

Disease Attacks Mules and Horses in Several Eastern States

Encephalomyelitis Is Reported In Neighboring County of Bertie

Farmers Should Pay Special Attention To Team at This Time of Year
By A. J. OSTEN

There has appeared in North Carolina within the past few weeks a disease of horses and mules known as infectious equine Encephalomyelitis. This disease is no stranger to North Carolina, but insofar as is known has never yet appeared in epidemic form. This year there have been many thousand cases in the Western United States extending South from northern Manitoba in Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. On the eastern seaboard, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and at this writing, South Carolina are all reporting cases of the disease.

There are two distinct forms of the disease termed eastern strain and western strain, the latter never having appeared as far as it is known east of the Alleghenies. There is no indication however, that the western strain might not be brought into the east as numbers of horses are imported from various parts of the western United States.

The eastern strain of encephalomyelitis has heretofore appeared around tide water in the southeastern states, but this year has shown up as far as 100 miles inland from the coast. At the present time there have been reported in this state some fifty cases which have appeared in the following counties:

Sampson, Cumberland, New Hanover, Jones, Craven, Bertie and Pasquotank.

There are three phases of the disease. The symptoms in general are more or less constant, but may vary considerably—and the diagnosis of the disease should depend upon an examination by a qualified veterinarian who may in turn require laboratory aid for confirmation.

The first stage may escape the notice of a casual observer, since it consists ordinarily of a mild indisposition generally accompanied with a rise in temperature.

The second stage is characterized by:

1. Distinct nervous symptoms.
2. Either complete loss for desire of food and water or only impairment of ability to masticate or swallow.
3. Foul smelling discharge from mouth and nostrils as a result of retention of food in mouth.
4. Yawning, grinding of teeth, twitching of muscles of lips and jaws or paralysis of lips and tongue.
6. The animal becomes drowsy and stupid, the head often hangs low in a general attitude of extreme depression.
7. A tendency to pull back on the halter or walk backwards if untied.
8. Some animals walk continually usually in one direction with a swaying, staggering, stumbling gait.
9. The animal may stand as though fastened to the ground, refusing to be led and being especially incapable of backing.
10. Some animals become excited and unmanageable, lunging about the stall or butting head into objects in its path.

The third stage:
1. Horse is unable to stand without support and collapses to the ground.
2. Temperature may be elevated or even sub-normal.
3. Functions of elimination retarded.
4. Rapid loss of weight due to dehydration.

In the third stage of the disease a fatal termination usually follows. In nearly all cases a yellowish discoloration of the membranes of the eyes, grinding of the teeth, staggering gait and sleepiness are seen at some time during course of disease. So called cases of "blind staggers" may be encephalomyelitis. It is advisable to consult your veterinarian immediately, and if a diagnosis of encephalomyelitis is given it is of utmost importance that all healthy horses and mules on an infected farm or in an infected area should be vaccinated with chick embryo vaccine which confers a sufficient immunity within twenty-four hours to withstand the disease.

There have been over 100,000 horses protected against this disease in both the eastern and western part of the United States. No questionable results have been reported. The disease has not yet reached epidemic form in North Carolina. Vaccination will prevent its doing so. And vaccination should be done now.

All farmers should pay special attention to their mules and horses particularly at this time of the year. Should they discover any animal off feed, dull or sluggish they should have them looked after immediately by a veterinarian.

This disease should be stopped at the onset to prevent many horses and mules unnecessarily being lost. A proper diagnosis followed by a proper vaccination at the correct time will save a majority of mules and horses.

Uncle Jim Says



Records studied by the State College Extension Service show that about three times as many automobiles were sold in farm states in 1937 as were sold in 1932. Farm cash income in 1937 was twice as big as income in 1932.

Co-Op Associations Increase Hog Sales

More hogs were sold cooperatively by North Carolina farmers during the first half of 1938 than during the entire year 1937, according to H. W. Taylor, extension swine specialist at State College.

Ten of the 15 markets where swine are sold through local cooperative marketing associations reported that from December 1, 1937, to mid-June, 1938, they shipped 48,419 hogs that brought \$765,974.42. On 14 markets last year, 48,297 hogs were sold for \$951,561.70.

When reports from all 15 markets for the first half of this year are tabulated, Taylor continued, the total amount received for hogs will run considerably above the figure for all of 1937.

Last year the hogs averages 199 pounds apiece and sold for \$10.40 a hundredweight. This year the average weight was 193 pounds and the price was approximately \$8.21 a hundredweight. Hog prices this year were affected by general business conditions and an increase of swine production over the country.

The 10 markets from which reports have been compiled so far are at Tarboro, Plymouth, Warsaw, Washington, Four Oaks, Shawboro, Elizabethtown, Greenville, Cofield and Lumberton.

The marketing associations are local organizations composed of growers and are operated by members elected to serve as officers. They are assisted by county farm agents and the extension swine specialist, who has devoted much of his time to this phase of cooperative marketing during the past year and a half.

The associations sell direct to the packing companies who submit sealed bids for the farmers' offerings. Arrangements are being made to have trained men from the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics grade the hogs for hard, soft or oily pork.

Johnston Farmer Doing Research Work In Corn

W. A. Davis, of near Clayton, Johnston County, is conducting some research work with hybrid corn in cooperation with Dr. G. K. Middleton of State College. The hybrid varieties will yield from 10 to 20 per cent higher per acre than other corns, he reports.

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Healthiest boy and girl among North Carolina's 45,000 4-H club members are Clifford Ousley, Harnett County, and Ruth King Mason, Iredell County.

These two 16-year-old youngsters were crowned King and Queen of Health in an elaborate coronation ceremony held as a part of the recent 4-H short course at State College.

To achieve this honor, both had to overcome strong competition. First they were county winners, then district winners, and finally State champions.

Animal Diseases Take Heavy Toll

Hog cholera and other inflammatory diseases necessitated the condemnation of 66 per cent of all meat rejected as "unit for human consumption" by North Carolina Department of Agriculture inspectors during the past quarter, Dr. William Moore, chief of the department's veterinary division, reported today.

"We are now doing something about hog cholera and swine parasites and the fact that two-thirds of the condemned meat placed on state supervised markets has been found to be infected emphasizes the importance of control measures," Dr. Moore said. Six veterinarians, working under the supervision of the State Department of Agriculture, are now in the field promoting an animal disease control program.

The quarterly report of the veterinary division, covering nearly 30,000 animals slaughtered during the period, follows:

Animals inspected — 29,787, including 4,040 cattle, 10,803 hogs, 14,255 calves, 659 sheep and 30 goats.

Only one animal of the entire number inspected was condemned because of tuberculosis, "which emphasizes the value of the animal tuberculosis eradication successfully completed by the department several years ago," said Dr. Moore.

Total value of animal products rejected as "unwholesome and unfit

them to make every effort to carry out all the practices to meet their soil-building goal so they can qualify for the full amount of their agricultural conservation payments. Applying lime and phosphate are among the recommended practices.

He pointed out that in an experiment with an untreated pasture, 46 pounds of beef were produced per year by each acre, and at the end of five years only 10 per cent of the desirable grasses and legumes remained. But a lime and phosphated pasture produced 128 pounds of beef per acre per year and after five years 99 per cent of the desirable grasses and legumes were growing luxuriantly.

Women Are Fast Realizing Usefulness of Beer At Meals

"The way we're selling bottled and canned beer nowadays," says Mr. G. H. Harrison of the Harrison Wholesale Company, local distributors for Jos. Schlitz Brewing Company, "indicates that more and more women in this section are discovering the usefulness of beer as a brightener of meals.

"Many housewives and up-to-date hostesses have for some years relied on the magic of a tall, frosty glass of creamy-topped brew to add zest to choice cold cuts and sandwiches," Mr. Harrison explained. "Today more and more women are includ-

ing fine beer on their home menus to make regular meals cooler and more inviting."

Mr. Harrison pointed out that while beer has been traditionally associated with most of the foods women naturally serve in the light, informal meals of hot weather, it also goes exceedingly well with numerous hot dishes, adding just the right cool touch to go along with the warm food.

"Especially suitable to serve with food," he declared, "is Schlitz beer. Brewed perfectly to the modern taste, Schlitz achieves a rich, hearty flavor without heaviness. Moreover, being delightfully dry, it is neither too sweet nor too bitter."

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