

**Part 34:**  
**Reports that Plum Island tested 'weaponized' ticks**

Michael Christopher Carroll wrote about the early 1950s in the U.S.: “Preposterous as it sounds, clandestine outdoor germ warfare trials were almost routine during this period.

“In 1952, the Joint Chiefs of Staff called for a 'vigorous, well-planned, large-scale (biological warfare) test program ... with all interested agencies participating.'

"A top-secret letter to the secretary of defense later that year stated, 'Steps should be take to make certain of adequate facilities are available, including those at Fort Detrick, Dugway Proving Ground, Fort Terry (Plum Island) and an island field testing area.'" ("Lab 257," 2005, p. 14.)

Carroll reported, “A source who worked on Plum Island in the 1950s recalls that animal handlers and a scientist released ticks outdoors on the island. They called him the Nazi scientist, when they came in, in 1951—they were inoculating these ticks.”

The same source reported having once seen a photograph that “shows the animal handler pointing to the area on Plum [Island] where they released the ticks.”

Carroll quoted the former Plum Island Director Dr. Jerry Callis who admitted: “Plum Island experimented with ticks,” but, he claimed, “never outside of containment. We had a tick colony, where you take them and feed them on the virus, and breed the ticks to see how many generations it would last, on and on, until it’s diluted. Recently, they reinstated the tick colony.” (p. 23) [“Lab 257” was first published in 2004.]

Carroll also referred to a report by journalist Karl Grossman, who stated that during an interview with a Plum lab boss: “He did tell the roving reporter what he knew firsthand: Plum Island previously worked on—and continued to work on—tick experiments on ‘soft ticks’ that transmitted heartwater, bluetongue, and African [\*sic] swine fever viruses, but aren’t normally known for spreading the Bb [Lyme] bacteria. [*\*Naming of infectious diseases by colonialist/imperialist medical establishments is political and very often racist.*]

“But that wasn’t the complete picture,” Carroll emphasized. “The lab chief failed to mention that Plum Island also worked on 'hard ticks,' a crucial distinction.

"In laymen's terms," Carroll explained, “Plum Island was experimenting with the Lone Star tick and the Cayenne tick--feeding them on viruses and testing them on pigs--during the ground zero year of Lyme disease. ... The Lone Star tick, named after the white star on the back of the female, is a hard tick; along with its cousin, the deer tick, it is a culprit in the spread of Lyme disease. Interestingly, at that time, the Lone Star tick's habitat was

confined to Texas."

Carroll observed in his 2004 publication, "Today, however, it is endemic throughout New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey. And no one can really explain how it migrated all the way from Texas."

Even indoor testing at the Plum Island germ warfare laboratory complex raised safety issues. "Tests were supposed to be held in airtight laboratory rooms," Carroll wrote. "Instead, internal government documents prove there were gaping holes in the lab roofs where air currents and insects freely came and went, depending on the directions of the wind." (p. 21)

But Carroll also described test animals, injected with virus vaccines, held in outdoor pens, fed from open-air feeding troughs. He said Plum Island workers reported birds flying in and out of the pens to feed from the same troughs. "One eyewitness reported seeing deer entering the animal pens to feed." (p. 21)

Regarding safety with the tick colonies, in 1980, "a Plum Island scientific oversight committee urged the USDA to hire 'an appropriately trained medical entomologist,' calling it a 'priority item.' The consultants also 'strongly recommended' the construction of 'a modern, approved insectory be undertaken for future research.'"

Carroll concluded, "The advisors had serious concerns with the primitive tick colony then in operation under the veterinarian Dr. [William] Hess, who had been with Plum Island since 1953." (pp. 24-25)

Carroll concluded, "Dr. Hess's tick experiments in the 1960s and '70s with the Lone Star tick and others were conducted in unsafe conditions."

Carroll stressed that where the Lyme [also referred to as Bb] came from "is as important as where it's gone. ...

"At any rate," Carroll concluded, "the apparent epicenter of Lyme disease seems dubiously close, too coincidentally close to Plum Island, a place that has raised far too many questions for the Bb link to be dismissed along with the three-headed chicken and five-legged cow." (p. 26)

*Next: Ex-U.S. prosecutor publicly charged Nazi scientist tested 'poison ticks' on Plum Island*