

Vermont is 13th brucellosis-free state

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Vermont is the 13th state to become free of brucellosis under a new system — in effect since May — that classifies states by level of infected cattle herds, a U.S. Department of Agriculture veterinarian said.

Billy G. Johnson, acting director of the national brucellosis eradication program for USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said the "free" rating means Vermont has had no known brucellosis infection for 12 months or longer.

Other "free" states are: Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island and Utah. The U.S. Virgin Islands are also classified as "free."

"Properly identified breeding cattle from these states do not have to be blood tested for shipment within or out of state," said Johnson. "For out-of-state shipments, however, a voluntary test 45 to 120 days after arrival is recommended because of possible exposure enroute.

"Shipping breeding cattle within or from states that have not reached 'free' status calls for additional testing requirements," Johnson said. "In all classes of

states, some cattle from non-quarantined herds are always free to move without prior test."

These include cattle from certified-free herds, all cattle under 18 months of age, vaccinated beef cattle under 24 months of age and vaccinated dairy cattle under 20 months of age — if not pregnant or already calved — and cattle shipped directly to slaughter.

Also, steers and spayed heifers may move without tests — even from quarantined herds — because they are rarely affected by brucellosis and cannot spread it.

Brucellosis, or Bang's disease, is a bacterial disease of cattle and other animals which can be transmitted to humans. The disease attacks the reproductive system of animals, causing abortions and breeding problems that result in reduced calf crops and lower milk yields. Infected animals must be slaughtered because there is no treatment.

Human brucellosis, sometimes called undulant fever, is treatable. Though mainly an occupational risk for livestock handlers and slaughter plant workers who contact infected animals or their freshly killed carcasses, the disease can also be contacted by drinking unpasteurized milk.

Road hunting unlawful

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania deer hunters are warned that game protectors will prosecute those who hunt from vehicles, and will arrest those with loaded firearms in their vehicles.

The Game Commission warns that this conduct won't be tolerated. Hunting should be recreational and sporting, and there isn't anything recreational or sporting about road hunting.

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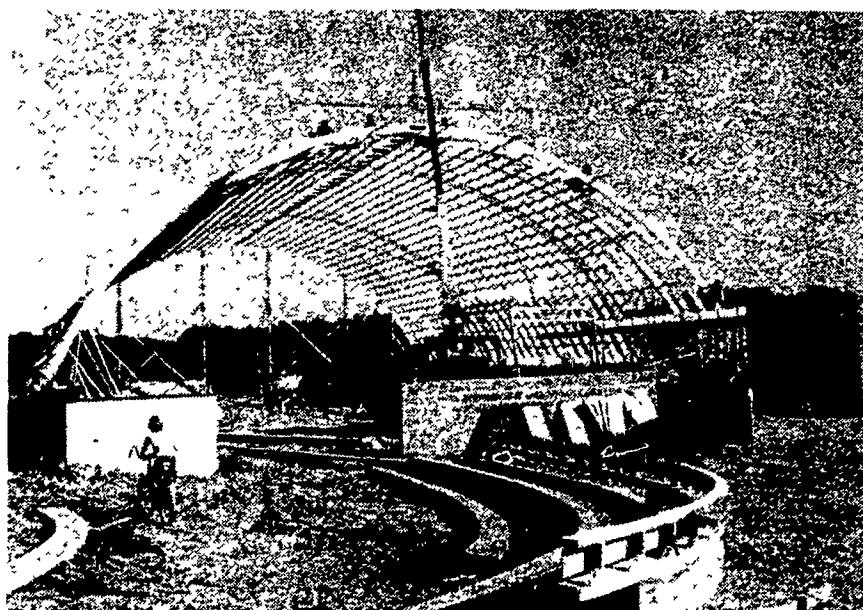
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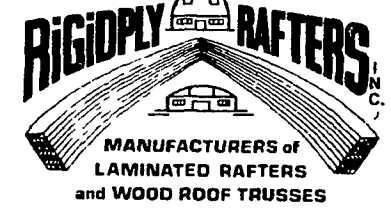
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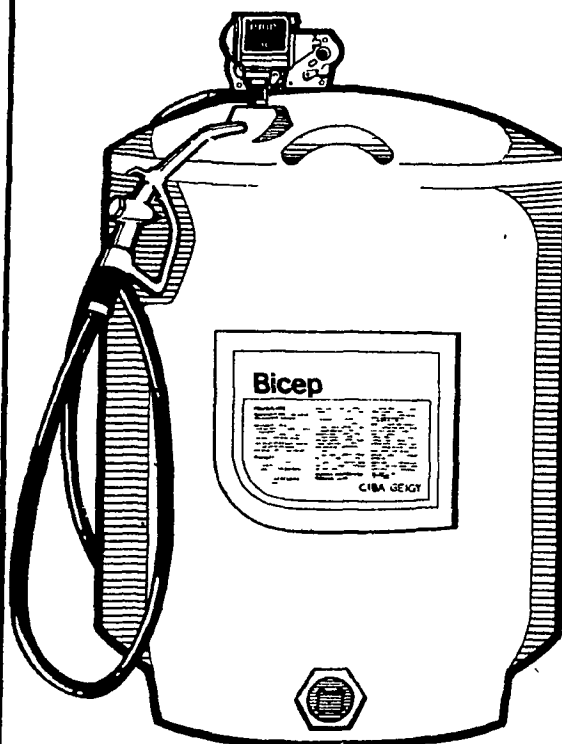
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