

Fight against cattle disease that ends reproduction in cows

The recent slight increase in the incidence of brucellosis, a bacterial disease in cattle, has caused renewed interest, but also has produced some confusion among some people, says Dr. A.E. Lewis, director of the Contagious Diseases Division, Canada Agriculture.

The disease, which affects the reproductive system causing abortion in pregnant cows, does not cause death in the infected animal.

An animal becomes infected by ingesting the live organism which moves directly to the animal's reproductive tract. Some animals may abort only once and experience no further problems. Infected cattle, however, are contagious.

To test for infection, a blood sample drawn from the animal's jugular vein, is sent to a Federal Government laboratory.

"These tests are among the most reliable diagnostic tests we have. About 95 per cent of infected cattle are detected in the first test and 99.5 per cent turn up in subsequent blood tests conducted 30 days and 90 days after initial discovery. Results are available

to the farmer about ten days after each test," Dr. Lewis says.

If test results are positive the farmer's herd is placed under quarantine, preventing the farmer from adding or removing animals from his herd.

Farmer compensated

Infected animals are immediately ordered slaughtered and the farmer is compensated by the Federal Government at a rate of up to \$300 for each purebred and up to \$150 for each grade animal, which is in addition to his returns based on the market value of the carcass. Because brucellosis affects only the reproductive system, the rest of the carcass can be safely processed.

Brucellosis can cause undulant fever in humans and can be contracted if a person drinks raw milk from an infected cow or comes into direct contact with infected material.

In the 1950s there were about some 15 cases reported each year, with a slight increase in the 1960s. There were 16 cases reported in 1972 and seven cases of undulant fever recorded in 1973.



Dr. J.L. Seguin, federal veterinarian in the Ottawa area, draws a blood sample from a cow's jugular vein to

test for brucellosis, a disease that affects the reproductive system and causes abortion in pregnant cows.

Daily check on the sick and the elderly

The free telephone-contact service for elderly and disabled persons living alone in Winnipeg, Manitoba, is being continued this summer under the supervision of the provincial government's Department of Health and Social Development.

Initiated two summers ago as part of the Students Employment Program (STEP), the "Daily Hello" telephone reassurance service is designed to provide social contact and prevent cases where older persons living alone may be unable to summon help during an emergency and may remain ill or hurt for some days before being discovered.

The service was continued over the past two winters on a voluntary basis by housewives in the community and elderly persons in nursing homes and hostels.

An increasing number of elderly and disabled persons living alone are susceptible to serious falls, strokes or sudden illness. Recently, in Winnipeg, there have been several incidents in which elderly persons were lying sick or hurt for several days before being discovered.

The 60 to 65 volunteers of the "Daily Hello" service make telephone calls at a prearranged time every day to those persons on their register. The caller-contact checks on the subscriber's health and safety, provides social contact, and provides assistance in an emergency situation.

The service also provides a free short-term service to elderly and disabled persons who are alone while their relatives are on holiday.

Stratford — 1974 season

Following a successful seven-and-a-half week Australian tour, the Stratford Festival company will appear this summer in five major productions at the Festival and Avon Theatres, and four works at the Third Stage. Concerts and an international film festival complete the program for the twenty-second season and Jean Gascon's seventh and final, as artistic director. The season runs from May 16 to October 26.

Molière's *The Imaginary Invalid*, directed by Jean Gascon, designed by