

Husk or Hoose in Calves

THE symptoms of coughing in calves at this time of the year is almost always characteristic of the condition known as husk or hoose, or sometimes lungworm disease. In calves the coughing gradually becomes more marked towards the end of summer and during the autumn and early winter months. If the calves have been grazing on low-lying pastures or the season is a rainy one, many calves will show coughing symptoms.

The well-developed cough is characteristic of worms in the bronchial tubes and lungs. The affected animals stand with the head outstretched, and during the attack of coughing the tongue frequently protrudes from the mouth. The coughing is due to the irritation set up by the worms in the lung tubes, and is really an attempt to dislodge the irritating offenders.

A species of small, thread-like worm is the cause of the trouble. Calf

paddocks are liable to harbour the parasite, so that a change of paddock is one of the first essentials in treatment. Although many well-fed calves overcome the worm trouble through a change of pasture and some supplementary feeding, there is a danger of a severe check in growth or even deaths if affected calves are neglected. A form of parasitic broncho-pneumonia may set in, which frequently proves fatal.

The treatment of husk or lungworm in calves is not always easy, especially in badly-infested calves in poor condition. Many and varied treatments have been tried from time to time, including fumigation and inhalation of medicine. Drenches containing active worm medicine have been given, and injections into the wind-pipe are sometimes given. It is a fatal mistake to depend upon medicinal treatment in badly-infested calves. The location of

the worms makes it difficult to attack them in such a way as to cause their death and expulsion.

In the first place, the animal's strength must be maintained and any loss of condition must be built up. Good feeding is therefore the first

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essential. The affected animals must be prevented from picking up more worms from the pastures and watering places, and a change of pasture to a dry, well-drained area is essential. Supplementary feeding on ensilage, hay, or even crushed oats and linseed may be necessary for very weak ani-

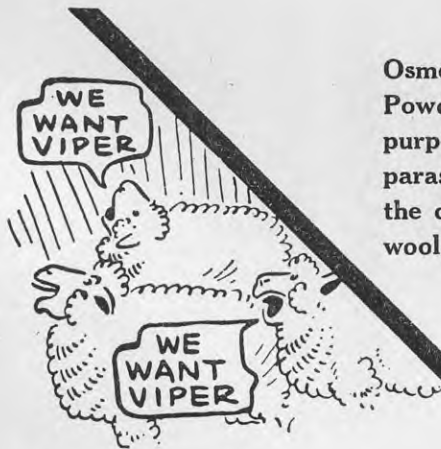
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