

The State - Federal Fight Against Brucellosis

The all-out state-federal cooperative campaign to rid this country's cattle of brucellosis is gaining momentum. The number of brucella-infected cattle has been reduced to less than two per cent from more than 11 per cent in 1935, when eradication measures against this disease were first begun on a national scale.

Nine states—Maine, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Washington, Wisconsin, Delaware, Minnesota, Connecticut, and Vermont—and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico have now achieved the status of "modified certified brucellosis-free," meaning that less than one per cent of their cattle and five per cent of their herds are infected. As of January 1, 1958, a total of 489 counties in 28 other states and the Virgin Islands have also earned this certification, an important milestone in the eradication of the disease.

But despite this progress, brucellosis (also known as Bang's disease or infectious abortion) still accounts for losses of about 30 million dollars per year in unborn or stillborn calves, reduced milk output, and cost of replacing infected stock. The disease organism that causes brucellosis is also a hazard to humans, who may get sick with undulant fever from contact with diseased animals or animal products.

Continued and relentless effort by everyone concerned is needed to hold the gains already made against this costly disease and to make further progress. There can be no standing still, if the goal of complete eradication is to be reached.

Brucellosis fighters now have more effective weapons than ever before for doing their job successfully. These are: (1) the BRT or milk and cream ring test; (2) the blood - serum agglutination test; (3) Strain 19 Brucella vaccine for

calves; (4) removal of diseased animals; (5) federal control of interstate movement of cattle.

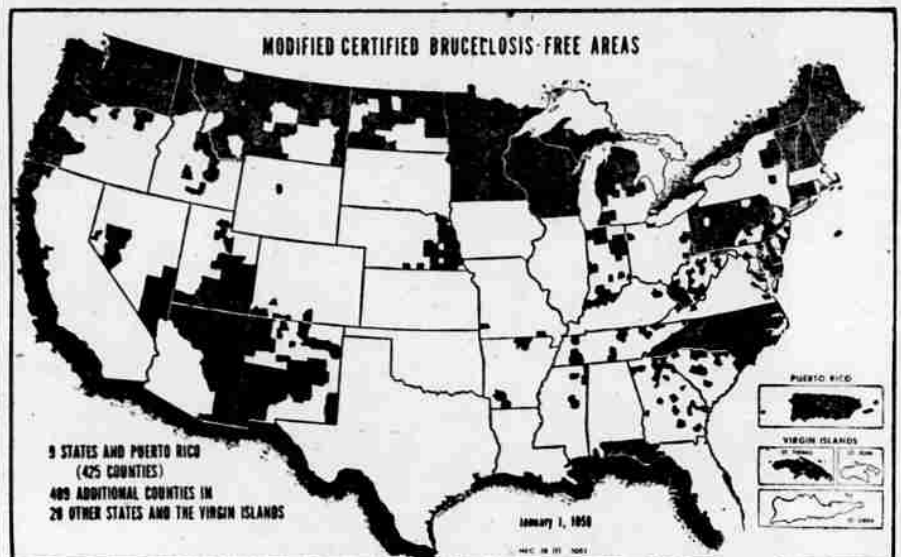
The milk and cream test makes it possible for a few trained men to screen entire areas to detect infected dairy herds. The cost is about one-tenth that of blood testing. Areas where the ring test is being used have made rapid strides toward complete eradication. Ring testing on an area basis is recommended as the initial step in an eradication program.

Blood agglutination tests are still the only reliable means of diagnosing brucellosis in individual animals. However, only those dairy herds that show a positive reaction to the milk ring test (usually less than 20 per cent) need to be blood tested.

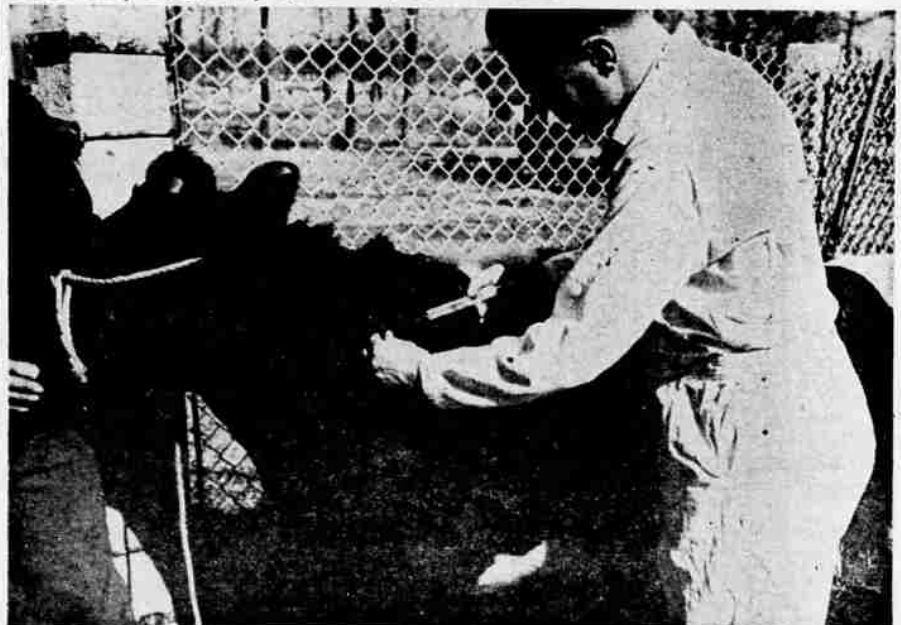
Use of Strain 19 Brucella vaccine has helped to reduce the incidence of infection in both dairy and range cattle. Vaccination of calves at proper ages provides serviceable resistance to average field exposure to the disease. If heavily exposed, however, vaccinated animals may contract the disease. That is why quarantine and eventual slaughter of infected animals is important.

The newest weapon to strengthen the brucellosis eradication program was made effective January 1, 1957, when interstate movement of cattle came under stricter Federal control. Only steers, spayed heifers, and calves under eight months old are exempt. The new rules are closely connected with the status of herds, counties, and states in the brucellosis eradication program. They should help to protect areas already designated as "modified - certified brucellosis-free." Violation of the regulations is a federal offense, so that shippers are advised to obtain complete details from local, state, or federal livestock sanitary officials.

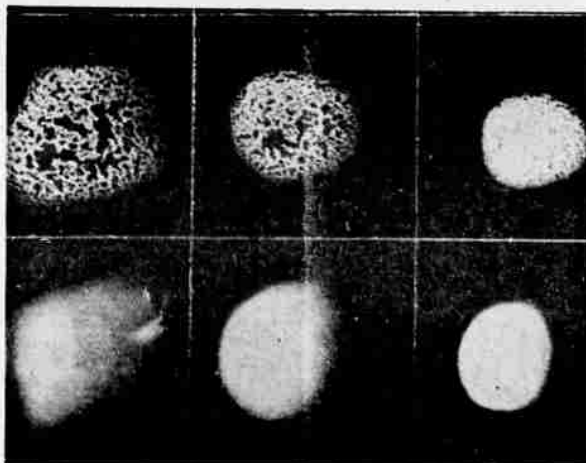
Eradication of brucellosis from



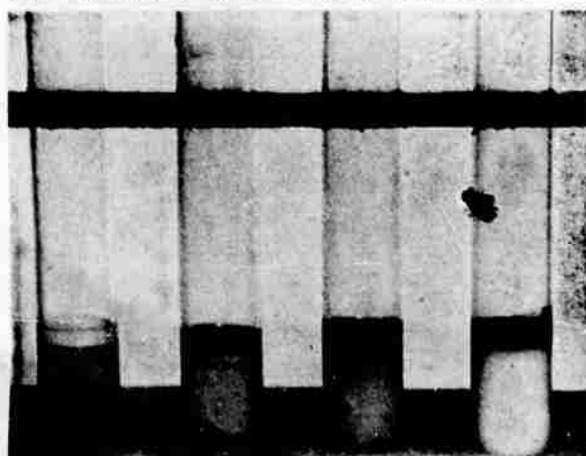
GRADUALLY THE BATTLE LINES in the nation's fight to wipe out brucellosis are being narrowed as more and more areas succeed in qualifying as modified certified brucellosis-free areas. Many more areas than those which have already qualified (marked in black) are currently engaged in programs designed to let them achieve that status.



VACCINATING CALVES at proper ages with Strain 19 Brucella vaccine provides serviceable resistance to average field exposure to brucellosis. However, vaccinated animals that are heavily exposed to brucellosis may get the disease.



HERE IS WHAT the end result of a blood-agglutination test by the rapid plate method looks like. The mottled drops in the upper samples show various degrees of reaction to the test for brucellosis. The un-mottled milky drops in the lower squares indicate a negative reaction to the disease.



THE BLUE CREAM RING above the white milk at the right is an indication of Brucella infection in the herd. Normal cream ring at the left shows a negative reaction. Intermediate variations in the two center tubes indicate different degrees of infection. Animals in herds which turn in suspicious test samples should be blood tested promptly.

an area reduces livestock losses and facilitates marketing of cattle and milk. It is to the interest of ranchers and dairymen to work together with state and federal livestock regulatory officials and other interested agencies to wipe out the disease on an area basis. Then the program can move forward to free counties, entire states, and eventually the nation from brucellosis.

The Cover

The cover picture for this week's Herald and News Magazine Section of Klamath Basin Living was taken by staff photographer Don Kettler. The subject is Junior Miss Oregon Darlene Buchholz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Buchholz, 2340 Garden Avenue. A 4 x 5 Speed Graphic camera was used set at f 32 and a 200th of a second with extension flash.

BEHIND THE SCENES

NEW YORK **UN**—Everything does not meet the eye on Broadway when it comes to getting a play on stage. The new hit drama, "Two for the Seesaw," has just two performers, Henry Fonda and Anne Bancroft. But the skills of 20 technicians are used backstage to handle scene shifts, light cues and other mechanical details at each performance. The crew is one of the largest required for any play on the White Way regardless of size of the acting company.

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