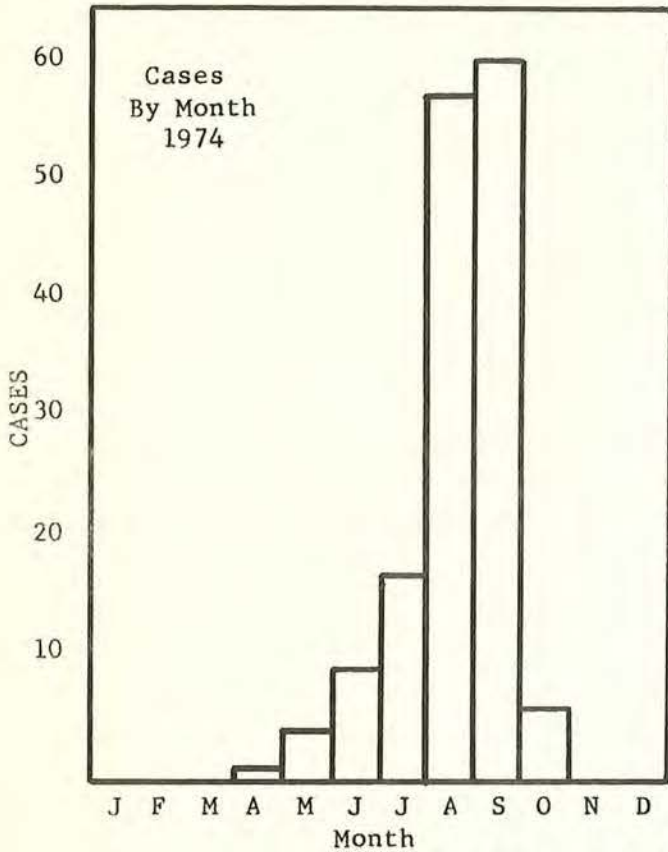


1974
 ENCEPHALOMYELITIS IN HORSES IN IOWA

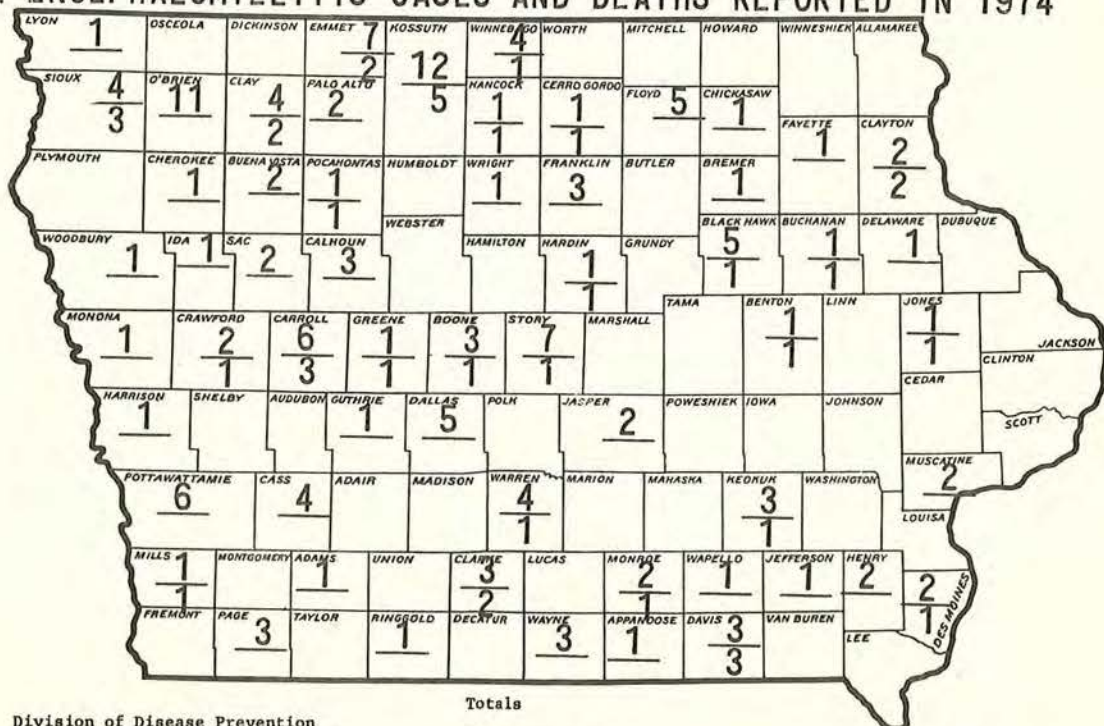


Veterinarians in Iowa reported 154 clinical cases of encephalomyelitis in 1974. Forty of the horses died. As indicated below the number of reported cases in 1974 was 62% higher than in 1973.

YEAR	CASES	YEAR	CASES	DEATHS
1963	621	1970	449	81
1964	1,287	1971	147	37
1965	812	1972	155	39
1966	262	1973	95	27
1967	289	1974	154	40
1968	394			
1969	255			

The graph shows the usual higher incidence of disease during the months in which mosquitoes, the common vector, are most abundant. Studies in past years suggest the etiologic agent has been western equine encephalomyelitis (WEE) virus. While the disease is not transmitted from horses to man there is the possibility of mosquitoes carrying the virus from birds, the most common natural reservoir, to man. No human cases of WEE were reported in Iowa in 1974.

COUNTY DISTRIBUTION OF CLINICAL EQUINE VIRAL ENCEPHALOMYELITIS CASES AND DEATHS REPORTED IN 1974



Division of Disease Prevention
 Veterinary Public Health Section

Totals
 154 = Cases
 40 = Deaths

April 19, 1975