



## EDITORIALY

With the world today facing one of the most acute food crises in history the importance of the veterinarian is inestimable. This importance lies in the stoppage of losses ranging from feed in feeding diseased and parasitized animals, non-breeders and non-producers, to actual death of young or adult animals. Loss in any of these cases means reduced food to the world. It is estimated that the average farmer loses needlessly approximately \$500 worth of livestock yearly. When one considers that there are six million farms in the United States, and the individual practice area of the veterinarian in Iowa is approximately 1,000 farms, one can realize where a good income can easily be secured by the veterinarian and farmers by preventing a small portion of the losses now occurring.

That poultry are probably the most seriously neglected is indicated by statistics showing that only about 60 per cent of the poultry hatched ever produce meat or eggs. If five per cent of the adult poultry deaths alone were prevented 200 million dozen more eggs and 100 million more pounds of meat would be produced.

The annual loss of swine from birth to marketing ranges from 35 to 45 per cent of the annual pig crop. The figure given by the A.V.M.A. Committee on Swine Diseases in 1945 was 37 per cent. Unfortunately, swine owners seem to look at diseases from the herd standpoint and do not call their veterinarian when one is sick, but wait until the whole herd is exposed. This makes the loss more extensive and treatment more difficult. The brood sow must raise more than five pigs to pay for her feed. Abortions and failure to adequately care for pigs result in the loss of entire litters. Losses of calves are probably greater since they are largely due to abortion or scours. In calves 25 per cent die before becoming useful to the owner. In both calves and pigs 90 per cent of the scours and intestinal problems originate through nutritional faults. This when complicated with bacterial invasion leads to death of the animal.

In dairy cattle the biggest losses are from mastitis and sterility. The average age of the dairy cow is less than four years which means that the farmer must care for and feed his cows two years before he is able to receive two years production of calves and milk from them. If he were able to increase productive life just two years the cost of replacements would be cut to approximately one half. Some large dairy farms near cities have even gone so far as to buy all their cows just before their second calf is born and send them to market when production decreases, without even attempting to rebreed them. This keeps the herd limited to cows in satisfactory production, thus removing all nonproducing animals.

All these deterrents to high agriculture production can be alleviated by proper herd management coupled with the provision of adequate veterinary service.

C.L.C.