

Tolerate Horn Flies

LETHBRIDGE, Alta. — horn flies better than some cattle can tolerate, leading scientists to

believe that they can discover methods to make cattle more tolerant of parasites.

Studies are currently underway at the Canada

Agriculture Research Station here to investigate this possibility.

Parasites, such as horn flies, often bother cattle enough to significantly

reduce weight gains and profit margins. Dr. W.O. Haufe, a parasitologist at the Research Station, says that Lethbridge experiments

have shown that the horn fly can develop in cattle, and that infestations of the pest do not hurt beef production under some environmental conditions.

He says that tolerance to parasites can develop rapidly under certain types of farm management.

"We are taking a closer look at this," says Dr. Haufe, "and that we will come up with more complete understanding of parasite tolerance in livestock."

The results of research could very well lead to the development of management techniques which would enable producers to greatly reduce the amount and frequency of chemical treatments required for profitable production.

Similar research currently being conducted with ducks at the University of Bristol in England, with sheep at the University in the United States.

Dr. Haufe says a general return to traditional control methods, and renewed emphasis on study of mechanisms which make animals immune to parasitic diseases, is needed to obscure the importance of research in host tolerances of parasites.

At one time immunologists interpreted evidence of parasite tolerance as part of an immunological system. In other words, animals with unusually high levels of infection were considered to be always susceptible individuals in which immune mechanism was either lacking or had failed to develop.

"Very recent work shows, however, that physiological tolerance is distinct from immunity in the processes that induce resistance," says Dr. Haufe. "The research indicates that the pest and the animal attacks interact in the development of the tolerance phenomenon."

There is renewed interest in parasite control measures that do not involve the use of synthetic chemical pesticides.

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Surtax Not As Damaging

AWA (CP) — The freeze ordered by Nixon Aug. 15 is as damaging to agriculture as it appeared, Agriculture H. A. Olson said this week.

The surtax on the market price, Mr. Olson said, the fact that U.S. prices were frozen at their highest rate since May 25, 1970 means that few

conference following a two-hour closed session with about 50 representatives, commodity groups and food processors.

Although no one can predict what will happen to the market price, Mr. Olson said, the fact that U.S. prices were frozen at their highest rate since May 25, 1970 means that few

agriculture goods will suffer from the freeze.

But about \$129 million worth of imports will be hit to varying degrees — "some minimal, some severe" — by the surtax.

Mr. Olson said the farm leaders expressed some concern about the imbalance that could be placed on the mutually-agreed trading arrangements now in effect between the two countries.

He said the hog market will be watched with particular care since prices for pork products have been severely depressed in the last few months.

President Roy Atkinson of the National Farmers' Union, one of those attending the meeting, said Canada should slap a similar tax on American goods entering Canada to offset the effects of the move.

But other farm leaders generally took the line of Charles Gracy, head of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association.

"We're keeping a close eye on the situation, but we're not crying doom."

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A small portion of the more than 100,000 who attend the International Plowing Match wander among the displays. (Ag. Department Photo)

Farm Safety Concern Lags

GUELPH — "Concern for farm safety has lagged

behind industrial safety concerns in most of the countries of the world," says Hal Wright, Farm Safety specialist with the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food.

Speaking at the 47th annual meeting of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, North Atlantic Region, held recently at the University of Guelph, Mr. Wright pointed out that in 1960, the death rate due to farm accidents was 27 per 100,000 farm population.

This figure was arrived at as a result of a comprehensive survey carried out by the department to see where

farm accidents occur. The motor vehicle death rate was 26 per 100,000. "Since we all agree our highway fatalities are too high, we must concede that our farm accident rate is also too high," said Mr. Wright.

One way to reduce farm fatalities is to introduce safety legislation, suggested Mr. Wright. "However, it appears that restrictive measures alone do not reduce the number and severity of farm accidents."

As an example of such legislation, Mr. Wright used the "slow moving vehicle" sign, mandatory in a number of provinces. In Ontario, its use has not reduced car-tractor accidents.

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