

life as possible. The wooden portion of the lid should be given at least one coat of paint before tacking on the metal cover. Many hive lids are ruined and leak at the corners when the metal is cut to allow the edges to be turned over. The metal should be neatly turned up at the edges lengthwise on the lid and tacked fast, after which the corners may be turned inward and the end folded into position as illustrated in Figs. 9 and 10. This work is best done by placing the lid upside down on the sheet of metal (placed on the floor) and using a hammer or wooden mallet to beat the metal neatly into place for tacking. Hive lids made this way give full protection in all weathers.

Floor-boards

The high cost of timber is now necessitating a revision in the types of floor-boards constructed. Fig. 7 illustrates a very popular and easily-constructed floor-board, but if totara timber is used for the runners, this floor-board becomes rather expensive.

Fig. 8 shows a type of floor-board which takes the minimum amount of timber, and, if used in conjunction with concrete hive-blocks, gives good service. The blocks are easily made as explained in an article in the "Journal of Agriculture" of May, 1946, and allow more ground surface than the first-mentioned floor-board to support the weight of the hive, which at times may amount to between 2 and 3cwt.

An estimate of the amount of timber required in the construction of 100 floor-boards is as follows:—

Type 1 Fig. 7	} 300 super ft. 6in. x 1in. <i>Pinus radiata</i> , which includes strips for rim.
Type 2 Fig. 8	
	132 super ft. 3in. x 2in. totara.
	318 super ft. 10in. x 5/8in. <i>Pinus radiata</i> .
	72 super ft. 2in. x 1in. totara.

The saving of about 6d. a floor-board in the cost of material for Type 2 as against Type 1 would help considerably toward the cost of concrete blocks, which are practically everlasting.

Conclusion

Owing to the great difficulty in securing supplies of suitable timber for the manufacture of hive equipment it has become essential for the beekeeper to see that material is made up as accurately as possible and assembled and painted so as to give maximum service.

Measurements of hive materials, including frames, are contained in Bulletin No. 267, "Beekeeping in New Zealand," obtainable from any office of the Department of Agriculture, price 2s. 6d.

Advantages of Spreading Liming Programme throughout the Year



[Government Film Studios photo.]

By R. THAINE, Assistant Fields Instructor, Wellington.

OBTAINING lime in the right quantities at the right times is a frequent cause of worry to many a farmer. Often lime is available when paddocks are too wet for it to be spread or when transport is unprocurable. Such hold-ups in liming may have serious effects on the success of the general farming practice, and there is much to be said for the programme being spread throughout the year as far as possible.

UNLIKE most fertilisers and manures, lime is not quick acting, and the benefit from an application is spread over many months or even years. Well-ground limestone consists of particles varying in size from small, gritty pieces to dust. The larger particles may persist in the soil for longer than a year, but the smaller are dissolved more readily in the soil moisture. This period of benefit depends on several factors: The fineness of grinding, the nature of the deposit from which the lime is derived, and soil and weather conditions.

The advantages presented by those characteristics of lime are not put to the use they could be. As the action and benefit of lime are spread over months, a set time of the year for application is not necessary. Equal benefit will result if lime is sown in autumn, winter, spring, or summer.

Avoiding Peak Demand

The wise farmer will arrange his liming programme to avoid peak periods in the demand for the material. Autumn and early winter are invariably the busiest times for the lime-works, but their output is no greater than at any other time of the year, so farmers requiring lime then are often delayed. Why should the liming programme not be spread throughout the year as much as possible? At harvest there is time for little else but bringing in the crops, but it is worth an extra effort to have

lime put on a low-lying paddock during the dry months rather than run the risk of it being missed because the ground is too wet in autumn or winter. These paddocks which are "too wet to get on to" frequently are in great need of lime.

Another advantage gained from distributing the application of lime is that the expense incurred is not payable in a lump sum. That factor may seem minor, but it is of considerable importance to farmers who are not securely established.

Pig Broadcasts

Under the auspices of District Pig Councils broadcasts will be delivered in August as under:—

Auckland—1YA, on August 20, at 7.15 p.m., "Common Ailments of Pigs," by C. W. Wallace, Supervisor, Waikato District Pig Council.

Dunedin—4YA, on August 11, at 7.15 p.m., "The Choice of Breeding Stock and its Effect on Quality," by H. McDonald, Supervisor, Otago District Pig Council.

Palmerston North—2ZA, on August 15 at 7 p.m., "It is not too Early to Prepare for Next Winter's Feed Supply," by L. Marsdon, Supervisor, Wellington District Pig Council.

Napier—2YH, on August 14, at 7.15 p.m., "Preparation for Next Winter's Feed Supply," by H. Hopkins, Supervisor, Tairāwhiti District Pig Council.