

in two instances where the organic-matter content of the soil was abnormally high for pumice country) that where no borax, or very little of it, was used the disease was relatively severe.

Whereas the majority of competitors failed to use borax in 1946-47 for the control of mottled-heart disease, mainly with disastrous results, this season 21 entrants used between 4lb. and 20lb. per acre, the average being about 9lb.

Dry rot disease was present in many of the entries, but to such a minor extent that it caused very little loss. There was no evidence of soft rot or other serious infection.

Records: Most competitors scored fairly well in this section and thus contributed materially to the preparation of this survey; but there is still room for some improvement if the full purpose of the competition is to be achieved.

Meadow Hay (Stacked and Baled)

There was a most pleasing improvement in general quality of meadow hay and in the manner in which it was protected from stock and weather, compared with the position in 1946-47. Generally the herbage was cut in a much more leafy condition and also contained a higher proportion of clovers and trefoil. Inferior grasses such as sweet vernal, goosegrass, and hair-grass were not nearly so prominent and there was a considerable improvement in the ryegrass and cocksfoot content. All first-place entries were of an exceptionally-high standard—a standard well worthy of emulation in the future. In fact, most of the placed entries consisted of really good hay. No material difference in quality could be detected between well-made stacked hay and well-made baled hay.

Lucerne Hay

The lucerne hay class showed some improvement over the previous season's competition, both as regards the number of entries and quality. Results showed, however, that there was ample scope for further improvement in this important winter supplement. Greater care should be taken in harvesting the crop to see that as little leaf as possible is dropped. It appears that usually lucerne is left far too long in the swath before being windrowed and possibly cocked. The result is a rapid loss of leaf, due to heat from the sun, and the ultimate saving of bare stems only.

Most entrants lost points either through faulty harvesting methods, or failure to protect stacks adequately against bad weather. Lack of experience with lucerne was largely responsible for the faults mentioned.

Silage

The entries (10) received in the silage section showed a distinct improvement over those entered in 1946-47, which was very encouraging, especially in view of the fact that the Rotorua district has never been regarded as an important silage-making area.

The 1947-48 competition proved conclusively that silage of the highest quality can be made by farmers in the Rotorua district. If a few farmers can make silage satisfactorily, no doubt all farmers, with experience, could do likewise.

Silage making should be particularly attractive to farmers whose properties are fully developed and in first-class pasture, as not only does it lend itself to pasture management of a high order, but it can also obviate the need for breaking up good pastures for annual cropping.

FOR several years the Department of Agriculture has been interested in the results being obtained from the use of hybrid types of seed maize and three seasons ago the Department grew an experimental area for the production of seed of a genuine double hybrid—Pfister No. 360.

Imported seed of this hybrid had already behaved very well under local conditions and, as a result of the information gained from the experimental area in the 1946-47 season, an area for the production of hybrid seed on a commercial scale was sown the following season. Unfortunately the total produce of this area was lost in the disastrous flood experienced in the Gisborne district in 1948, but a further area was sown out for the 1948-49 season. This area has now been safely harvested and at present the produce is in crib preparatory to threshing and machine dressing.

The resultant seed will be distributed by the Department as "Certified Pfister Double Hybrid No. 360" in time for the coming spring sowings.

Orders for this seed, which will be accepted only from those firms usually engaged in the supply of seed maize, should be placed with the Instructor in Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, Box 29, Gisborne. Farmers desiring to obtain supplies of this New Zealand-grown seed should make arrangements with their local merchants.

Radio Broadcasts

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

September 7—"Current Farming Problems for the Month," by J. E. Davies, Fields Instructor, Department of Agriculture, Hamilton, and G. A. Blake, Fields Instructor, Department of Agriculture, Matamata.

September 14—"Improvement of Hill-country Pastures," by S. H. Saxby, Agrostologist, Department of Agriculture, Wellington.

September 21—"Irrigation and Soil Moisture," by H. E. Annett, Soil Fertility Research Station, Hamilton.

September 28—"Young Farmers' Clubs' session, by a member of the Eastern Bay of Plenty District Committee.

The following broadcasts will be made from 4YA Dunedin after the stock session at 7 p.m. on the dates shown:—

September 7—"Spring Planting of Vegetables," by W. G. Crawford, Vegetable Instructor, Department of Agriculture, Dunedin.

September 21—"Development of Browntop Country," by J. G. Richards, Instructor in Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, Balclutha.

Other talks are given from 1YA Auckland on Tuesdays at 12.35 p.m., 2YZ Napier on Thursdays at 12.40 p.m., 2YA Wellington on Thursdays at 12.35 p.m., and 3YA Christchurch on Mondays at 12.20 p.m.

DAIRY PRODUCE GRADED FOR EXPORT

THE following figures showing quantities of dairy produce graded for export during June and for the 11 months ended June 30, 1949, with comparative figures for the same month and 11-monthly period of last year, have been compiled by the Dairy Division of the Department of Agriculture from figures supplied by divisional officers at the various grading ports:—

BUTTER—

| Period | Creamery | Tons | | Percentage Total in store | |
|-----------------------------|----------|-------|---------|---------------------------|----------------|
| | | Whey | Total | inc. or dec. | at end of mth. |
| June, 1949 | 1,053 | 28 | 1,081 | +102.434 | 13,698 |
| June, 1948 | 519 | 15 | 534 | — | 14,673 |
| Increase or decrease | +534 | +13 | +547 | — | -975 |
| For 11 months ended 30/6/49 | 142,182 | 2,633 | 144,815 | +10.870 | — |
| For 11 months ended 30/6/48 | 128,282 | 2,334 | 130,616 | — | — |
| Increase or decrease | +13,900 | +299 | +14,199 | — | — |

CHEESE—

| Period | White | Tons | | Percentage Total in store | |
|-----------------------------|--------|----------|---------|---------------------------|----------------|
| | | Coloured | Total | inc. or dec. | at end of mth. |
| June, 1949 | 1,346 | 110 | 1,456 | +43.166 | 11,653 |
| June, 1948 | 1,017 | — | 1,017 | — | 5,629 |
| Increase or decrease | +329 | +110 | +439 | — | +6,024 |
| For 11 months ended 30/6/49 | 89,438 | 5,163 | 94,601 | +14.481 | — |
| For 11 months ended 30/6/48 | 82,634 | — | 82,634 | — | — |
| Increase or decrease | +6,804 | +5,163 | +11,967 | — | — |

If these figures are converted into butterfat equivalent, there is an increase of 11.683 per cent. in butterfat graded for the 11 months as compared with the corresponding period of the preceding season. It should be noted that the above figures refer only to butter and cheese graded for export, and that owing to diversions which may take place from time to time, they are not necessarily a true indication of production trends.