

Most cattle in Illinois are free of brucellosis

Telegraph Medical Service

WASHINGTON — Illinois cattle herds have been certified free of brucellosis in all but a few counties, but Illinois "still has a lot of work to do" toward eradicating the disease in swine, an Agriculture Department spokesman said.

Dr. Edward Schillf, senior staff veterinarian in the department's division of cattle diseases, said only a few cattle herds in west central and southern Illinois counties have not yet been certified brucellosis-free.

Brucellosis, commonly known as undulant fever, afflicts meat packers and farmers, the spokesman said, but cannot be transmitted through meat consumed.

In humans, the disease produces flu-like symptoms and chronic depression, Schillf said. In days when it was more common, he said, it used to be a large cause of abortion in women.

Byron Sever earns top music rating

Byron Sever earned a first

If the United States is to achieve its Dec. 31, 1975, eradication goal, the cooperative state-federal swine brucellosis program must be stepped up, Dr. Ernest E. Saulmon, deputy administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Service, said.

Saulmon said that although fewer than one per cent of swine tested are infected, over 65 per cent of the human cases of undulant fever involve infected swine.

By the end of the last year, Saulmon said, cattle in more than 54 per cent of the counties in the United States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands were certified brucellosis-free. He added that the intensified program for brucellosis eradication in swine would be similar to the program for cattle.

States are developing plans for a Market Swine Identification program that will make it possible to test swine for the disease at the market or at slaughter. If the tests show an animal is infected, the owner will be informed that the disease was identified in his marketed hogs. State-federal veterinarians will then work with the owner to free the herd of brucellosis.