

The two-tooths, numbering 150, wintered on the hill, and at the conclusion of lambing they will be brought down on to the flat, bringing the stock on this area up to 700 for the summer. The rams were put out on April 12, 1941, and lambing began on September 12 and finished on or about October 3.

### **Freedom From Goitre**

There were some ewes, 58 in number, which lambed earlier than the main lot. Some of these were aged ewes—28 were left over from a draft which went to the freezing works, and the remainder were ewes of mixed ages, the rams gaining access at an earlier date. These 58 ewes lambed in August, and the lambs were "marked" before the main lot began to lamb. **No cases of goitre occurred in the lambs from these ewes.**

Another lot, of "bought-in ewes" (numbering 60), mostly six-tooth and eight-tooth, were bought at a local sale and put on the flat in July. **No cases of goitre occurred in the lambs from these ewes.**

### **No cases of goitre occurred in the lambs from the 150 two-tooth ewes wintered on the hill.**

Among the remaining 430 ewes on the flat between September 12 and 29 70 to 80 lambs had been lost from congenital goitre, and by the time lambing finished, about October 3, 90 to 100 lambs were actually lost—a loss equivalent to 15 per cent. over all, or 20 per cent. in the lambs of the ewes in which the incidence was actually recorded.

### **Evidence of Thyroids**

A few lambs affected were premature but the majority were up to time. Some affected lambs were born dead, but most appear to have been born alive, but with vitality extremely low, so that many of them died in a short period without ever gaining their feet. There were cases where one lamb of twins was markedly affected and died, while the other was apparently normal and lived. Possibly, if it had been practical to palpate the thyroids of the surviving member some degree of enlargement of the thyroids would have been detected. Several affected lambs showed a tendency to "hairiness,"

although this feature is sometimes a genetical characteristic, especially of the Romney breed. There were lambs affected from four-tooth and 6-tooth ewes, but it is safe to say that the majority of cases were in lambs from ewes full-mouth and over.

The thyroids of affected lambs varied in size or palpation from a filbert nut to a large duck egg (that is, one lobe, both lobes did not always show uniform enlargement).

Although cases occurred in practically every paddock on the flat, it was thought by the owner that one paddock more than any other was implicated. This was one of 24 acres, ploughed and sown down many years ago. It is one of the wettest of the paddocks on the flat, and four years ago was heavily covered in rushes. This paddock carried 100 ewes since the middle of May, 1941.

The rams on the property were palpated, but no enlargement of thyroids could be detected.

Some of the ewes were examined (half a dozen), and there were two in which a slight enlargement of the thyroids could be detected.

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