

### Administering Medicines to Livestock

THE most common method of administering fluids to livestock is by the mouth from a bottle. If many animals are to be drenched, it is advisable to have the bottle cased in leather, as this may prevent an animal having its mouth badly cut by broken glass. It may also prevent the loss of a bottle if the patient becomes unruly.

In drenching a cow the operator should stand on the right side of the cow with his left arm over the nose and the left hand firmly grasping the upper lip. He should then insert the neck of the bottle half-way into the right side of the mouth and allow the fluid to run on to the middle of the tongue. The head should be raised slightly above the horizontal to assist the passage of the drench to the pharynx. If the animal should attempt to cough, the head should be released temporarily. The fluid should be allowed to flow slowly from the bottle until swallowing takes place.

#### Assistance

If the animal is very restive, an assistant may help to steady the head by holding the horns, but the animal's breathing should not be interfered with during the operation. When a horse has to be drenched a loop of thin rope is run under the nose-band of the halter into the mouth. The end of the rope is thrown over a beam and the lips drawn out of the loop to prevent injury. If available, a drenching bit may be used. As the drenching of a horse is not generally favoured, medicines are given to horses more commonly as balls, boluses, capsules, and electuaries.

The animal should be in a stall or in a corner so that it cannot run backwards. The head is then raised slightly above the horizontal and the fluid slowly poured into the mouth. Immediately lower the head if coughing takes place. It is not a good plan to rub or tap the throat to induce swallowing. A better method is to push the end of the halter shank back among the molar teeth to induce chewing, which then induces swallowing.

In drenching a pig it is a good plan to place an old shoe, with a hole cut in the toe, in the mouth and pour the fluid into this. The pig will chew on the shoe, and the fluid runs back into the mouth through the hole in the toe. Fluid can also be poured through

a rubber tube or hose-pipe from a funnel. The hose-pipe is placed in the pig's mouth, and the fluid runs into the mouth. The pig usually chews the hose and swallows.

#### Drenching Sheep

Sheep are more easily drenched, but it is bad practice to sit the sheep on its haunches. Straddle the sheep at the shoulders, or have it in a narrow race, and lean over the side. The mouth can be opened by the left hand going round the lower jaw with the

thumb inserted into the mouth. The use of mechanical dosers is increasing, but many owners do not possess them.

When using the various types of drenching gun on the market at the present time it is necessary to see that the nozzle of the gun does not injure the inside of the sheep's mouth. Many guns are now fitted with protective rubber to prevent injury, or the nozzle is slightly curved and blunt for the same purpose. It is easy to cause severe abscess formation in the gum and cheek if the point of the nozzle injures the lining of the mouth, especially when drenching with solutions containing copper sulphate or other worm medicines.

In drenching a dog the main thing is to see that he does not bite. Apply a clove hitch round the jaws, and tie it at the back of the head. Pull out the angle of the lips, and pour the fluid into the pouch thus formed.

### Disposal of Carcasses On the Farm

FROM a sanitary point of view no carcass should be left unburned in the open on the farm. Blowflies breed very freely on such carcasses, and may cause some considerable loss through sheep and lambs getting "blown" and maggoty.

The following is a simple and cheap method of burning a carcass where the necessary wood is available.

Two trenches are dug crosswise, each being up to 7ft. long, about 15in. wide, and 18in. deep at the intersection, becoming shallower towards the ends.

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