

Swamp Fever rules clarified in Md.

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — With arrival of good weather, the thoughts of hundreds of Marylanders turn toward horse shows and exhibitions and, in this light, Dr. Ralph C. Knowles, Assistant State Veterinarian for the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), says everyone involved should pay special heed to the need to prevent the spread of Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA).

Dr. Knowles says, "EIA, otherwise known as 'swamp fever', is a virus disease of horses that is incurable and is a lifelong infection. Individual horses that are virus carriers, but otherwise appear healthy, can serve as a source of infection for healthy horses."

"The virus is transmitted by flying and biting insects (such as horseflies and stable flies) and by

contaminated equipment such as hypodermic needles."

"To prevent the spread of EIA virus, and thus protect susceptible animals at horse shows, it is necessary to blood test all animals intended for entry into these horse shows and exhibitions."

"The blood test, known as the 'Coggins', or AGID test, is a practical test for the detection of EIA. A negative Coggins test

performed with 12 months prior to entry of the horse or horses in a show is required of all horses to be exhibited in Maryland. The only exceptions are animals under 270 days of age," Dr. Knowles said.

He went on to add, "Certain EIA control measures need clarification. Here are the four main points":

1. "Horses offered or entered in exhibitions shall be accompanied by and Equine Infectious Anemia report validated by perforations applied by the Maryland Department of Agriculture."

2. "Horses entering Maryland shows from other states must be accompanied by and official health certificate issued by the state of

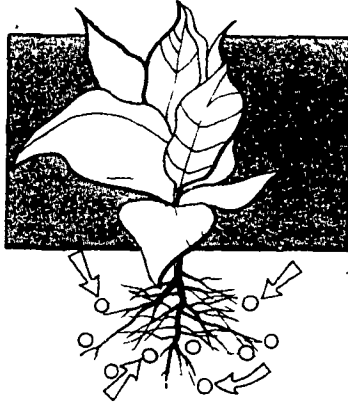
origin. This certificate must be the original, not a copy."

3. "Any horse tested in a stable must show the true owner of the horse on the test papers and not list the boarding stable as the owner."

4. "Any alterations of the Equine Anemia test report will invalidate the certificate and the animal will not be allowed to participate in the exhibition," Dr. Knowles said.

Anyone needing an EIA test report perforated can get this done by sending or bringing their report to the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Animal Health Section, Room 240, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, Maryland 21401, telephone (301) 841-5810.

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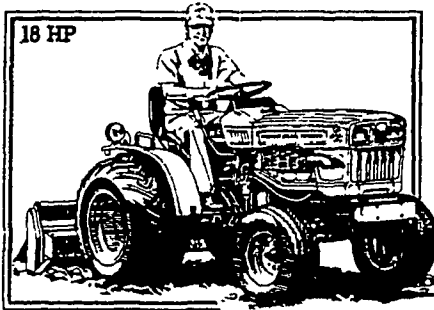
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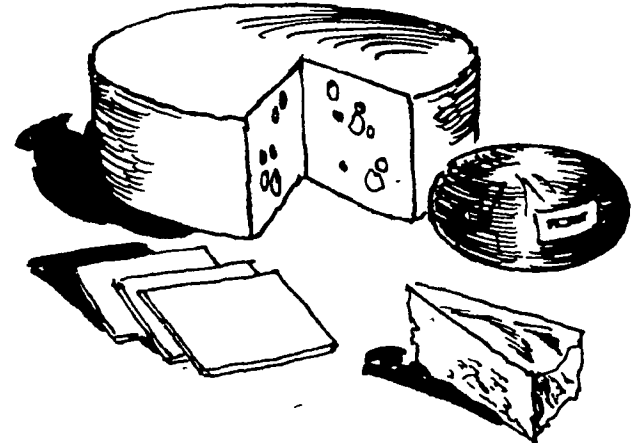


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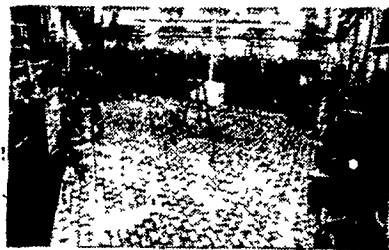


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