

Winton Grazing Trials

By J. W. WOODCOCK, Fields Superintendent,
Dunedin, and A. STUART, Instructor in
Agriculture, Invercargill.

IN the February and March issues of the "Journal of Agriculture" the results from a trial designed to measure the production from paddocks sown with certified Hawkes Bay ryegrass (Northland fields) as compared with areas sown with Southland ryegrass (Southland fields) were published. Unfortunately, a misprint occurred in that portion of the summary dealing with average percentages of fat lambs from the two areas. As the latter is the crux of the whole investigation the error makes the results appear unduly in favour of the Southland ryegrass. In order to draw proper attention to the necessary correction the correct summary of the four years' results is given below:—

	Northland	Southland
Average carrying capacity, ewes per acre	6.13	5.53
Average lambing percentage ..	104.1%	104.4%
Average percentage of fat lambs ..	89.8%	81.3%
Average annual returns per acre—		
Fat lambs	£5 18 11	£6 4 6
Store lambs	1 11 8	0 17 6
Wool	2 5 0	1 19 7
	£9 15 7	£9 1 7

Further Experimental Work

In discussing the above trial, the suggestion was made that after the first grazing season a more mixed type of pasture on the Southland areas may have been responsible for a greater percentage of fat lambs. In order to throw further light on this important aspect of grassland farming—and there has in the past been a considerable amount of controversy regarding simple versus complex seed mixtures—a further experiment has been laid down at Winton. On one area there has been sown a simple mixture of 36 lb. pedigree ryegrass and 3 lb. white clover per acre. On a second area a more complex mixture has been sown consisting of 8 lb. pedigree ryegrass, 12 lb. cocksfoot, 5 lb. Italian ryegrass, 5 lb. timothy, 3 lb. dogstail, 3 lb. Montgomery red clover and 3 lb. white clover per acre. While the latter is not by any means a standard mixture it has been designed to give the species other than ryegrass full capacity for establishment. A larger sowing of perennial ryegrass would probably result in this species becoming too aggressive.

Unfortunately, it has not been possible to provide replications in this

trial, each treatment consisting of a single area, 2½ acres in extent. These two areas were originally part of the same field, however, and the soil appears extremely even.

The technique of this experiment is being worked as follows:—Soon after lambing a certain number of ewes and lambs is drafted on to each paddock, each lot being as even as possible. Dry sheep are introduced on to each area to clean up any excess feed. The results will be based on the number and weight of fat lambs produced from

Radio Broadcasts

RADIO talks to farmers will be given from Station 1YA, Auckland, at 7.15 p.m., on the following dates:—

May 13.—"Nutrition of Dairy Stock," by Mr. F. T. Lees, Technician, Animal Research Station, Ruakura.

May 10.—"Poultry-keeping as a Side-line on Dairy Farms," by Mr. E. C. Jarrett, Poultry Instructor, Department of Agriculture, Auckland.

May 17.—"Annual Crops for Dairy Farms," by Mr. C. Walker, Instructor in Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, Thames.

May 24.—"Young Farmers' Clubs' Session." To be arranged by Western Bay of Plenty District Y.F.C. Committee.

May 31.—"Bacteria and the Plant," by Dr. Reid, Ph.D., Bacteriologist, Plant Diseases Station, Auckland.

Pig Industry Broadcasts

UNDER the auspices of the District Pig Councils concerned, broadcasts will be delivered in May as follows:—

1YA, Auckland.—May 20, 7.15 p.m. "Maintenance of Layout," by Norman Carter, Supervisor, Bay of Plenty District Pig Council.

2YA, Wellington.—May 18, 7.35 p.m. "Litter Production," by C. H. M.

each area, and the number of grazing days of adult sheep during each season.

Results of the first grazing season are now to hand, but it is not intended to publish them until two or three years' data have been secured, especially in view of the fluctuations in production experienced in the earlier trial.

It is felt that this type of trial, in which actual livestock production is measured, will be more acceptable, particularly to the farming community, than the type of observational experiments conducted hitherto. Unfortunately, it demands more supervision than the farmer can give and hence is not suitable for carrying out on a co-operative scale, but must be confined to either a fully equipped experimental farm or a subsidised area such as the Winton Demonstration Farm. When conditions return to normal, however, the demand for information on various farm problems, particularly those facing farmers in the South, may well warrant an extension of trials such as have been described in this report.

Sorensen, Supervisor, Taranaki District Pig Council.

2YH, Napier.—May 13, 7.30 p.m. "Litter Production," by Ivan H. Owtram, Supervisor, Tairāwhiti District Pig Council.

3YA, Christchurch.—May 20, 7.15 p.m. "Feeding Pigs without Milk," by Hector McIntosh, Supervisor, Canterbury District Pig Council.

Correction

IN the article "Production of Perennial Ryegrass and White Clover Seed," by A. H. Flay featured in the February issue of the Journal of Agriculture the author advises an error which occurred in his manuscript. On page 75 the paragraph reading "Many progressive farmers in the arable farming districts of Canterbury have approximately one-third of their farms in cereals—wheat, oats, and barley; one-third devoted to peas; one-third in certified ryegrass and clover pastures" should read as follows:—"Many progressive farmers in the arable farming districts of Canterbury have approximately one-third of their farms in cereals—wheat, oats, and barley; one-third devoted to peas, rape, potatoes, green-feeds, new grass, etc.; one-third in certified ryegrass and clover pastures."