

AND SCRAPIE

1. Dr CLARK lately of the Scrapie Research Unit, Mission Texas has successfully transmitted ovine & caprine scrapie to cattle. The experimental results have not been published but there are plans to do this. This work was initiated in 1978. A summary of it is: -

Expt A 6 Her x Jer calves ^{born in 1978} were inoculated as follows with a 2^d Suffolk Scrapie⁺ passage: -

$\frac{1}{2}$ 1 ml ; $\frac{1}{2}$ ml, 5 ml ; $\frac{1}{2}$ 5 ml ; oral 30 ml.

$\frac{1}{6}$ went down after 48 months with a scrapie/BSE-like disease.

Expt B 6 Her or Jer or H x J calves were inoculated with Angora goat virus. $\frac{2}{6}$ went down similarly after 36

Expt C Mice inoculated from brains of calves/cattle in expts A & B were resistant, only $\frac{1}{20}$ going down with scrapie & this was the reason given for not publishing.

Diagnosis in A, B, C was by histopath. No reports on St. were given.

2. Dr Warren Foster indicated success so far in eliminating scrapie in offspring from experimentally (& naturally infected) infected sheep by ET. He had found difficulties in obtaining embryos from maternally infected sheep (C & S).

3. Prof A(?) Robertson gave a brief account of BSE. The US approach was to accord it a very low profile, indeed.

Dr A Thiemann showed the picture, in the "Independent" with cattle being incriminated & thought this was a parallel incident to

4. Scrapie incidents (ie affected flocks) have shown a dramatic increase since 1948. In 1953 when the National Control Scheme was started there were 10-14 incidents, in 1978 - 1 and in 1988 no far 60.
5. Scrapie agent was reported to have been isolated from a solitary fetus.
6. A western blotting diagnostic technique (2nd yr) shows some promise.
7. Results of a questionnaire sent to 33 states on the subject of the national sheep scrapie programme survey indicated
 - 17/33 wanted to drop it
 - 6/33 wanted to develop it
 - 8/33 had few sheep & were neutral.
 The chairman summed up by saying "the programme is dead". However, APHS is still interested (APHS \equiv SVS Field Service).

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cc Dr A E Walball

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