

spelling between successive grazing periods to allow of adequate development of pasture-growth. Although two days has just been mentioned as a suitable duration of grazing periods, it is not to be assumed that this is the most suitable duration under all circumstances.

Carefully recorded and supervised farm experience has shown that grazing periods of two days' duration have given excellent results. For instance, in connection with pasture-management investigations conducted by the Fields Division, records of the butterfat returns and of the duration of the grazing periods were kept for a complete season in respect to seventy good farms distributed in the Auckland, Wellington, and Taranaki districts. Seven of these farms were characterized by specially good grazing returns. On six of these seven specially good farms the great majority of the grazing periods were short—that is, of a duration of two days or less. But good results have also been obtained by the use of grazing periods both of longer and of shorter duration. The best stage of growth at which grazing-down of a pasture should be undertaken is decided not so much by the total amount of feed on a paddock as by the length and maturity of the growth of herbage. Hence an open pasture might call for stocking in the autumn, when it provided only one day's grazing, while a dense pasture would call for stocking when in the spring it provided two days' stocking at the same carrying-capacity.

It is of importance in deciding at what stage to graze a pasture to study not so much the average length of the growth as the length of growth on the richer patches of the field, which mark the vicinity of where animal manure has been deposited. If the growth of these richer areas is left untouched until the growth on the remainder of the field has reached the maximum length at which it may well be grazed, then difficulty will be experienced in dealing with the ranker growth on the specially enriched patches. Hence it is often well to take as a criterion for the commencement of grazing the state of the growth on the ranker portions of the field. As greater knowledge and greater proficiency in respect to grazing management is obtained, it is possible that opinions will be modified in regard to such matters as the best stage of growth at which to commence grazing.

The proper provision of an ample water-supply and of shelter are matters which call for more general attention than they receive. They are of such vital importance that they should rank as essential features of any scheme of dairy-farm subdivision, and they should not be sacrificed in order to secure merely convenient and orderly arrangement of paddocks.

To sum up: While successful pasture-utilization will often call for additional farm-fencing, yet often better utilization than is being obtained could be secured by employing to the best advantage the fencing already provided. The road to better pasture-utilization is not so much increased farm outlay as improved grasp of the principles and practice of properly controlled grazing. The vital feature of properly controlled grazing is the prevention as far as possible of the growth becoming so mature as to have reached the flowering stage. Proper water-supply and shelter for the stock also call for careful attention.