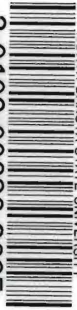
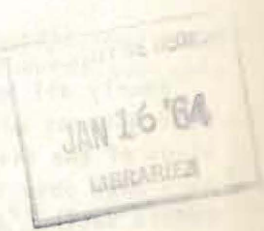


ANTHRAX

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NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY



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EXTENSION SERVICE
NORTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AND U. S.
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COOPERATING
E. J. Haslerud, Director, Fargo, North Dakota
Distributed furtherance of Acts
of Congress 8 and June 30, 1914.

Anthrax

Anthrax is an acute infectious disease. Nearly all types of mammals, including man, are susceptible to infection by the anthrax organism.

The germ causing anthrax, Bacillus anthracis, is a spore-forming organism that is very resistant to heat, drying and the usual disinfectants. Once the spores infect a barn, corral, or pasture they may remain there for years. It is even thought that they multiply in wet soil during warm weather.

Most cases of anthrax are caused by animals eating the causative organism. However, the disease can be transmitted on surgical instruments and even hypodermic needles.

Nearly all animals that become infected with anthrax die. In many cases the duration of the disease is very short. Cattle have been observed that showed no symptoms before death. In most cases, however, the animals have high fever, may be very thirsty and walk with a staggering gait.

Swine usually show swelling of the region of the throat and jowls. Recovery from anthrax in swine occurs much oftener than in other species of animals.

Since anthrax is so highly infectious for man it is not desirable to open an animal suspected of having died of anthrax. At the time of death, or soon after, animals dying from anthrax bleed at the body openings or through breaks in the skin. This blood is dark and has a tarry appearance.

The diagnosis of anthrax is based on identification of the organism. This is accomplished by animal inoculation and bacteriological culturing of the specimen.

Anthrax may be confused with prussic acid poisoning.

What to do in cases of Suspected Anthrax

1. If the animal is alive, call your local veterinarian or the State Veterinarian's office.
2. If the animal is dead, get a blood sample by soaking a small piece of cotton or cloth with the blood and taking it to your veterinarian or to a veterinary diagnostic laboratory. The swab can be wrapped around a match and then soaked in the blood. The swab and match should then be placed in a stoppered bottle. When shipped, the bottle should be properly packed. A letter describing the case should be attached to the shipping carton and the package labeled "Anthrax Suspect".

In North Dakota the control of anthrax is handled by the State Veterinarian. In no case should a vaccine be given except by direction of the State Veterinarian.

Carcasses of animals dying of anthrax cannot be disposed of by any of the rendering plants. The carcasses should not be skinned.

The carcasses should be completely burned.

When possible it is best to burn the carcass where it lies. This sterilizes the ground also.

When necessary to move the carcass haul it rather than drag it. Disinfect all equipment that comes in contact with the carcass. One of the best disinfectants against anthrax is a 10 percent formalin solution.