



Trimming before replacing the frame prior to mowing and weighing.



Herbage inside the enclosure ready for mowing and weighing.

to a new site. This method involves the least change from standard farm management, and has proved very satisfactory both with sheep and dairy cattle grazing.

Frames are erected in pairs (in numbers sufficient to give accurate measurement) and from each pair one weight is obtained in the following manner. Let us suppose the frames are A and B:—

Jan. 10.—Frame A is placed in the paddock.

Jan. 17.—The herbage in frame A is trimmed to an even height with the mower. Frame B is "placed."

Jan. 24.—The herbage in Frame A is mown and weighed (giving production in the week Jan. 17-24), and the frame is shifted to a new site. The herbage in Frame B is trimmed.

Jan. 31.—The herbage in Frame B is mown and weighed and the frame is shifted. The herbage in Frame A is trimmed.

Such a technique enables continuous production records to be secured, and is applicable in practically any reasonably controlled field. In addition, it in no way interferes with the normal grazing of the field.

It will be noted that the technique allows the herbage to recover after grazing, and then to be trimmed to an even height before leaving for mowing and weighing. Both the recovery period and the trimming are deemed necessary to remedy the uneven height of pasture left after grazing, the recovery period ensuring that those areas grazed shorter than "mowing height" will recover to that height before production measurements are started. To some extent, this trimming technique interferes with the normal recovery after grazing, but it is essential for accurate records, and appears to exert a comparatively small effect.

With the rate of growth trials, cutting is made at regular intervals (usually about seven days). At certain periods there may be no growth to cut at such an interval, and in that case the fact is recorded, and the frames are left in position. Such a technique enables the fluctuations in growth rate to be more accurately

measured than one in which cutting is made at a comparable stage of growth in each case. The latter method is commonly employed where the effect of various pasture treatments is measured. When the production data is examined in comparison with the known carrying capacity of the area, a satisfactory correlation has been found using standard English digestibility data and maintenance and production requirements for various classes of stock. This relation has been determined for different periods of the year. Allowance has always to be made for the incomplete utilisation of feed by stock.

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