

LOUISIANA MONTHLY MORBIDITY

DISEASES REPORTED DURING MONTH OF JULY, 1971

BY PARISH OF RESIDENCE

ANTHRAX IN LOUISIANA

Approximately 625 animal anthrax deaths with two associated human cases have occurred since mid-June in Ascension and surrounding parishes.

On June 14, 1971, a 26 year old veterinarian autopsied a cow which had died the previous day. He did not suspect anthrax prior to the autopsy, and did not wear gloves. The following day he developed a tender, reddened nodule on his right forefinger at the site of a pre-existing abrasion and a second nodule on his right thumb where the skin was previously intact. Over the next three days the nodules became pustular and developed a firm, black, central crater. The

(Continued on Page 3)

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH STATISTICS -

- LOUISIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

RELEASED AUGUST 4, 1971	ASEPTIC MENINGITIS	DIPHThERIA	ENCEPHALITIS	ENCEPHALITIS, POST INFECTIONOUS	INFECTIOUS AND SERUM HEPATITIS	MEASLES	MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTIONS	PERTUSSIS	POLIOMYELITIS, PARALYTIC	RABIES IN ANIMALS	RHEUMATIC FEVER	RUBELLA *	SHIGELLOSIS	TYPHOID FEVER	OTHER SALMONELLOSIS	TETANUS	TUBERCULOSIS, PULMONARY	GONORRHEA	SYPHILIS, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY
TOTAL TO DATE 1970	44	14	15	12	396	92	59	11	0	51	9	153	23	1	38	2	395	6678	425
TOTAL TO DATE 1971	92	11	5	6	416	1663	50	33	0	21	2	281	20	6	71	1	427	7947	416
TOTAL THIS MONTH	69	0	0	0	83	50	6	7	0	1	0	2	9	0	17	1	24	1287	76
ACADIA					1								1				1	3	
ALLEN																			2
ASCENSION																			
ASSUMPTION																			
AVOYELLES																			1
BEAUREGARD					2												1	1	
BIENVILLE																			
BOSSIER																			13
CADDO					3	3											1	112	8
CALCASIEU					1	8	1						1						43
CALDWELL																	1	3	
CAMERON																			
CATAHOULA					1														
CLAIBORNE					1	3													
CONCORDIA																			
DESOTO					1					1									3
EAST BATON ROUGE					7	5									7		2	37	7
EAST CARROLL																			7
EAST FELICIANA																			1
EVANGELINE					1														1
FRANKLIN																			2
GRANT																			1
IBERIA					1												2	8	1
IBERVILLE	1																	4	1

*Includes Rubella, Congenital Syndrome

Louisiana Department
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Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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JACKSON																1				
JEFFERSON	11				4	3	1	2					1		1			79	5	
JEFFERSON DAVIS																		2		
LAFAYETTE	1				1	1											1	7	1	
LAFOURCHE					2		1						1				1	10		
LASALLE																				
LINCOLN						2												2	2	
LIVINGSTON					4	1												2		
MADISON																		12		
MOREHOUSE																		35	1	
NATCHITOCHES																		11	2	
ORLEANS	48				22	18	3	2					4		5		6	589	25	
OUACHITA					2								1					89	3	
PLAQUEMINES																		2		
POINTE COUPEE																				
RAPIDES					1													47	5	
RED RIVER																				
RICHLAND																		23		
SABINE																				
ST. BERNARD					2			2										15		
ST. CHARLES								1										1		
ST. HELENA																		2		
ST. JAMES																				
ST. JOHN						1											1	2		
ST. LANDRY					2												1	18		
ST. MARTIN					2							1					2			
ST. MARY					2							1					3		1	
ST. TAMMANY	2				6	3												24		
TANGIPAHOA					1	1									1			16	2	
TENSAS																				
TERREBONNE	4																	1		
UNION					3													6		
VERMILION															2			1		
VERNON					5													1	3	
WASHINGTON	2				4	1									1		1	15		
WEBSTER																		9		
WEST BATON ROUGE																		7		
WEST CARROLL																		5		
WEST FELICIANA																		15	2	
WINN					1													1		
OUT OF STATE																				

From January 1 through July 31, the following cases were also reported: 2 Anthrax, 1 Brucellosis, 1 Leprosy, 4 Leptospirosis, 34 Malaria (contracted outside U.S.A.), and 1 Typhus Fever, Endemic.

whole extremity became painful, and axillary and epitrochlear nodes were noted. A low grade fever was the only other symptom. He suspected cutaneous anthrax, and took oral penicillin for two days before presenting to his physician. Cultures of the lesions taken that day were negative for anthrax, although large, spore-containing, gram-positive bacilli with flattened ends were readily observed in exudate from the lesions. Blood cultures were negative. He made an uneventful recovery on procaine penicillin, administered in a dose of 1.2 million units intramuscularly daily for 10 days.

On June 17, 1971, a 52 year old veterinarian at the Louisiana State University assisting in the investigation of the outbreak autopsied a cow. On June 24, 1971, he developed a 6 mm pustule on his right wrist. A culture of the pustular fluid grew B anthracis, but blood cultures were negative. On June 28, 1971, treatment with procaine penicillin 1.2 million units intramuscularly, was begun and continued for seven days. He recovered rapidly.

Although anthrax has been known to be enzootic in parts of Louisiana since 1830, the present outbreak is the largest since 1958 when approximately 1,400 animals died in the Monroe area. In Ascension Parish alone approximately 485 animals on 160 premises have died of the disease. Other parishes with confirmed cases are St. James, Livingston, Iberville, Assumption and East Feliciana. Approximately 95% of the cases have occurred in cattle. The outbreak began shortly after heavy rainfall, preceded by a prolonged dry period, a condition thought to be favorable for germination of anthrax spores in the soil.

Epidemiologic investigation tended to implicate persistent spores or multiplying vegetative organisms in the soil as the source and means of spread of anthrax in this outbreak. The fact that the attack rate in calves (which were being nursed) was only one sixth that of cows suggests that grazing was a factor in transmission of the disease.