



In addition to 110 breeding cows carried, cattle are bought in during spring as the feed position warrants, and by December the farm is usually carrying between 600 and 700 cattle.

year 70 tons of basic slag at 3cwt. per acre were applied; in 1953, 50 tons at 5cwt. per acre were applied, and this year it was intended to apply 40 tons at 5cwt. per acre. As yet there have been no noticeable differences in the amount of feed produced as a result of the change to basic slag.

Stock

In 1929 the area of 395 acres was carrying between 500 and 600 cross-bred ewes and they were not in good condition. Occasionally a few bullocks were brought in to clean up stubble paddocks. The stocking rate on the property at that time was approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ ewes per acre. By 1939 the stock had been increased to 960 Romney cross ewes and 50 cattle. The sheep were run on the 395 acres of improved land at the homestead and the 50 cattle were all that could be run on the rough tussock block of 432 acres. In 1953 the ewe flock had risen to 2800 Romney cross ewes and the farm was wintering 110 in-calf cows and heifers, 110 calves, and 30 of young cattle. On the whole area of 1183 acres this was equivalent to a little over 3 ewes per acre.

Stock Management

The ewe flock comprises 4- and 5-year-old Romney cross ewes which are bought as cast ewes from nearby hill country stations. About one-third of the ewes are kept for a second season, the remainder being sold either as fats or as cast ewes to fat lamb producers on the plains. The ewes bought in each year are shorn after arrival at the farm and put through the foot-rot bath after the condition of their feet has been checked.

Before tupping, ewes are kept in as hard condition as possible—a difficult task on a farm where feed is so plenti-

ful—and about 2 weeks before the rams go out the ewes are moved on to fresh paddocks. The rams are all Southdowns. Formerly, Ryelands were used, but a change to Southdowns was made about 1950. After tupping, the ewes are kept in good store condition up to June and if turnips and Italian ryegrass have been grown that year, they begin feeding these early in June for about 2 hours a day. However, in many years the stock are wintered solely on autumn-saved grass and hay. Usually 2 hours on turnips and Italian ryegrass or grass are allowed and then the ewes are driven to hay on a run-off paddock. The ample diet and regular exercise keep them in good condition and little sleepy sickness is experienced. It has become a regular practice to inoculate ewes about 10 days before lambing for blackleg and pulpy kidney.

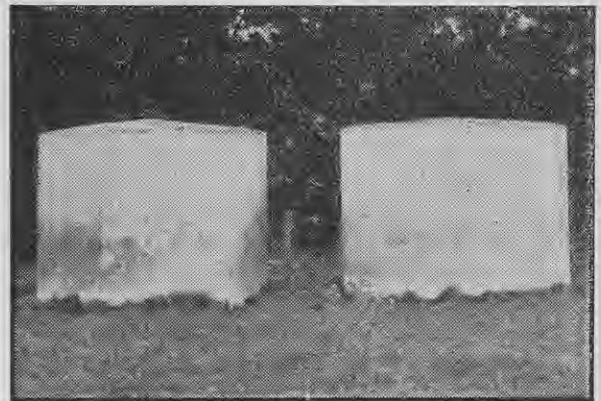
Lambing begins about the middle of August. As the ewes lamb all with twins are drafted and put on to the best available feed at 3 ewes per acre. After tailing, the ewes and lambs are set stocked in mobs of 500 to 600 and are not shifted unless it is absolutely necessary. Usually each mob has the run of 3 or 4 paddocks and pastures are controlled by increasing the numbers of cattle per mob and finally, by closing off a paddock for hay. The ewes are not shorn until the lambs are

weaned, which is usually about the middle of the second week in January.

Dosing of lambs is kept to a minimum, only obviously unthrifty lambs being treated. Foot-rot is the most troublesome complaint, particularly in wet seasons, and the ewes are put through the foot-rot bath about every 10 days during treatment and all affected sheep segregated to a hospital paddock for hand treatment. Blue-stone is considered most effective and is normally used, though occasionally formalin has been used with good results. During winter the ewes are given free access to a home-made stock lick.

Cattle

Cattle are used on the property to control pasture growth. About 50 breeding cows were bought in 1938



Each of the concrete reservoirs holds 3000 gallons of water. They serve the paddocks on the homestead block of 750 acres as well as the house.