

1999

## 50 Years Ago

Iowa State University Veterinarian

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### Recommended Citation

Iowa State University Veterinarian (1999) "50 Years Ago," *Iowa State University Veterinarian*: Vol. 61 : Iss. 2 , Article 8.

Available at: [http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate\\_veterinarian/vol61/iss2/8](http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate_veterinarian/vol61/iss2/8)

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The following excerpts are from actual printed articles taken from Spring, Summer, and Winter 1949 issues of the *ISU Veterinarian*, then known as *The Veterinary Student*.

### "X" Disease Mortality

The mortality of "X" disease appears to be the greatest in young calves and may destroy the entire calf crop. In calves under 6 months the mortality may reach 75-80 percent. In older calves the mortality usually varies between 50-60 percent. In adult cattle the losses are from 10-35 percent depending on the severity of the outbreak. "X" disease is known to be present in 37 states at this time.

*Editor's Note: "X" disease was later identified as Bovine Hyperkeratosis. This disease is due to a toxicity associated with highly chlorinated naphthalenes. These toxic pollutants were commonly used as lubricants and also found in wood preservatives. "X" disease is now only of historical interest as manufacturing of the toxic compounds was halted in the late 1970s. The toxicity was highest among younger animals and had no known treatment.*

### Expensive Meat

Djelal, a high-strung French stallion went mad with fright on the first leg of an air trip to the United States and killed himself in frantic efforts to kick his way out of the plane. The 4-year old horse, winner of races in both France and England, was sold to an American syndicate of breeders for \$250,000.

Seventeen dogs, all barking frantically, were cooped in the plane with the frenzied Djelal and were still barking when the pilot took off again after making an emergency stop to get rid of the body.

### Veterinary Service in Wartime

During both the Civil and Spanish-American Wars (prior to the organization of the United States Army Veterinary Corps) terrific losses

of animals were experienced. By way of contrast, during World War II, not a single animal plague occurred among the many thousands of horses, mules, war dogs, and pigeons which were used in military operations by our troops. Further, through the activities of the United States Army Veterinary Corps, the United States was able to maintain its fortunate position of remaining free from 15 livestock maladies of major importance in the world.

### Modern Bathrooms

The number of United States farm houses with modern bathrooms more than doubled between 1940 and 1947.

### Peasant Conspiracy

Four peasants were sentenced to death in 1948 for killing pigs. A people's court in Osijek, Croatia, condemned them on charges of economic sabotage by feeding poison to 680 pigs on a government-owned model farm.

### Opportunities in California

The California State Division of Animal Industry offers excellent opportunities for careers in veterinary medicine under civil service merit system to graduates of recognized veterinary colleges. The annual entrance salary is \$358, and increases are made in steps of \$376, \$395, \$415, and \$436. California residence requirement is waived and the examination will be given nationwide. Vacancies exist in the animal disease field in bovine tuberculosis, meat inspection work, and laboratory work in livestock and poultry diseases.

### Zinc

The role of zinc in animal nutrition is obscure. It is thought to function as a constituent of one or more enzymes. It seems to be a constituent of insulin, secreted by the pancreas. A deficiency of zinc has never been observed on any type of practical ration and it seems extremely unlikely that it will ever occur due to the minute amounts required. ♦