

CARE OF LIVESTOCK DURING OCTOBER

Contributed by the Animal Research Division.

WHERE cattle ticks are plentiful spraying or dipping should be carried out in November and December to prevent tick worry and to kill the adult female ticks before they lay their eggs.

CATTLE TICK CONTROL

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In the east coast areas of the North Island where black disease of sheep occurs vaccination should be carried out during November or early December. This will give protection against the disease, which occurs mainly in summer and autumn. Vaccine should be ordered immediately.

BLACK DISEASE VACCINATION

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In districts where crutch strike causes trouble in ewes crutching or early shearing is advised. Close supervision is necessary to detect cases so that suitable treatment can be applied before the strike becomes too extensive. When treating cases of fly strike shear the wool away to leave an inch margin of clean skin around the affected area. Remove the maggots by tapping with the shears, and apply some reliable non-irritant dressing. Irritant fluids such as kerosene tend to cause re-strike.

BLOWFLY STRIKE IN EWES



Deaths of sheep after shearing may be due to infection with the blackleg germ of cuts or bruises. The disease can be prevented by vaccinating at least 3 weeks before shearing. Before buying the vaccine discuss the matter with a Veterinarian or Inspector of Stock and thus be sure blackleg has been the cause of the losses.

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Blackhead affects young turkeys and poultry and the disease can best be prevented by rearing the birds on land which has not been contaminated by adult poultry. If an outbreak occurs, kill all affected birds and move the remainder to clean ground. In the event of a bad outbreak the local Poultry Instructor should be consulted, as in some cases treatment may prove beneficial.

BLACKHEAD IN POULTRY

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Greenleg occurs in poorly ventilated brooders, especially if they are overcrowded and damp. At the first sign of trouble ensure that ventilation is adequate and that the litter is changed if it is damp.

GREENLEG IN BROODER CHICKS

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Infestation by round worms is one of the most important causes of poor development of young birds. All growing stock should be treated twice with carbon tetrachloride, once at 3 months old and again at 5 months.

ROUND WORMS IN POULTRY

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Supplementary feed is essential to ensure the proper feeding of cows in winter and in dry summers and to control facial eczema in autumn. As soon as more pasture is available than is necessary to meet the immediate needs of stock the balance should be shut up for silage or hay. On a well-managed dairy farm it should be possible to shut up at least 40 per cent. of the pasture. Crop growing for fattening of weaned lambs is standard practice in South Island districts, and it could with advantage be adopted more widely in North Island districts which experience a dry summer. Crops such as thousand-headed kale and turnips in addition to providing excellent fattening feed for lambs are a splendid insurance against facial eczema. In Poverty Bay and Hawkes Bay they should be sown before the end of October so that they can be well established before dry weather sets in.

SUPPLEMENTARY FEED