

FOOT-ROT ERADICATION SCHEME

At a meeting in the area at which the objectives of the scheme were stated, and which was attended by all sheep farmers in the district except three, all except one person agreed to participate; even the three who could not attend had sent word of their willingness to co-operate.

The farmers were visited and asked to make sure their fences and gates were sheep proof. Also, the provision of a suitable foot-rot bath and yards, and hospital, convalescent, and clean paddocks was discussed by the Livestock Instructors.

Goats were coming in on some farms from reservations and the surrounding bush country. These goats were eradicated with the help of the Department of Internal Affairs, which arranged a team of cullers, who slaughtered 367 goats, of which 16 per cent. were infected with foot-rot.

The Purua area is fairly well isolated by rivers, undeveloped gumland, and bush country. A small part of the boundary abuts one sheep property not in the scheme, and part of the boundary abuts dairy farms. Practically no sheep traffic passes through the area on foot, as most of the movement is by lorry.

Foot-rot Scheme

On each farm paddock arrangements were planned, and the whole flock,



[Northland Photography

▲ When the sheep are being put through the foot-rot bath any signs of recurrent lameness can be watched for by the farmer and the Livestock Instructor.

INITIAL INCIDENCE OF FOOT-ROT OVER WHOLE AREA

No. of farms 30	No. of sheep 21,795	Free 2,441 (11%)	Doubtful 10,496 (48%)	Infected 8,858 (41%)
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INCIDENCE ACCORDING TO FARM SIZE

No. of sheep in flocks	No. of farms	Total	Free	Doubtful	Infected
0-500	12	1,605	66 (4%)	441 (28%)	1,098 (68%)
501-1,000	11	5,287	490 (9%)	2,077 (39%)	2,720 (52%)
1,001-2,000	5	8,261	1,162 (14%)	3,216 (39%)	3,883 (47%)
2,001-3,000	1	2,573	102 (4%)	1,756 (69%)	715 (27%)
Over 3,000	1	4,069	621 (15%)	3,006 (74%)	442 (11%)
	<u>30</u>	<u>21,795</u>	<u>2,441 (11%)</u>	<u>10,496 (48%)</u>	<u>8,858 (41%)</u>

INCIDENCE ACCORDING TO UTILISATION

Type of farm	No. of farms	No. of sheep	Free	Doubtful	Infected
Fat lamb	15	6,263	1,009 (16%)	2,258 (36%)	2,996 (48%)
Store	4	6,933	685 (10%)	4,450 (64%)	1,798 (26%)
Mixed	11	8,599	747 (9%)	3,788 (44%)	4,064 (47%)
	<u>30</u>	<u>21,795</u>			

COMPARISON OF FLOCKS AT ORIGINAL EXAMINATION (JANUARY-MARCH 1956) AND AT OCTOBER 1956

January-March 1956		October 1956	
No. of sheep farms in area	32	No. of farms withdrawn:	
No. of farms not in scheme	2	(a) Handling difficulties	1
		(b) Too much mud	1
No. of farms in scheme	30	(c) No facilities	1

FOOT-ROT INCIDENCE			FOOT-ROT INCIDENCE		
All farms were infected			(2,919 sheep)		
Incidence	Sheep	Per cent.	No. of farms still in scheme	Farms	Sheep
Clean	2,441	11	27	19	15,538
Doubtful	10,496	48	6	6	2,646
Infected	8,858	41	2	2	3,666
Total	21,795		27	27	21,850
The two infected farms had approximately 45 infected sheep.					

Note: Totals do not agree because of introductions and withdrawals.

which was classed as infected to start with, was concentrated in one part of the farm with handy access to the shed, and the remainder of the paddocks were spelled for at least 3 weeks. These clean paddocks were then divided into convalescent and hospital paddocks, and others were left for sheep when they were declared clean. The paddocks were so arranged that the sheep which had been treated could leave the yards from the foot bath for their particular paddocks without travelling over a route already contaminated by infected sheep as they travelled to and from the yards for inspection and treatment.

The first time a foot-rot team started on a property every sheep was examined. The feet were pared to a normal shape, or if foot-rot were suspected, the feet were pared until all doubtful or infected tissue was removed. The Livestock Instructor in charge of each group was personally responsible for grading each sheep according to whether it was free of foot-rot, whether it was doubtful if foot-rot were present, or whether the animal was infected. Also, it was his responsibility to check each foot before the sheep was let out of the