

What is the cause? It is definitely not dirty feeding tins nor cold milk; they usually take bad before I start them on skim milk, so this has nothing to do with it.

Is it likely to be a germ in my calf paddock? I have been rearing calves in the same paddock for many years. It is really the only suitable place to keep them.

LIVESTOCK DIVISION:—

According to the history of your losses it would appear as if your young calves become infected with a microscopic parasite known as a coccidium, the disease being known as coccidiosis.

At the age of three or four weeks the calves are eating some grass or probably drinking from contaminated surface pools in the calf paddocks, and in this way pick up the coccidia from the calf paddock. It is essential that you discontinue the use of the present calf paddock, which appears to be "calf-sick" and probably teeming with parasitic forms of various kinds. The calf paddock should be ploughed up, drained if necessary, and heavily limed and cropped. It may then be sown

down in grass again and used for a number of years as it is so suitable for the rearing of calves.

It is difficult to suggest how the disease may be prevented if you continue to use the same paddock again this year. Is it possible to keep the calves off the paddock and to feed them on hay until they become older,

Advisory Service on Veterinary Matters.

Farmers are invited to submit inquiries connected with the health of their stock, and the replies will be published under this heading.

as the disease is more serious in the case of very young animals? It will pay to use another paddock for the calves, even though there is an increased labour in feeding them.

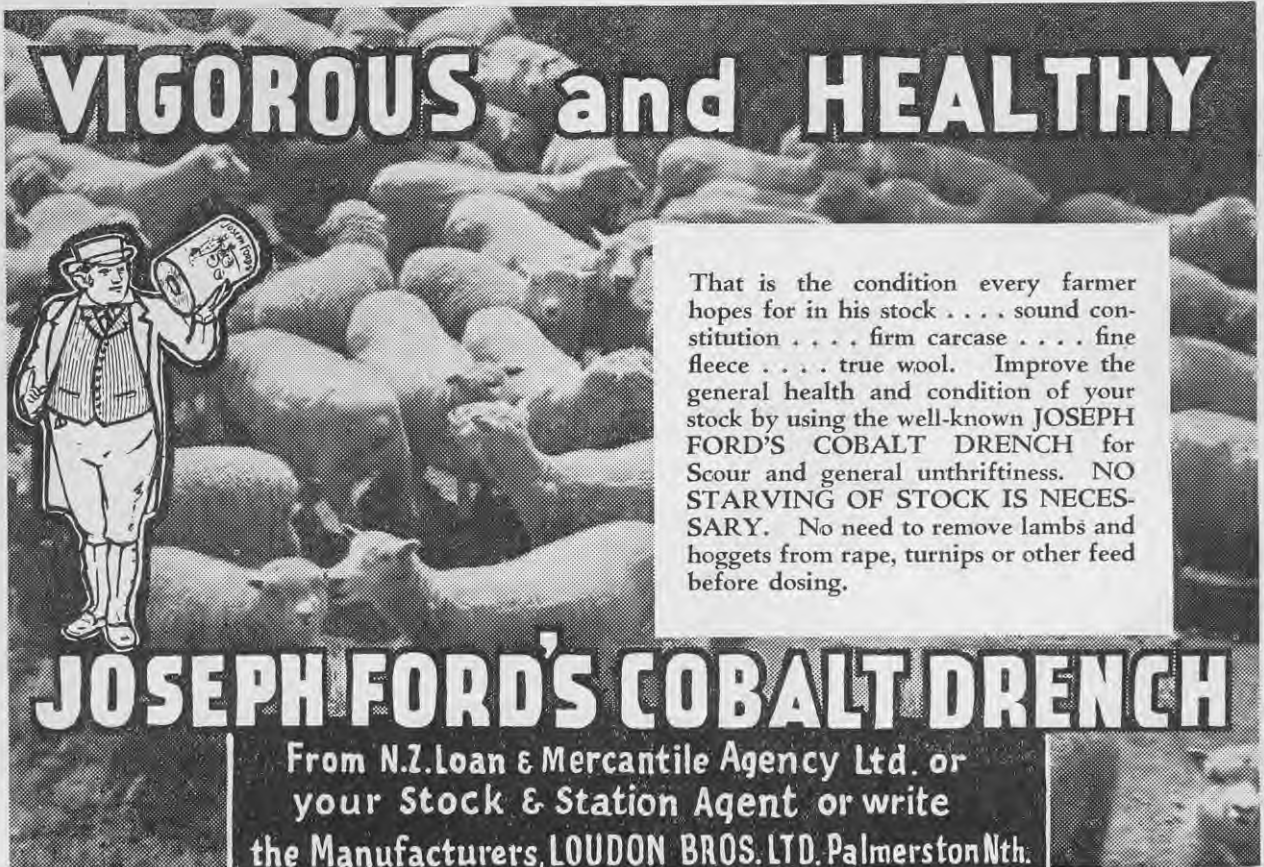
The disease is serious for young calves in that once the diarrhoea turns to dysentery the loss of blood is so serious that the young animals are rapidly reduced to skin and bone. The

serious setback, even though they recover, materially affects the normal growth and development of the calves and interferes with the digestion and absorption of food. Such a setback renders the calves more susceptible to both stomach and lung worms at a later age.

The worm position is also another very strong argument in favour of ploughing up the paddock and using another paddock for calves for a season or two.

The treatment of affected animals consists of removing them from the paddock, giving a laxative dose of medicine (such as castor oil), and then following up with some medicine containing an iron preparation to counteract the loss of blood. Good nursing, nourishing, food in small quantities, keeping the calves dry and warm, and limiting the drinking of water, which should always be pure, are all essential features of successful treatment.

Drinking surface water or contaminated water in the calf paddock should be absolutely prohibited.



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