

Veterinary Notes for the Farmer

Lamb Losses at Marking Time

LAMB losses at marking time may be due to several causes, some of which are preventable, while a few lambs may be lost after all care has been taken. Losses may result from haemorrhage, from mis-mothering, or from infection of wounds by a variety of germs. In the last-named case lambs may die from infection by the invasion of the wound by the tetanus germ, or by the germ causing blood poisoning. Other germs may invade the wounds, and, although not causing death, may result in causing lameness, involving the joints in what is known as arthritis. A certain amount of loss of condition results. The lamb receives a distinct check, and although it eventually recovers, the joints may remain permanently enlarged, even when the lamb is fattened and slaughtered.

The operations involved at marking time are therefore of some importance, and require to be given consider-

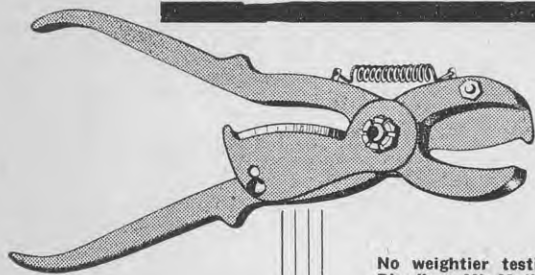
able thought if all loss is to be reduced to a minimum.

Primary Precautions

In the first place, it is important to check the site of the yard or temporary enclosure in which the marking operations are to be carried out. Old yards used permanently for the purpose are somewhat dangerous as sources of infection. The best procedure is to enclose an area in the corner of the paddock by using hurdles and netting wire, selecting a fresh site each year. All knives and instruments used should be sterilised by boiling before use. When the instruments are not being used, such as between operations, they should be returned to a vessel containing a reliable antiseptic solution. The hands and finger-nails of the operator should be clean.

As soon as the operation has been completed the lamb may be returned to the paddock, where it should be placed on its feet to prevent the infection of the wounds by soil organisms. The risk of loss from mis-mothering should be considerably reduced if each paddock is dealt with separately, as the mob is much smaller than if all sheep are concentrated at a central or permanent yard.

Loss of lambs from bleeding following the operation of marking depends to a large extent on the methods used for castrating and tailing. There are many safeguards available nowadays to prevent excessive bleeding following operation. There are several castrators and tailers on the market, all designed to prevent excessive bleeding from the castration and tailing wounds. In addition, some owners use the hot iron for tailing and in this way bleeding from the tail is controlled.



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No weightier testimony of the unfailing efficiency of the MOWAT in preventing loss of lambs by Bleeding, Mis-Mothering, Arthritis, and all After-Tailing Dangers could be given than the more-than-satisfied experience of the farmers themselves. Here are a few typical extracts from many letters of high appreciation.

Dear Sirs,—“I used the ‘MOWAT’ Tailer last year on all my lambs, and was very pleased with it in every way. As far as I am concerned, I shall never go back to the knife. I think, although it was a bad season, my fat lambs are better than ever before.”
Lower Kokatahi, 25th April, 1939.
(Signed) J. W. KELLY,

Dear Sirs,—“I have used the ‘MOWAT’ Instrument on my lambs for the past two seasons, with very satisfactory results. I have tailed lambs of all ages, big and small, without any bleeding, and I can safely say it is outstanding. The lambs mother up as soon as let go, and continue to thrive just as if they had never been operated on at all.”
Cheviot R.M.D., 10th October, 1938.
(Signed) J. BECKETT.

Dear Sirs,—“I have had absolute success in the use of the Tailer, and no trouble with Arthritis at all, and lambs have gone away fat earlier than before we used the Tailer.” (Signed) C. P. STRACHAN.
Ngatimoto R.M.D., Motueka, 10th May, 1939.

Dear Sirs,—“I should like to say we used your Instrument in docking our 350 lambs without a single casualty. It is really effective in stopping the bleeding.” (Signed) ALFRED SMITH.
Wai Toi Toi, Taranaki, December 11th, 1938.

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