

CATTLE Malady Called More than 20 years ago Johne's disease, also called chronic bacterial Johne's Disease to Be disease, also called chronic bacterial Fought Cooperatively dysentery, chronic bacterial enteritis, and other names, was reported as having appeared in the United States. Since that time considerable study has been given the disease looking to methods of control and eradication. For the benefit of cattle owners, the following description of the symptoms of Johne's disease is given.

Affected animals show a loss in condition, despite good appetite and proper food, followed by at first a moderate diarrhea which soon becomes excessive, particularly after calving periods; and in numerous cases death ensues. In some instances apparent improvement is noted, only to be followed by a repetition of the symptoms at a succeeding calving period. Apparently, methods of treating Johne's disease by medication bring no improvement. Losses from the disease in a badly infected herd are severe, although the progress of the malady is very slow.

Diagnosis and Control Measures

Realizing the necessity for control measures, Congress, in its appropriation bill for the fiscal year 1928, authorized the Department of Agriculture to cooperate with the livestock owners, State livestock sanitary officials, and others along the same lines as those on which the work of tuberculosis eradication is conducted. Indemnity can be paid for diseased cattle under the plan. This authority resulted in some work being conducted in a number of States during the past year.

Methods pursued generally include the placing of the herd under a cooperative agreement looking particularly to the proper cleaning and disinfection of infected premises and the disposition of animals classified as diseased.

A determination of the disease in a herd is made by the injection of a product known as johnin, which is prepared in a manner somewhat similar to tuberculin. The reaction consists in a rise in temperature recorded as a result of regular temperature readings following the injection. Diagnosis is also made by physical examination in cases where the disease is known to exist in a herd. Avian tuberculin is sometimes used as a diagnostic agent.

The results of the test have been fairly satisfactory, although the production of johnin has not been actually standardized. Results in one extremely badly infected herd, twice tested with johnin, have indicated that practically 100 per cent of the animals condemned as a result of the test were infected.

Recommendation to Cattle Owners

It is recommended that where livestock owners have any reason to suspect the presence of Johne's disease in their herds by reason of the symptoms indicated above, they confer with their local practicing veterinarian and their State livestock sanitary officials. The disease is not believed to exist to any such extent as to be unduly alarming. However, it probably exists to a greater degree than is commonly realized. Accordingly, attention should be given to this condition so that the spread of the disease in a herd or community may be prevented.

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