

Senior Appointments in Extension Division



Mr. Woodcock.



Mr. Saxby.

Mr. J. W. Woodcock, formerly Assistant Director of the Extension Division of the Department of Agriculture, has been appointed Director of the division in succession to Mr. P. W. Smallfield, who was recently appointed Assistant Director-General of Agriculture. Mr. S. H. Saxby has been appointed the new Assistant Director of the division.

Mr. Woodcock joined the Department in 1925 as an Assistant Instructor in Agriculture at Auckland and in 1927 became Instructor in Agriculture there. He served in Taumarunui, Te

Kuiti, and Hamilton. In 1930 Mr. Woodcock was made Assistant Field Crop Experimentalist at Palmerston North and Field Crop Experimentalist at Wellington 5 years later. In 1939 he was appointed Fields Superintendent at Dunedin.

In 1945 Mr. Woodcock was appointed Assistant Director of the Fields Division of the Department, which was reorganised as the present Extension Division in 1948. Mr. Woodcock holds the National Diploma in Agriculture (Leeds).

Mr. Saxby joined the Department as an Assistant Instructor in Agriculture at Dunedin in 1936, and the next year was made Instructor in Agriculture there. He came to Wellington in 1945 as Agrostologist.

Mr. Saxby was for several years the secretary of the New Zealand Grassland Association and is the present president of the association. He has been largely responsible for the great increase in membership and widening of interest in the association. He is the author of "Pasture Production in New Zealand", which has had several editions over the last 10 years and which is regarded as a standard work on pasture establishment and management in New Zealand.

Mr. Saxby was organising secretary for the Seventh International Grassland Congress held in Palmerston North last year.

Loss of Sulphur in Drainage Water

THE incidence of sulphur deficiency in certain New Zealand soils has given special interest to losses of sulphur as sulphate in the drainage water from lysimeters at the Department of Agriculture's Rukuhia Soil Research Station, Hamilton.

Figures available for the past 3 years have been calculated as pounds of sulphur lost per acre. This was from pasture not tilled since 1947. The figures are as follows:—

	Sulphur lost lb.	Superphosphate equivalent* lb.	Annual rainfall in.
1954 ..	14	140	48
1955 ..	11	110	42
1956 ..	26	260	68

* Figures in this column are superphosphate equivalents in terms of sulphur of figures under "Sulphur lost".

Superphosphate contains about 10 per cent. of sulphur.

Losses of this order have been reported by overseas workers. A true assessment of actual sulphur lost cannot be made until preparations are completed to measure precipitation of atmospheric sulphur derived from sea spray and combustion of fuel (wood, coal, and mineral oils). The concentration of sulphur in the drainage water does not vary greatly, so that total loss is related to rainfall.

It seems probable that atmospheric sulphur gained could balance losses in years of low or normal rainfall. The record rainfall of 1956 almost certainly would cause a net loss of sulphur.

—D. F. WATERS,

Senior Agricultural Chemist,
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Hamilton

Dairy Produce Graded for Export

THE following figures showing quantities of dairy produce graded for export during April 1957 and for the 9 months ended 30 April 1957 with comparative figures for the same month and 9 months of 1956-57 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 (tons)	Total (tons)	Percentage inc. or dec.
April 1957 ..	8,787	228	9,015	—
April 1956 ..	7,310	210	7,520	—
Increase or decrease ..	+1,477	+18	+1,495	+19.880
9 months ended 30/4/57 ..	147,934	2,743	150,677	—
9 months ended 30/4/56 ..	155,538	2,779	158,317	—
Increase or decrease ..	—7,604	—36	—7,640	—4.826

Butter in store at 30 April 1957 was 27,400 tons

Note: In the 3 months January-March 3990 tons of ice cream base were graded for export at Auckland, but not included in the butterfat figures.

CHEESE

Period	White (tons)	Coloured (tons)	Total (tons)	Percentage inc. or dec.
April 1957 ..	5,978	722	6,700	—
April 1956 ..	5,630	881	6,511	—
Increase or decrease ..	+348	—159	+189	+2.903
9 months ended 30/4/57 ..	74,155	9,978	84,133	—
9 months ended 30/4/56 ..	72,467	12,702	85,169	—
Increase or decrease ..	+1,688	—2,724	—1,036	—1.216

Cheese in store at 30 April 1957 was 25,201 tons

If these figures are converted into butterfat equivalent, there is a decrease of 4.122 per cent. in butterfat graded for the 9 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.