

'Swamp disease' virus of horses confirmed in Oregon; 11 ranch animals destroyed in John Day area; no cure nor vaccine known

Acute equine infectious anemia—a virus disease of horses—has been confirmed by laboratory analysis for the first time in Oregon, requiring the destruction of 11 ranch horses from a John Day area cattle ranch.

The discovery of the disease, more commonly known as "swamp fever", was made by veterinarians investigating the report of illness in horses on the Truman Cross Ranch in Gilliam County.

State Veterinarian Glenn Rea said the disease is a regulatory one, making it a factor in interstate shipment of horses.

He said, "The disorder has no known cure and there is no vaccine. Consequently, the animals literally have to take their chances if they contract the virus." The organism remains in an affected horse for the remainder of its life.

Dr. Rea said that the Coggins Test—a legally required blood test for any shipment of horses into or out of Oregon—is the most accurate indicator of the presence of the disease.

Because of the availability of the blood test, one precaution which horsemen can take in central Oregon in particular is to require testing before a horse is purchased.

"At this point, we haven't had any indications that other animals not located on the Cross Ranch have contracted the disease. Our approach will be to advise veterinarians of the presence of the problem and to encourage horse owners to be aware of the symptoms," Dr. Rea said.

The initial symptoms, quite literally, resemble a bad case of the flu in humans.

Sporadic fever, apathy, weakness and weight loss are the first symptoms, anemia, bleeding and other more visible symptoms follow.

Horse flies and other blood-

sucking insects are carriers of the disorder.

"Our great concern with this disease is the fact that an

infected animal can serve as a host for the disease for the rest

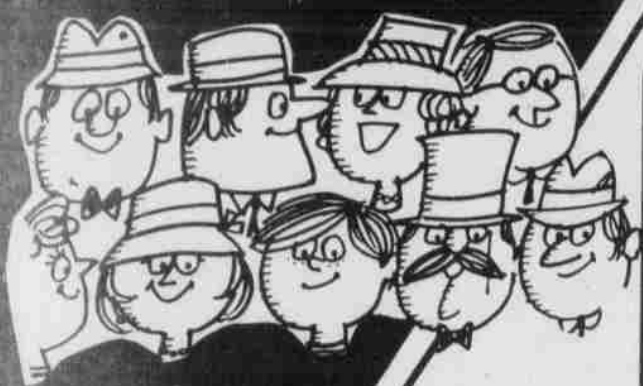
of its life. That is what makes it such a potential threat to a

horse population. Right now, we have no evidence to

indicate that the virus has gone beyond the ranch where

it was discovered," Dr. Rea said.

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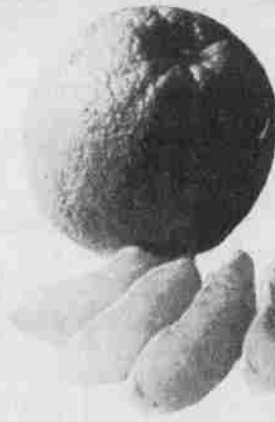
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## Deadline for poster art set

Deadline for entries in an annual environmental poster contest highlighting the USDA Forest Service symbols Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl is Jan. 5, 1980. The contest is sponsored by the National Council of State Garden Clubs in cooperation with the Forest Service and State Foresters. Anyone may participate, with a special invitation to youth and senior citizens. Categories of competition are: (1) Kindergarten-second grade, (2) third-fifth grades, (3) sixth-eighth grades, (4) ninth-12th grades, and (5) above 12th grade.

Posters may consist of either a picture or a slogan, or a combination, and should have an environmental theme. The posters may feature Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl or neither. Any art materials may be used, but work must be original.

Posters must be no larger than 12 by 18 inches, with the artist's name, grade or age, and home address printed in the lower right corner on the back of each entry. Copies of rules are available from Forest Service offices.

Entries may be mailed to the state poster contest chairmen, Mrs. Walter Ricks at 2310 Beall Lane in Central Point, Oregon 97401.

State winners will be announced in January and their posters will be submitted for regional competition.

## Tips given handicapped

The President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped suggests that if you are handicapped and in need of a job, ask your local state employment service—or Job Service—office which employers are covered by Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. These companies are not allowed to discriminate against handicapped applicants.