

# 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 kill the adult female ticks before they lay their eggs.

## CATTLE TICK CONTROL

Before each cow is mated two heat periods or an interval of at least 30 days should be allowed after calving. Cows mated before this period are less likely to get in calf, and the chances of contaminating the bull are increased. Hand mating should be practised and accurate records kept showing the bull used and the dates of all services. Should breeding trouble occur, these records will be of considerable assistance in arriving at a correct diagnosis.

## MATING OF DAIRY COWS

Scouring in calves under 6 months of age is seldom due to worms. It is much more likely to be due to coccidiosis, especially if blood is present in the droppings. Effective drugs are available for treatment, but these can be obtained only on the prescription of a veterinary surgeon, who should be consulted.

## COCCIDIOSIS IN CALVES

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 protect the sheep against the disease, which occurs mainly in summer and autumn. Vaccine should be ordered immediately.

## BLACK DISEASE VACCINATION

Deaths in sheep following shearing may be caused by infection of cuts or bruises with the blackleg germ. This disease can be prevented by vaccinating at least 3 weeks before shearing. Sheep which have been vaccinated previously may not require re-vaccination, and a Veterinarian or Inspector of Stock should be consulted about the best procedure.

## BLOOD POISONING FOLLOWING SHEARING

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 a 1in. margin of clean skin around the affected area. Remove the maggots by tapping the area with the shears and apply some reliable non-irritant dressing. Irritant fluids such as kerosene tend to cause restrike.

## BLOWFLY STRIKE IN EWES

Young turkeys and poultry are affected by black-head disease and it can best be prevented by rearing these 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 of the Department of Agriculture should be consulted, as in some cases treatment may prove beneficial.

## BLACK-HEAD IN POULTRY

Greenleg in brooder chickens occurs in poorly ventilated brooders, especially if they are over-crowded and damp.

## GREENLEG IN BROODER CHICKENS

At the first sign of trouble the necessary measures should be taken to ensure that ventilation is adequate and the litter is changed if it is at all damp.

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

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

## Dairy Produce Graded for Export

The following figures showing quantities of dairy produce graded for export during July and for the 12 months ended 31 July 1953, with comparative figures for the same month and 12-monthly period of 1951-52, have been compiled by the Dairy Division of the Department of Agriculture from figures supplied by divisional officers at the various grading ports:—

Period	BUTTER		Total	Percentage inc. or dec.
	Creamery	Tons Whey		
July 1953 .. .. .	2,234	12	2,246	—
July 1952 .. .. .	1,700	7	1,707	—
Increase or decrease ..	+534	+5	+539	+31.575
12 months ended 31/7/53	162,259	3,159	165,418	—
12 months ended 31/7/52	156,598	2,654	159,252	—
Increase or decrease ..	+5,661	+505	+6,166	+3.872
Butter in store at 31 July 1953 was 2727 tons				

Period	CHEESE		Total	Percentage inc. or dec.
	White	Tons Coloured		
July 1953 .. .. .	194	—	194	—
July 1952 .. .. .	60	—	60	—
Increase or decrease ..	+134	—	+134	+223.333
12 months ended 31/7/53	103,477	140	103,617	—
12 months ended 31/7/52	91,107	751	91,858	—
Increase or decrease ..	+12,370	—611	+11,759	+12.801
Cheese in store at 31 July 1953 was 9027 tons				

If these figures are converted into butterfat equivalent, there is an increase of 5.714 per cent. in butterfat graded for the 12 months as compared with the corresponding period of the preceding season. The above figures refer only to butter and cheese graded for export, and owing to diversions which may take place from time to time, they are not necessarily a true indication of production trends.