

Blue Tongue Threat To Sheep, Cattle Studied By Ranchers In Oregon Area

(Editor's Note: This is the second of a series of three articles prepared by the state department of agriculture to acquaint farmers and ranchers with new diseases affecting the \$390 million Oregon livestock industry. The first one dealt with leptospirosis.)

Not only sheep, but cattle and goats too, may be infected by blue tongue, one of the "new" and important contagious diseases of sheep diagnosed for the first time in this country in California less than a year ago. Officials say nothing short of a miracle will keep it out of Oregon. They're hoping for the miracle but preparing the other way.

One of the steps in this preparation is to advise stockmen what this disease is like, so they may be on the lookout for it. Cattle or goats show no symptoms but may be carriers. But in sheep, there are some signs that point to blue tongue, a virus disease transmitted by a small gnat, the Culicoides.

These signs are: (1) a blue tongue, just as one would assume from the name; (2) redness of the lips, with swelling and edema; (3) a watery nasal discharge growing into pus; (4) erosions on the mucous membrane of the mouth; (5) crusts on the lips and nose which bleed when removed; (6) redness at the coronary band of the foot; (7) eventually lameness.

As the disease progresses, Dr. K. J. Peterson, the state veterinarian, points out, swelling of the submaxillary space (below the lower jaw) is common, ears may

become swollen, muscular degeneration and atrophy may develop and emaciation may become severe. Sometimes edema of the lungs develops. This is followed by severe respiratory distress and usually results in sudden death.

Breaks in the wool and bald spots are often found in animals that recover from blue tongue.

This is a seasonal disease. It appears in the latter part of the summer and grows worse until late fall. If blue tongue strikes, one may well offer a supplication for a heavy frost, and quickly. A heavy frost checks the spread immediately.

This disease, while contagious, is not passed directly from sheep to sheep. The villain transmitter, the gnat, carries the organism after feeding on blood from infected sheep, cattle or goats to sheep. Cattle or goats, though they show no symptoms, and affected sheep, may be "blood banks" of sinister character for the gnat for as long as two months.

Reports from South Africa, Palestine and Cyprus (only places where the disease was known until the recent introduction to the United States) shows that rams are more susceptible than ewes. The disease does not distinguish between youth and age in its attacks; lambs and adults are equally susceptible.

Quarantine, South Africa has found, is not the answer to combating this disease; too many animals may carry the infected blood and besides that, the gnat that spreads it doesn't read quarantine notices.

So far, no known treatment is effective against the virus though the sulfa and antibiotics have been used with some success to control the secondary invaders.

Vaccination is the only method of control up to this time, and in South Africa a yearly vaccination program has been adopted. A vaccine is being developed at the California Veterinary College at Davis, California, and officials and veterinarians will pin their hopes on this vaccine if the disease should become a serious problem in the West this year. The head of the South Africa veterinary services, Dr. R. A. Alexander, was in this country earlier this year to acquaint U. S. veterinarians with the disease and vaccination measures. He guided the first work on the vaccine being developed in California.

Next and last article: Vesicular Exanthema and Scrapie.

New Man To Take Over Field Work

George E. Blosser of Moscow, Idaho, has been named Holstein-Friesian Fieldman for the 7-state Northwest territory.

He will represent the Holstein-Friesian Association of America and its affiliated groups in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, Utah and Colorado and will establish offices at Moscow, Idaho this month.

Blosser is a graduate of the University of Idaho and just recently completed 2½ years work as a DHIA tester in Washington and Idaho. His background includes a lifetime of experience with registered Holsteins at the Ivy Bower Holstein farm owned by his father, T. H. Blosser of Nappanee, Ind., a member of the national Holstein group since 1914 and long a breeder of fine Holstein dairy cattle.

Blosser remained on the home farm taking part in all phases of work until he entered the U. S. Navy during World War II.

He was in 4-H work for 8 years with many honors, and completed high school at New Paris, Indiana.

Blosser will be well-known to breeders of Holsteins in his new territory through his brother, Dr. T. H. Blosser, professor of dairy science at State College of Washington and a recognized leader in dairy science circles.

Blosser will take up his duties in the Northwest immediately following an intensive period of training and familiarization with field problems both at the national headquarters of the association in Brattleboro, Vermont and at field events all across the nation.

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Grain Meet Dinner Set

TULELAKE—Roast beef, with all of its trimmings, will be served to those attending the Grain Improvement Banquet at Tulelake, July 30, by the ladies of the Guild. This decision was reached at a meeting of the Tulelake Growers Association Grain committee, held

Silver Creek Fishing Open

Silver Creek reservoir in Harney County is the newest addition to trout fishing waters in that section of Oregon. The reservoir constructed by the Silver Creek Irrigation district is located approximately eight miles south of the Burns-Burns highway. It is reached by a road leaving the highway about one-fourth mile east of Riley station. The new reservoir covers over 600 acres when full but irrigation use will reduce the volume considerably each season. The same commission has stocked the reservoir with rainbow trout of catchable size. Later, spring rainbow fry will be introduced.

No camping facilities are provided and anglers should take their own drinking water with them. The bag limit at the reservoir is the same as the general bag limit throughout the state.

In Tulelake, June 30, according to Don Potter, chairman of the Grain committee, Mrs. H. T. Street, chairman of the Guild dinner committee assured the committee that there would be plenty of good food served as only the ladies of the Guild can do.

A tally by the ticket sales committee indicated that most of the tickets for the banquet have been sold, and barley growers interested in attending the banquet should secure their tickets immediately from any of the ticket sales committee, or at the Tulelake Growers office, in Tulelake.

Marion Palmer, chairman of the dinner committee, stated that the Tulelake Garden Club would arrange for table decorations for

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Growers Ask Off Grade Law

Less tolerance of off grade in Klamath Basin potato packs is suggested by a resolution passed at a Klamath Potato Growers Association meeting at Merrill Tuesday evening.

Action by the Association asks for revision of Federal grades to provide for a 4 per cent instead of a 6 per cent tolerance for off grade.

Growers also asked that the State Department of Agriculture hold hearings to determine whether or not the two State grades, Standard and Utility might be made available for use in late crop areas.

The grades are identical to Idaho's and are in use for summer crop potatoes in the Ontario area.

Both grades require No. 2 potatoes. In practice, however, Idaho Utility has been used for poor No. 2's while Idaho Standard packs often contain a percentage of No. 1's.

At present, when combination packs of No. 1's and No. 2's are shipped from Oregon's late crop areas they must be branded as No. 2.

It is argued that the compulsory No. 2 brand results in discrimination against such Oregon packs.

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the event. A program for the two day event will be printed within the next week and sent out in the form of an invitation to attend the Grain Improvement meeting banquet and social hour. The entertainment committee has arranged for a fine number of entertainers, and will announce this entertainment as soon as the list is completed.

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