

Care of Livestock during October



Contributed by the Animal Research Division

SUPPLEMENTARY feed is essential for 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 for 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 have dry summers. Crops such as thousand-headed kale, chou moellier, and turnips, in addition to providing excellent fattening feed for lambs, are a splendid insurance against facial eczema. In Poverty Bay and Hawke's Bay they should be sown before the end of October so that they can be well established before dry weather sets in.

SUPPLEMENTARY FEED

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.

Where cattle ticks are plentiful spraying or dipping should be carried out in November and December to prevent tick worry and to kill the adult female ticks before they lay their eggs.

MATING OF DAIRY COWS

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CATTLE TICK CONTROL

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

BLACK DISEASE VACCINATION

immediately.

Deaths after shearing may be due to 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 revaccination, and a veterinarian or Inspector of Stock should be consulted about the best procedure.

BLOOD POISONING AFTER SHEARING

Blackhead affects young turkeys and poultry 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. If there is a bad outbreak, the local poultry adviser should be consulted, as in some cases treatment may prove beneficial.

BLACKHEAD IN POULTRY

Greenleg occurs in poorly ventilated brooders, especially if they are overcrowded and damp. At the first sign of trouble ensure that ventilation is adequate and that the litter is changed if it is at all damp.

GREENLEG IN BROODER CHICKENS

Infestation by roundworms 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 old.

ROUNDWORMS IN POULTRY

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 soiled wool away from the immediate vicinity of the strike. Dressings containing aldrin, dieldrin, or BHC will rapidly kill the maggots, which will be expelled from the wound. In addition treatment with either aldrin or dieldrin preparations will prevent restrike until dipping if this is done in January. These dressings do not prevent the flies blowing the sheep with eggs, but they do prevent the maggots from hatching and causing a strike.

BLOWFLY STRIKE IN EWES

Irritant fluids such as kerosene should not be used; they may kill the maggots, but they will irritate the wound and tend to cause restrike.

Jetting ewes is not usually necessary, but if fly strike is severe, it may be advisable to treat them to give protection until dipping. Apply $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon of aldrin or dieldrin wash to the crutch of each animal, extending the wetted area to above and round the tail. A pump working at 40lb. to 60lb. pressure per square inch, with a hand cut-out on the nozzle, is advisable for this purpose. Jetting with aldrin or dieldrin at 0.05 per cent. will give 2 months' complete protection against crutch strike; for longer protection 0.1 per cent. should be used.

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

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