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Report #923

## DISEASED DEER IN THE FAIRVIEW AREA

In Jly, 1945, three to five doe deer with badly swollen udders were observed by Conservation Officers and others on the Reed Ranch east of Fairview in the eastern edge of Oscoda County. Some of these deer were rearing fawns that appeared to be in normal physical condition.

After field observations consultations were held with veterinary authorities at Michigan State College. Their best guess from descriptions was that the deer had contracted "mastities".

These men believed there was little chance of spread of the disease and did not recommend eliminating the infected animals from the herd. Rather they suggested watchful waiting.

As the summer progressed the swollen udders decreased in size and by late October were normal in size.

Again in early June, 1946, one case was reported. On June 24th three cases were observed. Two of these are thought to be the same does that were infected in 1945, and the third may be. On the same day 55 additional does in a normal condition were observed in the same vicinity.

Dr. Stanley Whitlock was called in on the matter. After one rather poor observation (because of heavy brush) and lengthy discussion he recommended waiting until the fawns were sufficiently old to care for themselves before shooting a doe to definitely determine the cause of the infection.

It is apparent that a few female deer in this region have contracted an infection affecting their udders. They still are able to produce and rear fawns. The infection is thought to be mastitis. Veterinarians see little chance of spread or serious danger to the herd. They expect the infection to disappear in a short time.

At present a close check is being kept for appearance of this infection in other locations or an alarming increase on the Reed Ranch.

It is anticipated that later in the year one of these does will be killed to definitely determine the cause of the abnormality.

I. H. Bartlett

IHB:cb  
7/9/46

copied - Game Division  
10/2/57 - ml

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*Handwritten notes:*  
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