

METHODS OF MARKING LAMBS . . .

Procedure after Lamb Marking

Care after marking is by no means the least important part of the operation. Important points are:—

1. The lamb must be placed very gently on its feet on the ground. As far as possible the wounded parts should not become soiled.
2. The ewes should be kept handy to the docking yard and the lambs allowed to them as soon as possible for a drink of milk. A long run to the ewe should be avoided, as this may increase bleeding.
3. Do not move the ewes until all the lambs have mothered.
4. When returning a mob of ewes with freshly marked lambs to their paddock be particularly careful to take them along very slowly and quietly.

Possible Troublesome Sequels to Lamb Marking

Arthritis or swollen inflamed joints: These are due to infection gaining entrance into a wound, and harsh weather conditions undoubtedly play a part by lowering body resistance. The type of inflammation with heat and pain but relatively little swelling passes fairly quickly and most cases, apart from those which have setbacks, recover uneventfully. Where there is pus formation and swollen joints a wasted limb or limbs and consequent rejection for export on slaughter may ensue.

Proper antiseptic precautions and other measures already outlined, will

prevent the trouble. Penicillin treatment in the very early stages of arthritis, if economically justified, will give good results.

Acute septic poisoning and/or black-leg: Symptoms are sudden death occurring in 1 to 4 days after marking. This trouble is due to a breakdown in the cleanliness of the marking procedure, use of dirty ground for the docking yards, etc.

It can be prevented by careful attention to all precautions and, if the farm is badly contaminated, by the use of a preventive vaccine on the ewes about 3 weeks before they are due to lamb and the carrying out of marking of lambs as soon as possible after birth. The advisability of such vaccinations should always be discussed first with a veterinary surgeon or a field officer of the Livestock Division, Department of Agriculture.

Tetanus or lockjaw: The lamb becomes rigid, lies flat, and is in great pain. The symptoms appear 1 to 9 days after infection. If lambs are approached or touched, their rigidity increases. The head may be bent right back. Humanity dictates immediate slaughter, as the pain is intense.

Docking methods such as the use of rubber rings should be avoided in areas where tetanus infection is known to exist. If it is considered essential to use rubber rings for docking in tetanus areas and tetanus cases occur, swabbing out of the dirty wounds where the tails have dropped off with hydrogen peroxide, the oxygen of which is effective against the tetanus germ, may help to prevent further

cases. It must be emphasised that as long as there is an open, dirty wound, infection may take place; tetanus cases can and do occur in the circumstances described weeks after marking has taken place. Tetanus symptoms appear 1 to 10 days after the tetanus germ has gained entrance. They are due to a poison or toxin produced by the germ, which affects the nerves, producing muscle convulsions. If it is economically worth while, inoculation can efficiently prevent tetanus infection.

Antiseptics for Use at Lamb Marking

Methylated spirits, pure or diluted with one quarter of its bulk of boiled water, is an excellent antiseptic, as are the antiseptics known as the quaternary ammonium group. Hydrogen peroxide, diluted with 2 or 3 parts of boiled water, is also excellent for wounds. There are, too, many excellent proprietary preparations available.

Radio Broadcasts

THE following talks will be given to farmers from Station 1YA Auckland at 7.15 p.m.:

October 4—"Uncommon Vegetables for the Warmer Districts," by J. T. McConachie, Horticultural Inspector, Department of Agriculture, Auckland.

October 11—"Kikuyu Grass," by E. H. Arnold, Assistant Fields Superintendent, Department of Agriculture, Auckland.

October 18—"The Department of Agriculture's Service to Country Women," by E. E. A. Topping, Rural Sociologist, Department of Agriculture, Auckland.

October 25—"Young Farmers' Clubs," talk arranged by Te Awamutu District Committee, New Zealand Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs.

Radio talks will be given to farmers from Station 1XH Hamilton at 7.30 p.m. as follows:—

October 5—"Supplementary Crops for the Dairy Herd," by J. R. Murray and H. M. Bull, Instructors in Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, Hamilton.

October 12—"Tuberculosis in Cattle," by D. W. Caldwell, Veterinarian, Department of Agriculture, Hamilton.

October 19—"Even a Worm will Turn" (Environmental requirements and effects of earthworms), by R. L. Nielson, Soil Biologist, Soil Research Station, Hamilton.

October 26—"Haymaking," by A. J. Price, Fields Instructor, Department of Agriculture, Te Awamutu.

The following talks to farmers will be broadcast from Station 1YZ Rotorua at 7.15 p.m.:

October 12—"Current Farming Problems," by C. R. Taylor, Fields Instructor, Department of Agriculture, Rotorua.

Other talks are given from 1YA Auckland on Tuesdays at 12.35 p.m., 2YZ Napier on Tuesdays at 7.10 p.m., 2YA Wellington on Thursdays at 12.35 p.m., and 3YA Christchurch on Mondays at 12.20 p.m.

Pig Broadcasts

Under the auspices of District Pig Councils broadcasts will be delivered as follows:—

Whangarei—1XN, on October 2 and 4 at 7.30 p.m., "Avoiding Losses in Pig Production," by J. Wheeler, Supervisor, Northland District Pig Council.

Auckland—1YA, on October 17, at 12.35 p.m., "The Overfat Pig is not Wanted," a discussion with a bacon curer and grocer, conducted by H. E. Clark, Supervisor, Auckland District Pig Council.

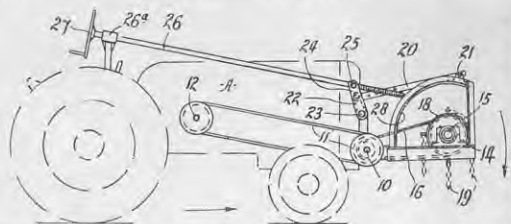
Napier—2YZ, on October 11, at 7 p.m., "Housing for Pigs," by H. T. Donaldson, Supervisor, Tairāwhiti District Pig Council.

Palmerston North—2ZA, on October 20, at 7 p.m., "Farrowing House Design," by L. L. Marsdon, Supervisor, Wellington District Pig Council.

Recent Patent Specifications for Farming Inventions

The following particulars of recent patent specifications of interest to farmers have been selected from the Patent Office Journal issued on June 20, 1950, and are published by permission of the Commissioner of Patents, Wellington. Photostat copies of any specification will be supplied for a small fee on application to the Patent Office.

No.	Description.	Applicant.
97692	Scrub-cutter Attachment for Tractor.	W. R. Clough.



[Only those references which are necessary to an understanding of the specification are quoted in the abridgment below.]

To clear land of scrub, brush, lupins, or the like, a rotatable drum is disposed transversely in front of the tractor, carrying on its periphery cutter or beater members which will be flung outward on rotation of the drum and beat down or cut any

scrub and the like in the path of the tractor. The machine comprises—in combination with a tractor A—a driving shaft 10 located transversely in front of the tractor, driven by belt and pulley arrangement 11 from pulley 12, a frame 14 extending further out and carrying a shaft 15, the latter being geared by chain and sprocket 16 from driving shaft 10. On shaft 15 a drum 18 is mounted with beater members 19—such as chains—loosely hinged to the periphery of drum 18. The height adjustment of the drum in relation to the ground is effected by thrust rod 20, acting on link arrangement 20 to 25, operable from the driver's seat by manipulating wheel 27. Cover 28 protects tractor and driver from severed pieces of material. Beaters 19 are preferably arranged in staggered formation.

90415	Continuous Process for the Manufacture of Salted Butter,	Aktiebolaget Separatör.
94697	Process and Apparatus for Milk Evaporation and Canning,	Food Machinery Corporation.
96131	Milk Fat and Buttermaking Process,	Kraft Foods Corp.
96788	Earthworking and Loading Equipment Attachable to Front or Rear of a Tractor,	C. W. F. Hamilton and Co., Ltd.
99636	Rotary Water Sprayer,	Sigmund Pump Ltd.
100042	Fencepost-erecting Means,	A. S. McGregor.