

# Care of Livestock during May

Contributed by the Animal Research Division



**B**LOOD poisoning in hoggets grazing on turnips is becoming an increasingly important problem. Deaths occur from infection with the blackleg organism, which probably gains entry through the mouth.

**BLOOD POISONING IN HOGGETS** An excellent vaccine, which confers very good immunity, is now available for purchase in New Zealand.

On properties where losses have previously been experienced, hoggets should be vaccinated a fortnight before they are placed on turnips. The nearest Veterinarian or Inspector of Stock should be consulted concerning the method of vaccination.

In most districts there is still time to provide good winter grazing by shutting up paddocks and letting them grow during autumn and early winter. Having some pasture cover on paddocks before the first frosts will assist pasture growth during winter. Autumn-saved pasture is invaluable for early-calving cows.

**AUTUMN- SAVED PASTURE**

It also provides the best insurance against sleepy sickness in ewes. If necessary, feed silage to cows now to enable some paddocks to be shut up. Once the ewes have been tupped they are all the better for being done fairly hard until 3 or 4 weeks before lambing. This also will enable some paddocks to be spelled.

The best feed for calves is good fresh pasture, and this can be provided by rotating the calves through the cow paddocks. Good-quality hay is necessary to supplement the sappy young autumn pasture. At the first sign of unthriftiness calves should be drenched with phenothiazine, being given the full dose recommended on the label.

**UNTHRIFTY CALVES**

Drenching, however, will not be effective unless the calves are properly fed.

Sucking of each other by calves is a habit which should be broken as soon as it is detected. The insertion of a bull ring is effective in most cases.

## PREVENTION OF SUCKING BY CALVES

As soon as the cows have been dried off arrangements should be made for the milking machine to be overhauled by an expert. Do not install complicated gadgets, but make sure that all parts of the machine are working efficiently. This will not only ensure rapid, trouble-free milking, but is likely to increase production, and will help to reduce mastitis. The Department of Agriculture's Bulletin No. 260 "Mechanical Milking" should be carefully studied by every dairy farmer.

## MILKING MACHINE OVERHAUL

If a new herd sire will be required this year, now is the time to make inquiries. The New Zealand Dairy Board issues a Sire Survey and Merit Register which gives the production of the daughters of all dairy sires which have been surveyed.

## PURCHASE OF HERD SIRE

Unfortunately very few progeny-tested sires are available, but the Register should be consulted and wherever possible a bull by a proven sire out of a merit cow should be selected. Bull catalogues are issued annually by the Herd Improvement Association and these, too, should prove of considerable value to dairy farmers who are looking for herd sires. The New Zealand Dairy Board is now developing artificial insemination on a commercial basis and farmers interested in making use of this service should get in touch with their local Herd Improvement Association.

Distemper in dogs can in a very high percentage of cases be prevented by vaccination. This is best done when the pups are 3 to 4 months of age. The virus, which has a short life, is imported from Australia and it is therefore necessary to notify the Veterinarian at least a month before the pups are to be vaccinated.

## INOCULATION OF DOGS AGAINST DISTEMPER

## Dairy Produce Graded for Export

**T**HE following figures showing quantities of dairy produce graded for export during February and for the 7 months ended 29 February 1952, with comparative figures for the same month and 7-monthly period of 1950-51, 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 Whey	Total	% Inc. or dec.	Total tons in store at end of mth.
February 1952 ..	16,920	296	17,216	—	28,678
February 1951 ..	15,354	317	15,671	—	45,749
Inc. or dec. ..	+1,566	-21	+1,545	+9.858	-17,071
For 7 mths. to 29/2/52 ..	128,539	2,111	130,650	—	—
For 7 mths. to 28/2/51 ..	123,295	2,318	125,613	—	—
Inc. or dec. ..	+5,244	-207	+5,037	+4.009	—

### CHEESE

Period	White	Tons Coloured	Total	% Inc. or dec.	Total tons in store at end of mth.
February 1952 ..	10,871	—	10,871	—	19,081
February 1951 ..	11,052	6	11,058	—	29,301
Inc. or dec. ..	-181	-6	-187	-1.691	-10,220
For 7 mths. to 29/2/52 ..	69,894	519	70,413	—	—
For 7 mths. to 28/2/51 ..	76,103	1,519	77,622	—	—
Inc. or dec. ..	-6,209	-1,000	-7,209	-9.287	—

If these figures are converted into butterfat equivalent, there is an increase of 1.159 per cent. in butterfat graded for the 7 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.