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# vesicular venereal disease

## OF CATTLE

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## **VESICULAR VENEREAL DISEASE**

### **(Vesicular Vaginitis)**

This disease is highly contagious and is caused by a filtrable virus.

Both cows and bulls may become infected but because of the more marked lesions in the female the disease is commonly called vesicular vaginitis.

The vesicles are found in the vagina or on the surface of the penis. In the early stages of the disease the vesicles appear as small blisters. These blisters may rupture and secondary infection result. In some cases pus is formed and the organisms invade the uterus causing a metritis which prevents conception.

Signs of the disease include arching of the back, elevation of the tail, frequent urination and switching of the tail. There is usually no fever and little or no decrease in milk production. The cows usually have normal heat periods, but conceptions are few.

This disease has a short incubation period and spreads rapidly through a herd. The infection is spread by breeding, by switching of the tail and by use of contaminated brushes and combs, and from cattle rubbing on fences.

Heifers of weaning age have been found infected with this disease.

There does not appear to be any degree of immunity since cows frequently have repeated infections with this virus.

Treatment does not seem to alter the course of the disease. Mild antiseptics

used as a douche tend to prevent the establishment of secondary infections.

Complete sexual rest is the best method of treatment. In cases of natural breeding, repeated infections often occur and in most cases conception does not take place. When possible, artificial insemination is recommended.

Proper care should be exercised in examining cows for pregnancy as the operation can spread the infection very easily.

Before using a bull, a history of the breeding record of the herd of origin should be obtained and if not satisfactory the bull should not be introduced into the new herd. Exchange of bulls from herd to herd should be discouraged.

When an outbreak of the disease occurs, no animals should be added to the herd. This is a self limiting disease and after a lapse of sexual rest the disease disappears.



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