

Tick population greater than usual

The state's tick population appears to be greater than usual this year. However, state health officials say Kentucky can take simple precautions to avoid disease borne by ticks.

Joseph Skaggs of the Department for Human Resources, Bureau for Health Services, says the department is starting to receive reports of Rocky Mountain spotted fever and tularemia (rabbit fever) as vaccination camps begin to open in the wooded areas where ticks thrive.

Reports from county health departments indicate this year's tick population may be greater than the unusually high population in 1978.

So far this year, five cases of spotted fever have been reported to the Human Resources Department, Skaggs said. Last year, 43 cases were reported. Incidence of the disease tends to climb throughout the summer, then declines in the fall and winter.

Only a couple of cases of rabbit fever have been reported so far this year, Skaggs said.

But Skaggs said he believes both tick-borne diseases are "under-reported." The actual numbers may be higher, he added.

Rocky Mountain spotted fever is transmitted to humans mostly by the common American dog tick, which can carry the tiny disease-causing organism.

A victim commonly suffers a sudden, high fever, a headache and lack of energy, Skaggs said. About three days later a spreading skin rash develops. The rash spreads over the body including the palms and the sides of the feet.

Several antibiotics can be used to effectively treat the disease, Skaggs said.

Similar early symptoms are seen in rabbit fever, he added. There is no rash, but a victim may experience an inflammation at the site of the tick bite and enlargement of lymph nodes closest to the bite area.

Rabbit fever also is transmitted through direct contact with rabbits and bites of other insects such as deer flies, Skaggs said. It also can be treated with antibiotics.

Skaggs noted suffering a tick bite is no reason for undue concern, since most ticks do not carry the disease-causing organisms. He suggested a few simple precautions to reduce even the slight chance of illness from ticks.

First, persons walking through heavy brush should wear long pants and long socks. Insect repellent should be applied before venturing into the woods.

Children playing in wooded areas should be checked several times a day for ticks.

When a tick is found, remove it from the skin as soon as possible. Skaggs said the tick should be held by the body of the tick, not the legs.

Regardless of the method, persons should never pull the tick, head in, out of the skin when the tick body is removed, Skaggs said.

"Slightly without relief is like me," said Richard Lawson Gates.

Fence fixer

Nicholas County High School baseball coach Bill R. Anderson checks the level on a post for a new fence around the school's tennis courts.

With the completion of the fence, only the construction of tennis courts will be left in the school's athletic complex.

Mercury photo.

Tax problems? PRP may help

Often it seems as though modern life is full of problems. We have problems getting the car repaired, problems getting service in a restaurant and one of the biggest problems seems to be getting through the red tape to find someone to handle your problem. If you have a persistent problem with the Internal Revenue Service and can't get satisfaction through normal channels, there is someone who can handle your difficulty in the IRS Problem Resolution Office, or PRP for short.

PRP is designed to handle problems that a taxpayer has not been able to get resolved through normal channels. These can run the gamut from complaints about late or lost refunds, incorrect billings, to questions on the status of an audit or collection action.

Last year approximately 500 taxpayers in Kentucky received help from PRP. One type of case involved taxpayers who were repeatedly billed for taxes owed, even after they had presented proof of payment. They turned to PRP after being unable to resolve the difficulty through regular IRS procedures.

In another type of case, a taxpayer filed a return expecting a refund but received a bill instead. The taxpayer checked with IRS and, as instructed, filed an amended return. Months later still no refund. PRP provided assistance.

PRP gives personalized attention to each problem. The sense that usually a taxpayer will deal with only one person and often with the problem resurfaces within five days. If not, PRP will give the taxpayer a status report and a projected completion date.

Of course, there are limits on the types of problems PRP can handle. For instance, it is not a substitute for normal taxpayer assistance, and the IRS stresses that no one should call PRP unless normal channels prove futile. Obviously if every type of problem were first directed to PRP, that system would quickly bog down and become useless. Do not go through PRP on such matters as decisions made during an audit, Freedom of Information requests, Privacy Act inquiries, and complaints about IRS hiring practices. These are handled by other offices. A call to the IRS toll-free number will refer to the right place.

From the IRS point of view there is an important added dimension to PRP by keeping track of recurring difficulties reaching the Problem Resolution Office. IRS managers can often identify and remedy quirks in the system. In essence, then PRP benefits not only the taxpayer but the IRS as well.

Now how do you reach PRP? Simply call 362-5294, elsewhere in Kentucky call free 1-800-292-6570 and ask for the Problem Resolution Office.

If you wish to write, you may send your letter to the Problem Resolution Office, P.O. Box 1735, Louisville, KY 40201.

Unemployment rate drops

Unemployment in the Bluegrass area of Kentucky decreased from 8.91 in April to 8.64 in May, the state Department for Human Resources has announced. The rate of unemployment decreased from 2.4 percent to 2.2 percent.

The drop in unemployment resulted from increased hiring in all major industry groups, said Robert McDonald, chief labor market analyst for Human Resources.

Kentucky's overall unemployment rate dropped from 4.3 percent in April to 4.2 percent in May. The national unemployment rate in May was 5.2 percent.

In the Bluegrass area, Lincoln County has the highest rate at 7.9 percent. Woodford County had the lowest, at 2.2 percent rate.

Nicholas County's unemployment rate for the month was 2.4. Rates in surrounding counties were: Bath, 5.2; Bourbon, 3.0; Montgomery, 1.4; Robertson, 4.7 and Harrison, 2.4.

In Vinton, America, the temperature fell to -12°F on August 24, 1960.

Hi-Way Drive In Mt. Sterling

Wed. thru Tues, July 11-17

GOOD GUYS WEAR BLACK

Chuck Norris is John T. Booker and Booker is fighting back.

AT 10:50

BAD GEORGIA ROAD

They're makin' time to the county line!

Crop reports due July 15

Whether they participate in the set-aside program or not, farmers have until July 15 to report their 1979 planted acres to the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS).

Program participants are required to report crops and acreage planted and the uses to be made of these crops; crops and acreages of set-aside and those diverted for payment; and wheat crops for hay or grazing for payment. Non-participants need to certify their crops for future programs. Eugene Lecher, chairman of the ASCS committee, said.

ASCS will make random checks of farms to verify that acreage reports are accurate and have aerial photographs available for farmers to identify their fields.

To be sure of planted acreage, farmers can request measurement services. "This is a valuable service not only to producers participating in the set-aside program, but to any farmer who desires an accurate acreage for any reason," Lecher said.

He pointed out that the entire farm must be certified correctly before a program participant can receive the benefits of price support and disaster, deficiency, diversion, or grazing and haying payments.

Crops may be certified at any time between 8 and 4:30. "We hope that farmers will not wait until the July 15 deadline," the ASCS official said.

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Farm and Home

Nicholas County Extension Agents Mike Phillips, Mrs. Sharon A. Wilson, Mrs. Margie Wilson

Research results show that there are at least three profitable feeding programs for preconditioned calves. Profit margins above the cost of feed are nearly \$60 per head in the trials conducted last fall by the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture.

Calves from the herd beef at UK's Kentucky Substation in Lexington were treated for parasites, weighed, vaccinated, and allowed into three groups for the 30-day feeding test. Feeding corn silage and a protein supplement produced a pound of gain at a feed cost of only 19 cents, returning \$29.73 per calf above feed costs. Calves gained 1.99 lb. per day on an average daily ration of 21 lbs. silage and 1 lb. supplement.

Calves fed hay and supplement made a pound of gain at a feed cost of 27 cents, returning \$34.66 per calf above feed costs. They gained 1.98 lb. per day with daily feed consumption averaging 10 lbs. of hay, 4 lbs. of shelled corn and 1 lb. supplement.

A pelleted feed, of very different composition, cost 30 cents and produced a pound of gain at a cost of 26 cents and a feeding margin of \$25.27 per calf. Calves gained 2.02 lb. per day, eating an average of 12.3 lb. of the commercial feed daily.

Feeding margins were calculated on a calf price of 75 cents per pound, which similar calves are bringing when the trials end, according to researcher Nelson Gay. The preconditioned calves were kept on the farm for wintering experiments.

Feed costs were based on these prices: silage 1 cent per lb., hay 2 1/2 cents per lb., corn 4 1/2 cents per lb., protein supplement 12 cents per lb., and complete pelleted feed 6 cents per lb. No processing, storage or handling charges were figured in the costs of farm-grown feeds.

"Our research shows that all three feeding programs will put profitable gains on calves," says Gay. "A calf producer planning to precondition his calves before selling them this fall should select the one best fits his own situation."

He adds that price prospects for calves and feed indicate that short term feeding margins will be larger this year than last year when the research was done. The calf market is up more than feed prices.

Calves in the experiment were given the same vaccinations and parasite treatments that are required in Ken-

Bergland's statement on diesel allocation

The following statement was made by Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland in Washington, D.C., Friday, June 29, 1979.

The President has asked me to announce today that he has agreed with my recommendation to terminate the Department of Energy's program for diesel fuel priority program immediately rather than wait until July 31 more than market prices for fuel.

Extensive beef cattle specialists said that preconditioned calves are worth more than market prices for fuel to cattle feeders. Vaccinated, parasite-free and dewormed calves trained, preconditioned calves make a faster start and perform better in the feedlot, with less risk of loss from disease.

In our office, a new booklet was just received on Breeds that help prevent farm accidents. Whether you have stopped to think of it or not farming cost one of the four most dangerous occupations in the United States. With all of the power take-off drive equipment, chainsaws, power tools and so on, every owner of a farm should read this booklet every year. It is available for free.

July 19-21 has been proclaimed National Farm Safety week to help call attention to the importance of preventing farm accidents. Whether you have stopped to think of it or not farming cost one of the four most dangerous occupations in the United States. With all of the power take-off drive equipment, chainsaws, power tools and so on, every owner of a farm should read this booklet every year. It is available for free.

We have been asked more questions recently about the diesel fuel allocation program. It is essential now that we turn our effort from planning to the actual agricultural system, including mid-season field work, harvest, processing and transportation of agricultural products to U.S. or overseas markets. It does farmers no good to plant and harvest a crop or to load trucks and trucks if there is no fuel to move the grain to export elevators or to process the milk, chickens and move the meat to the markets. Today's decision will make more fuel available to those who need it.

Our discussions with officials of the Department of Energy and the White House Staff lead me to the clear conclusion that we can better meet the diesel fuel needs of agriculture by terminating Special Rule No. 9 ahead of schedule and replacing it with a system that will be more responsive to processing and transportation as well as to the needs of agriculture.

DOE has adequate authority to allocate crude oil to refineries with substantial numbers of agricultural customers and to encourage movement of diesel fuel into areas where the

"There are good and bad times, but our mood changes more often than our fortunes." Jules Renard

THE CARING CORNER

To the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword. . . . Hebrews 4:12

How you ever tried to clean a stubborn turk with a dish washer? I cleaned the other day. Have you ever a huge turk for me to eat. But I had to clean it. I tried for my hunting knife when I always wear above. High back squaring legs and chairs. And with a quilt while. I would have the an about the clean up turk!

I made a promise. I assured that my wife would buy a quilt. And it is in my mind of it. We think that we can remember specially about the months of a time without doubt. But we gradually fell out. I realize it until it is too late.

Remember to sharpen yourself regularly on the word of God. . . . Jude 1:20

Sunday School 9:45

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH Worship 10:45

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Two Nicholas County youngsters recently enjoyed a week of camping and other activities at the Kentucky State Boys and Girls Ranch near Kentucky Dam Village.

The boys enjoyed such activities as tennis, softball, volleyball, swimming, hikes, tours of Kentucky Territory and many others.

The boys were escorted to the ranch by Nicholas County Jailer Charles Lentz and Mrs. Lentz.

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