

ANSWERS TO INQUIRIES.

IN order to ensure reply to questions, correspondents must give their name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. Letters should be addressed to the Editor.

DISTINGUISHING COWS UNDER TEST.

C. F., Pakaraka :—

Would you be so good as to tell me the best plan for branding a dairy herd of seventy cows? The object is for keeping a weight and test record, names being unsatisfactory. I thought numbering on rump would be the best thing. Is there not a paint brand that can be stencilled on and yet become a permanency?

The Live-stock Division :—

The subject of distinguishing cows under test has been given considerable thought, and it is still held that naming the cow is the most convenient method, and is the one generally in use. It has to be remembered that branding a number on the animal with the hot iron or liquid branding-fluid is not permissible under the Stock Act, which requires registration of all brands. Painting the number on cannot be said to be of any value, as it is usually obliterated in a short time.

SUMMER FORAGE CROPS FOR EWES AND LAMBS.

“INQUIRER,” Dromore, Canterbury :—

Could you suggest any crop which could be put in here during August or September to provide feed for ewes and lambs about November and December? We have found that neither ewes nor lambs do well if left on autumn-sown oats during those months, and if the weather is dry the grass is then going off. Rape does not do well here if sown before November, and lucerne appears to be hard to establish on this class of land.

The Fields Division :—

Owing to local conditions your scope is somewhat limited, but the following crops may be suggested for green feed from November to January: (1.) Spring-sown oats (2 to 3 bushels Algerians) sown in September, with 1 cwt. super-phosphate per acre. (2.) Cape barley (2 to 3 bushels) sown at end of September, using 1 cwt. super per acre. (3.) Black Skinless barley (2 to 3 bushels) sown at end of September, with 1 cwt. super per acre. (4.) Western Wolths, 25 lb., and cow-grass, 4 lb., sown at end of September, with 1 cwt. super per acre.

LAMBS WITH SORES ROUND MOUTH.

W. G. BONNER, Rahotu :—

I should be pleased if you would inform me the cause of, and remedy for, a number of my lambs breaking out in sores around the mouth. In one or two cases the upper lip is quite swollen, and the sore is very raw; in others the soreness is along both the upper and lower lips; the inside of the mouth is not affected. The paddock they have been grazing on (grass, old pasture containing rushes and cutty-grass) is very low-lying, and owing to the continual rain is very wet. I have removed them to a hilly paddock and isolated the ones affected.

The Live-stock Division :—

The primary cause of this condition is excessively wet pasture. The tissues are softened and then injured by the grasses, thus affording an entry for organisms. As carried out by you in this case, the lambs should be removed to dry pasture and the affected ones isolated for treatment. Hand feeding should