Horse Disease Threatens Stock In County

By DOUG JOHNSON

PONTIAC

Although eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) is almost always fatal to horses, there is no need for human beings to stay away from horses or not eat horse meat, according to an Oakland County health expert.

Dr. Lowell M. Wiese, director of health for the Oakland County Department of Health, said this week that the eight cases of the highly virulent disease were all concentrated on Hickory Ridge Rd. in Highland and Rose Townships, on the western edge of the county.

He has urged horse owners in that area to have their horses vaccinated immediately by local veterinarians, but noted that the disease posed no serious, immediate threat at this point to horses in the Observerland communities in the county – Southfield and Farmington.

"I really hate to call this an epidemic," Dr. Wiese said. "We need to save that word for more serious events. Otherwise I'd be like the boy who cried wolf all the time."

County extension officials said their figures show there are about 1,400 horses in Farmington and another 300 or more in Southfield. Novi has about 1100 horses. There are 220,000 in the state.

Dr. Wiese said that horses were not normally vaccinated for EEE because the disease had not been around for several decades.

He urged that all horses in the Highland and Rose areas be vaccinated immediately, and that horses in other areas, including Southfield and Farmington, be vaccinated as soon as possible thereafter. It takes two to three weeks to develop an immunity to the disease, he said.

Dr. Wiese said about 26,000 doses of the necessary vaccine were due in the county by last Wednesday afternoon. The shots are given twice over a two week period.

The disease itself affects a horse very quickly and is transmitted when mosquitoes bite the horse in enough numbers to infect it.

The horse will become obviously ill, and hang its head. He will stagger, and fall down, unable to rise; the animal usually will die within two or three days.

However, the horse can no longer transmit the disease, Dr. Wiese said. "We call it a blind-alley host. The disease cannot be passed from horse to horse or from horse to man."

The disease inflames the brain, and so far has struck in Oakland, Allegan and Kalamazoo Counties in Michigan. It also has hit in other states in the south.

The mosquito is infected by biting birds, who are the primary carriers of the virus.

Many common birds, including the pigeon, sparrow and pheasants, carry the disease, although they themselves rarely are sick from it.

"We are getting a tremendous amount of calls about this disease and really I want to assure people that it can't harm them," said Dr. Wiese.

"There are no recorded cases of EEE in humans in Michigan ever. There have been only some 150 human cases since the dawn of medical history in the United States.

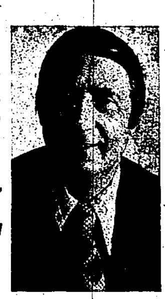
"Still, people can take normal precautions and avoid mosquito-infected areas. There is no vaccine for people for EEE in existence. People should take normal mosquito precautions.

"As to the question – can you eat horse meat?, the answer is yes. Can you ride a horse? Yes.

"The whole thing shouldn't be taken too lightly, however."

"I really hate to call this an epidemic. We need to save that word for more serious outbreaks."

--Dr. Lowell Wiese



DR. LOWELL M. WIESE

If the rare does actually happen and a human contacts EEE, he will be very sick, Dr. Wiese said, and it will require him to see a doctor. Symptoms are those of any viral infection: nausea and fever. EEE also tends to make a person very sleepy.

As for horses, Dr. Wiese said that in addition to the vaccine, horse owners should spray the animals with pyrethrins or malathion, insect killers. Complete directions are available from William Muller, county extension director. Muller has already mailed information to many horse owners.

Dr. Wiese also suggested horses be kept out of marshy areas.

Dr. Hugh Wilson, director of animal welfare for the county, said horse owners should contact their veterinarians if a horse dies, no matter what the cause of death. "And the owner must dispose of the animal himself," Dr. Wilson said.

Health officials have began a mosquito trapping program in an effort to isolate the exact carriers of the disease. Of the six or seven most common types of mosquitoes in Michigan, four of them can be carriers.

Laboratory tests are under way at Michigan State University and the Michigan Department of Health, Dr. Wiese said.

The cause of death of the eight Oakland horses was determined by examining one animal who got sick but lived, he explained.

Cultures have been taken from the dead animals but they take longer to produce valid evidence.

Dr. Wiese, who just assumed his current job, came here from New Hampshire, another state with a small outbreak of EEE.

"I haven't really gained anything by moving," he said.

Crime Down Last Month

FARMINGTON

Significant decreases in serious crimes were again reported during July by the Farmington police department.

The total of "part I" offenses (serious crimes, including burglary, robbery and larceny) dropped approximately 15 per cent from last year, from 359 to 309.

Cases cleared also dropped, from 130 to 88 cases cleared.

Burglaries dropped from 57 to 29, a 50 per cent decrease from the same time last year. Four cases were cleared, compared to seven last year.

Both narcotics violations and drunk driving have jumped dramatically. Narcotics violations nearly doubled, from 31 to 60; drunk driving jumped from 87 to 104.

Of the more serious crimes against people, there has been one armed robbery so far this year, no murders or rapes. Last year there were five armed robberies at this time.

MARK DANA discusses soccer, a popular German sport, with German student Reinhard Patermann. Patermann is staying at the Dana home in Farmington while touring the country as part of Operation Insight '73'.

Calendar

SCHOOL PACKETS

Seniors pick up packets of registration materials immediately at their respective schools between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. and between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Junior high students are asked to pick up their schedules during the same hours, Aug. 27-29.

AREA NATURALISTS

Monday, Aug. 27, at 8 p.m., the Farmington Area Naturalists will meet in the Farmington Community Center, 24705 Farmington Road. Guest speaker will be Mrs. Arthur Leonard.

SCHOOL ORIENTATION

Thursday, Aug. 30, at 9 a.m., there will be an orientation program for all sophomores and new students at Farmington High School, in the auditorium.

BLUE STAR MOTHERS

Friday and Saturday, Sept. 7 and 8, the Blue Star Mothers of America Chapter 49 of Farmington will sell "blue daisies" in the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills. This is the chapter's annual fund raising event.

BLUE STAR PARTY

Thursday, Sept. 13, at noon the Farmington chapter of Blue Star Mothers of America will hold a luncheon and card party at the Community Center. The affair is public.

BLUE STAR MEETING

Thursday, Sept. 20, at 1 p.m. the Farmington chapter of Blue Star Mothers of America will hold a business meeting in the home of Ethel Lint.

PAPERMOBILE

Every Saturday and Sunday, the Farmington Papermobile operates in the parking lot adjacent to Dunkel Junior High on 12 Mile, east of Farmington Road.

20 Receive WMU Degrees

FARMINGTON

Twenty Farmington students at Western Michigan University received bachelor degrees at summer commencement ceremonies.

Awarded degrees were Lynn K. LeClair, Susan K. Carvell, Michael D. Gannon, Paul G. Warrick, Paul J. Toohey, Nancy K. Hajduk, Juleen A. Eichinger, Denise L. Therasse, Jeanne S. Clarke.

Also, Patrick J. Kemen, Jean D. Dinan, Julia A. Ris, Maureen A. Jones, Armen A. Korkigian, William W. Bozgan, Christian K. Falk, Richard A. Rogers, Timothy B. Kerr, Diane L. Vieria and Susan Wichmann.

THIS REPORT TO BE RETURNED TO

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
OFFICE OF REVENUE SHARING
1900 PENNSYLVANIA AVE. N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20226

THE GOVERNMENT OF
FARMINGTON TOWNSHIP
HAS USED ITS REVENUE SHARING PAYMENT FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING
JAN 1, 1973 ENDING JUN 30, 1973
IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER BASED UPON A
TOTAL PAYMENT OF $205,463

ACCOUNT NO
23 3 063 006

FARMINGTON TOWNSHIP
TWP CLERK
OAKLAND COUNTY
FARMINGTON MICH 48024

(L) DEBT How has the availability of revenue sharing funds affected the borrowing requirements of your jurisdiction?

- [x] AVOIDED DEBT INCREASE
- [ ] NO EFFECT
- [ ] LESSENED DEBT INCREASE
- [ ] TOO SOON TO PREDICT EFFECT

(M) TAXES In which of the following manners did the availability of Revenue Sharing Funds affect the tax levels of your jurisdiction? Check as many as apply.

- [ ] ENABLED REDUCING THE RATE OF A MAJOR TAX
- [ ] REDUCED AMOUNT OF RATE INCREASE OF A MAJOR TAX
- [ ] PREVENTED INCREASE IN RATE OF A MAJOR TAX
- [ ] NO EFFECT ON TAX LEVELS
- [ ] PREVENTED ENACTING A NEW MAJOR TAX
- [x] TOO SOON TO PREDICT EFFECT

OPERATING/MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURES / CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

PRIORITY EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES (A)	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES (B)	PERCENT USED FOR MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING SERVICES (C)	PERCENT USED FOR NEW OR EXPANDED SERVICES (D)	PURPOSE (E)	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES (F)	EQUIPMENT (G)	CONSTRUCTION (H)	LAND ACQUISITION (I)	DEBT RETIREMENT (J)
1 PUBLIC SAFETY	$	%	%	10 MULTI-PURPOSE AND GENERAL GOVT	$	%	%	%	%
2 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	$	%	%	11 EDUCATION	$	%	%	%	%
3 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION	$	%	%	12 HEALTH	$	%	%	%	%
4 HEALTH	$	%	%	13 TRANSPORTATION	$	%	%	%	%
5 RECREATION	$	%	%	14 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	$	%	%	%	%
6 LIBRARIES	$	%	%	15 HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	$	%	%	%	%
7 SOCIAL SERVICES FOR AGED & POOR	$	%	%	16 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	$	%	%	%	%
8 FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION	$	%	%	17 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION	$	%	%	%	%
9 TOTAL ACTUAL OPERATING/MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURES	$			18 PUBLIC SAFETY	$	%	%	%	%
				19 RECREATION CULTURE	$	%	%	%	%
				20 OTHER (Specify)	$	%	%	%	%
				21 OTHER (Specify)	$	%	%	%	%
				22 OTHER (Specify)	$	%	%	%	%
				23 TOTAL ACTUAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	$				

(N) CERTIFICATION (Please Read Instruction F)

The news media have been advised that a complete copy of this report has been published in a local newspaper of general circulation. I have records documenting the contents of this report and they are open for public and news media scrutiny.

Additionally, I certify that I am the chief executive officer and, with respect to the entitlement funds reported hereon, I certify that they have not been used in violation of either the priority expenditure requirement (Section 103) or the matching funds prohibition (Section 104) of the Act.

(O) TRUST FUND REPORT

Revenue Sharing Funds Received Thru June 30 1973	$ 205,463
Interest Earned	$ 3,572
Total Funds Available	$ 209,035
Amount Expended	$ 00
Balance	$ 209,035

Robert A. McConnell and Floyd A. Cairns
SIGNATURE OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mayor and City Clerk
NAME & TITLE - PLEASE PRINT

Observer 8-25-73
NAME OF NEWSPAPER DATE PUBLISHED

THIS REPORT TO BE RETURNED TO THE DEPT. OF THE TREASURY