Brucellosis Tests Urged
In All Louisiana's Herds

Based on the last census of 60,608 cattle herds in Louisiana, 16.8 per cent or 10,203 herds indicate some continuing degree of brucellosis infection, according to Dr. Albin G. Pass, veterinarian in charge of the Animal Health Division of Agricultural Research Service.

These 10,203 herds have indicated suspicious or positive reactions to screening tests made at milk plants, slaughtering establishments, and auction markets, or to on-the-farm tests.

Statistics show that the degree of infection in individual parishes ranges from 0.4 to 45 per cent, covering from one to 653 herds in the parishes.

Owners of herds tested for brucellosis are notified of the test results and those herds which show suspicious or positive results are eligible for on-the-farm blood testing without cost to the owner. In addition, the owner is eligible, upon compliance with state and federal requirements, for payments of indemnity on animals which react and are removed from the herd.

Indications are that owners are becoming more aware of brucellosis as a serious and rapid spreading disease which reduces not only the value of the infected animal, but also milk and calf production. The disease is difficult to detect, since it shows various symptoms. Blood testing is the most reliable and practical way of diagnosis, officials say.

The fight against brucellosis is being waged not only on a state level, but nation-wide. As the disease is eradicated in other states, additional limitations on movements of cattle from states like Louisiana, which have a high degree of infection, will become more severe.

For this and many other reasons officials believe it becomes increasingly important that every effort be made to eradicate brucellosis from the livestock population in Louisiana without delay. This is a job which offers challenge and responsibility to every cattle owner in the state.

Veterinarians, county agents, and livestock association officials will furnish information in connection with the brucellosis program. Cattle owners are urged to contact any of these individuals, the Animal Health Division office or Dr. F. B. Wheeler of the Livestock Sanitary Board for information regarding the program.

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