

Lyme Disease Poses Silent Danger

(Continued from Page B9)

Why does this problem occur? Why can't a person get help? Lack of education and no standard tests make Lyme disease difficult to diagnose and at times to treat.

Dr. Dale Tavis M.D. MPH, past director Division of Acute Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Pennsylvania, states "The public should know that there is virtually no county in Pennsylvania which is known to be free of this disease." Lyme disease is a reportable disease, and recent statistics tell us that Pennsylvania consistently ranks second or third in the nation with reported cases of Lyme disease.

Unfortunately, these statistics are not entirely true. Cases are suspected of being much higher, because the Centers for Disease Control requires a Lyme disease patient to have a positive blood test, or rash with known tick bite in order to be reported. It is estimated only 50 percent - 60 percent of people get a rash. There are no standard tests and each laboratory reads the tests differently. How unfortunate, the disease has a "95 percent cure rate when detected early." (Lyme Disease Foundation) Dr. Kenneth B. Liegner an expert on Lyme disease says "You can have Lyme disease with a negative blood test. Negative blood tests are a real phenomenon, occurring in both early and late cases." Dr. Liegner also states the "many patients with active Lyme

disease will remain undiagnosed or be dismissed as "misdiagnosed" until widespread availability of a "gold standard" test."

"Lyme disease related illnesses, absenteeism and loss of productivity cost American businesses hundreds of thousands of dollars annually." (Lyme Disease Foundation) Too many Lyme disease patients are losing their jobs — a serious problem when you consider many of them become totally disabled. This represents another cost to society.

What is the answer to this confusing, difficult to diagnose, and misunderstood disease?

Trail Ride To Benefit Therapeutic Riding Program

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — The Lancaster County 4-H Therapeutic Riding Program has scheduled a fund-raising trail ride Sunday, September 28, at the Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area, Fair Hill, Maryland. The 15-mile ride will be held rain or shine, with registration from 10 - 10:45 a.m. and the ride beginning at 11 a.m. A rider must provide his or her own horse and be at

least eight years of age to participate.

Riders are asked to collect sponsorships totaling at least \$25 or pay an entry fee of \$20 to ride. All proceeds from the Trail Ride will benefit the therapeutic riding program in Lancaster County.

For further information on the ride or to obtain registration and pledge forms, please call (717) 335-3139 or (717) 284-2020.

EDUCATION!

During the past six years First Capital Lyme Network, a local non-profit organization has grown from 10 chronic Lyme disease patients to a database of 1,000. The patient advocacy and educational programs are some of the best in the State. This debilitating and sometimes chronic disease can be prevented through proper education. Everyone can continue enjoying the great outdoors without fear and with good health.

For more information on Lyme disease, write to First Capital Lyme Network, 115 Valley Rd., Windsor, PA 17366.



Maryland FFA Safe Tractor Operator's Contest

Taylor Sines of the Oakland FFA chapter won the first place plaque in the Safe Tractor Operator's contest Aug. 28 during the Maryland State Fair in Timonium.

The Safe Tractor Operator's Contest is sponsored by Eastern Equipment Dealer's Association as a special project of the Maryland FFA Foundation. The second place individual for the contest was Adam Mathews of the

Walkersville FFA chapter.

According to the contest superintendent, Dr. Lee Grant, of the Department of Agricultural Engineering at the University of Maryland at College Park, there were 12 regional representatives registered. The contest consisted of three components — a written examination, safe tractor operation, and a problem solving activity. Each student drove a tractor through two courses, one with a two-wheel implement and one with four-wheel implement towed behind. The students were evaluated during the driving section on safety, time, and accuracy while driving the course. In the problem solving, each student was given a tractor that would not start and had to find the problem and correct it.



Taylor Sines won first place in the Maryland FFA Safe Tractor Operator's Contest.



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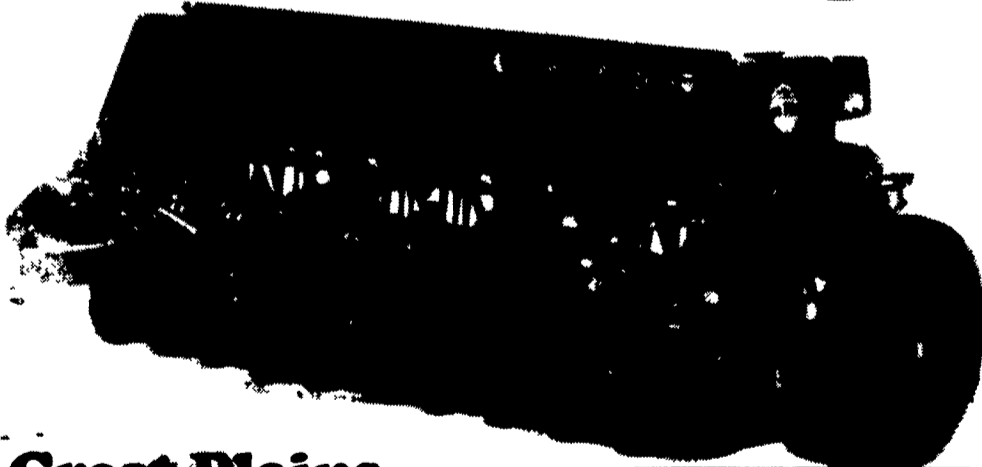
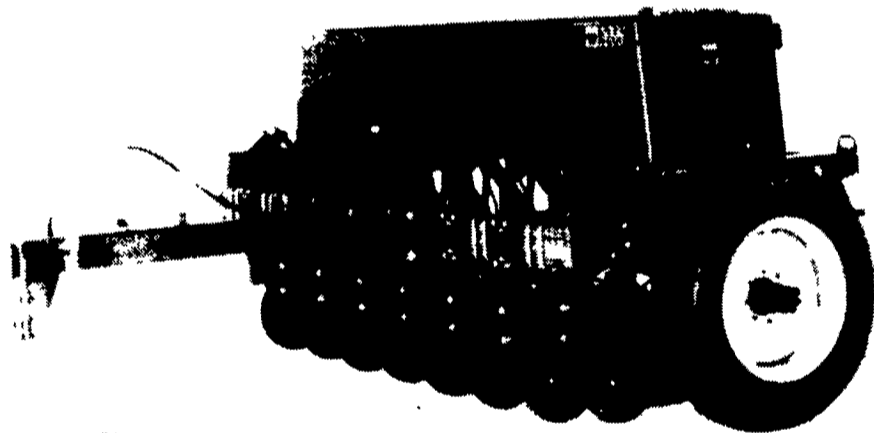
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