carl Troop is pleased to announce the association of Dr. Allanson Hill with his Dairy Veterinary practice in Quarryville, Pa. Dr. Hill graduated from University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine in 1969 and is moving to the Quarryville area from his practice with Dr. Thomas Schenck of East Brunswick, N.J.

FFA scarf available

KANSAS CITY Mo. — Designer Frankie Welch introduced her new scarf to female Future Farmers of America members Monday, November 7, at a luncheon beginning the week of the organization's 50th National Convention, here. The scarf, in blue and white, features the FFA name and emblem in a repeating design.

The new scarf was presented to the female

members of the National FFA Band, Chorus, Talent and Official Convention Delegates, who are wearing the scarf throughout the convention to set the style displaying its use. Mrs. Welch demonstrated a variety of ways to wear the FFA scarf, which can also be worn as an ascot for males. The Frankie Welch scarf has been designated an official scarf for the FFA organization.

FFA honors three groups

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Distinguished Service Citations were presented by the Future Farmers of America to three organizations that have made significant contributions in service to agriculture and the FFA. The presentations were

made during the 50th National FFA Convention, held here November 8-11.

The citations were presented to the Extension Service, the Production Credit Association, and Venard Films, which has produced films for the FFA since 1935.

Wood from state forests is for sale

HARRISBURG — It is possible for homeowners to obtain firewood from state owned forest lands for a minimal charge.

Ronald Langford, urban forester for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, Bureau of Forestry located at Reddley Creek State Park states that anyone who might be interested in obtaining firewood can contact the Bureau of Forestry and obtain a permit to cut wood on the state forest lands. Lanford said that "A permit must be obtained from the district forester who is in charge of the area where they are going. The cost is about \$3.00 per cord."

"Although this seems like a very good bargain, which it is", Langford said, "there are a number of things that must be considered. In Pennsylvania, the firewood is available only from state forest lands which are administered by the Bureau of Forestry. Firewood cannot be removed from the State Parks or the State Game Lands, which are administered by the Bureau of State Parks and the Pennsylvania Game Commission respectively. The biggest obstacle to residents in this area is the fact that there are no state forest lands located

in this southeastern corner of the state. The closest state forest lands located north of the Philadelphia area are around Stroudsburg in the Poconos. West of Philadelphia, the closest areas are located near Gettysburg. This makes transportation quite a problem.

Langford said that anyone wishing to cut firewood should contact the Bureau of Forestry in Stroudsburg at 717-424-3001 or in Fayetteville near Gettysburg at 717-352-2211. The issued permit is good only for a certain period of time and the wood must be removed during that time period. Only dead, fallen, and designated trees may be cut.

"Contrary to some reports," Langford said, "the wood is not cut for you. The people will have to cut and split the wood themselves and must also have some method to haul it, such as a trailer or truck. It can be hauled in a passenger car or station wagon, but it must be emphasized that wood is heavy and only a small amount can be carried safely in that manner. A three quarter ton pick up can haul approximately three quarters of a cord, a standard cord being 4 feet by 4 feet by 8 feet"

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