

HOG CHOLERA.

Hog cholera is a contagious disease of swine. It does not appear to affect other species of animals, and is characterized by extreme contagiousness and a high death rate. It is known in every part of the world and is prevalent in the United States to an alarming extent, causing enormous losses. In Canada, the disease appears from time to time in various parts of the country where the infection has been brought in some way or other, and it is to put the owners of swine on their guard and to tell them what to do in case the disease makes its appearance that this bulletin is issued.

The cause of the disease is a germ, and without the presence of the germ there can be no hog cholera. In other words, such things as neglect, bad feeding, filthy surroundings, have no power to produce hog cholera. But when the infection is introduced among hogs under such conditions, the disease spreads with great rapidity.

The spread of the disease occurs whenever the germs from a diseased hog gain access to the healthy one, and this takes place in many different ways. Actual contact of the healthy and diseased hogs is a sure way to spread the disease, but it can be conveyed in many other ways.

The diseased hog gives off the germs of the disease in his urine and manure, and thus distributes infectious matter throughout his pen, pasture, or the railway car in which he is going to market. Healthy hogs placed in such premises after the diseased ones have been removed will contract the disease.

Another way infection is carried is upon the feet of men or animals, including birds. Curious neighbors, wishing to see what hog cholera looks like, may easily take the infection home to their own hogs on their boots or clothing. Wandering dogs may also act as carriers, and the common domestic pigeons may feed in an infected pen, and fly to some neighbouring farm carrying the infection on their feet.

Another mode of infection has recently come to light and is responsible for many outbreaks of the disease in Canada. This takes place through the feeding of uncooked garbage and swill containing scraps of pork, bacon rind, etc., in the raw state. The explanation of this lies in the fact that in the United States many hogs are sent to the slaughter house when in the early stages of hog cholera, and are killed, turned into pork and consumed for food without hindrance. This is possible because there is a lapse of some days between the time when the hog becomes infected and the time when he shows symptoms of it. This is known as the period of incubation, and hogs killed during this period may, and often do, show no symptoms to the meat inspector that anything is wrong.

The meat from such hogs contains the germs of the disease, and such processes as salting, spicing, or smoking, do not destroy these germs. Cooking does destroy them, and as a quantity of United States pork is consumed in this country owners are cautioned not to feed kitchen refuse to hogs unless it has first been cooked.

Infection may also be carried from farm to farm in the water of a stream flowing through an infected pasture or pig-pen.

Symptoms.

The early symptoms are not characteristic of the disease and may not enable