

# Spotted Fever spurs concern in Lincoln

By Judi Nygren

Two recently confirmed cases of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever in the Lincoln area have spurred concern among Lincoln citizens and the medical community, according to the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department. "We have received many phone calls

from people who have been bitten by ticks or want more information," said Carol Mitchell, a registered nurse at the health department.

Because Lincoln citizens live in an area infested with ticks, Mitchell said, they should call the health department for information, but "it's not a matter of panic." It is the exceptional tick that carries the disease, she said.

Although most ticks are disease-free, it only takes one "exceptional" tick to spread the possibly fatal illness.

Some of the symptoms people should be aware of include a moderate to high fever, chills, a severe headache, deep muscular or joint pains, nausea, vomiting, cramps, a sore throat and sensitivity to light. A rash which develops on the palms of the hands and the soles of the feet and quickly spreads over the body also may be an indication of the illness. These symptoms usually occur three to 14 days after an infectious tick bite.

Whether or not it carries the infec-

tion, the health department recommends removing a tick immediately. To remove an embedded tick use fingers or tweezers to grasp the tick close to the skin. After grasping it, pull slowly and steadily until it comes free. Do not twist or jerk the tick. If the tick's head or mouth parts stay under the skin, use a clean needle to remove it and gently apply an antiseptic.

Ticks usually embed themselves at the base of the head at the hairline or in the scalp, but the health department recommends that a person check every body part after each outdoor trip.



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"The potential may not be there in part because the lending opportunities may not be there. The graduate may have to look for non-farm income at least for a partial supplement to get him back onto the farm," he said.

Riding an "uphill market" will be difficult for young farmers, Johnson said. Interest rates need to come down to boost the economy, he said. But, Johnson said he doesn't see that happening, at least for now.

"There's a higher probability of interest rates staying where they are," Johnson said.

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