Livestock Disease Situation- 1960

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as she's cleaned up before being placed in the farrowing stall.

Problems caused by poultry lice and mites are being reduced by malathion applications to poultry houses before pullets are housed or if infestations break out in a farm flock.

The biggest insect pest problem for livestock is the fly problem. We must continue to stress the sanitation aspects. Many flies can hatch from small breeding areas. Diazinon continues as the best insecticide for residual applications on walls and fences. Pyrethrin mixtures are the only good sprays for application to dairy cattle and must be applied daily. Various highly advertised fly repellants, added to pyrethrin sprays, do a fair job. But they're not the cure-all many cattlemen expect. No better dairy fly sprays seem in the offing for 1960.

Heavy May-June rains promoted the appearance of swarms of mosquitoes all over Iowa. Many towns, large and small, attacked them with a variety of weapons. Most well-planned programs prevented severe mosquito annoyance. But emergency programs, started after the mosquitoes were biting, didn't do the job. Start planning NOW for a successful program this year. Get our pamphlet, Pm-257, from us or your county extension office for suggestions.

A new pest for livestock may get into Iowa this year. The face fly has occurred in eastern North America since 1952. Ohio, Indiana and Illinois in 1959 reported large numbers of these flies clustering on the faces of cattle and horses, probably transmitting pink eye of cattle. It could be an important pest.

Rodents . . .

Rat and mouse populations were unusually high last year. The huge supply of corn on farms will tend to keep rat populations up this year. We'd suggest that every farm and town carry out a continuous rat-poisoning program with anti-coagulant baits along with a clean-up of rat harbors and the rat-proofing of all buildings housing food or feed.

Livestock Disease Situation—1960

by John B. Herrick

DISEASES, and the problems of their control, present one of the greatest lags in successful livestock production. It has been estimated that the average Iowa livestock producer loses $1,500 a year from livestock disease. So you as a livestock producer have a definite part in disease control in Iowa. And, for very real reasons, should be concerned about disease control not only in your own livestock but in your neighbors' stock as well.

How well are we doing with disease control in Iowa? In some categories, we're doing very well; in others, not so well. Generally speaking, and considering the diversified livestock population in the state, disease control is satisfactory, veterinary service is readily available, and we have a minimum of disease epidemics.

Specifically, however, Iowa is lagging in adequate disease-control laws. Many of our present laws are antiquated, not enforceable or not effective against our present-day problems. Livestock dealers, the majority of whom are reputable, are not licensed or controlled, thus permitting the operation of "scalpers" in the livestock business. Our regulatory force is totally inadequate—there are only seven district veterinarians.

Brucellosis control is lagging to the point where Iowa's cattle and milk may be discriminated against. Lack of solid, workable legislation has prevented Iowa from moving ahead in the eradication of this disease, though our neighboring states have almost completely eradicated brucellosis from their herds.

Less than one-third of the swine in Iowa were vaccinated for cholera during 1959. As a result, chol-
ample pretty pointedly illustrates caused considerable financial losses in many herds. This example pretty pointedly illustrates the saying, "Cheap pork doesn't mean poor management." Leptospirosis is also causing financial losses in Iowa herds.

Need More Knowledge...

Livestock in Iowa have many diseases for which presently known control or eradication measures aren't adequate. We don't have enough knowledge about these diseases. Leptospirosis, respiratory disease of swine, diseases of feedlot cattle and parasite control of livestock are examples which take a terrific toll in terms of money each year. Further research is needed on many diseases peculiar to Iowa livestock if we want to prevent these losses.

Many producers believe that the Federal Disease Control Laboratory located near Ames will investigate disease problems peculiar to Iowa. This, however, is not the case. Investigations of this laboratory will deal with diseases that are national and international in scope and will not specifically deal with all the diseases common in Iowa. Thus, we'll need to support our own needs.

The amount of money spent needlessly by the livestock industry for tonics, concoctions and "cures" from peddlers is estimated to be over a million dollars a year. If this money were diverted to research toward solving our problems—rather than poured down the drain for so-called "cures"—it would ultimately go far toward control of the diseases troubling the livestock industry.

What Can You Do?

Livestock owners have an obligation to promote disease control in their own interest. Here are some suggestions on action that can be taken.

1. Practice disease prevention. The practical approach is to attempt to prevent disease instead of waiting for your stock to become sick and then attempting "cures." A businesslike procedure that you can adopt is to plan your livestock production program right from the start. A meeting with your veterinarian and feed man to map out immunization programs, feeding schedules and formulas and management practices—while considering possible costs—is the sound approach to the problems on your farm.

2. Support research on disease. Livestock groups, such as breed organizations, producer groups and farm organizations, should have a definite interest in disease control because it affects not only their members individually but also the industry as a whole. If you're concerned about livestock disease control, joining these groups and helping to stimulate their support for disease research might eventually mean improved incomes for all livestock producers in the state.

3. Support disease control measures. Traffic of livestock over state lines, diseased stock moving through sale barns and lack of quarantines on farms with disease outbreaks all affect you and cost you money. Livestock producers, themselves, through their associations and livestock groups, can help formulate and work for sound disease laws. The laws we now have aren't adequate.

4. Think of your family. Diseases of animals are transmissible to man. Leptospirosis, brucellosis, rabies and other virus diseases can cause human illness and sometimes death. Undoubtedly there are many other livestock diseases which are transmissible to humans, but we're not aware of these diseases. Research could reveal them. They can be controlled in humans by controlling them in livestock.

Meat production—whether pork, beef, mutton or fowl—is a business. And businesslike tactics in meat production hinge on the relationship of breeding, feeding, management and disease control. Prevention of diseases is the logical approach. Sit down with your veterinarian to map out your own program for disease prevention. And share your responsibility for statewide research and control. That $1,500 loss per farm from disease can be reduced considerably if livestock producers work together. This is the year to get disease control programs in action.

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