Do not relax foot-rot control measures
PIG WITH MANGE

I have a sow with some kind of itch which is causing severe irritation. The skin on her head and the lower part of her body and legs gets wrinkled and scaly and she is constantly rubbing herself and has rubbed away most of the hair.

The symptoms suggest that the animal is suffering from Mange, and leaflet No. 813, "Sarcoptic Mange of Pigs", which has been forwarded to you will give more detailed information on the matter.

This condition may be treated by thoroughly spraying the animal over all the skin surface with a lime-sulphur solution prepared by diluting one part of commercial concentrated lime-sulphur with 12 parts of water.

BLACK SCOUR WORM

Could you let me know what chemicals may be used in dams to destroy any parasites dangerous to the sheep drinking such water. I have an idea that my young sheep are getting Black Scour from their drinking water which is contained in an old dam. Also, what quantity of bluestone should be added to salt to make a suitable sheep lick.

No purpose would be served by the treatment of dam water for the control of Black Scour Worms in sheep. The larvae of the Black Scour Worm do not live in water but are present on the soil and pasture. During moist or rainy weather they crawl up the blades of grass and are swallowed by the sheep while grazing.

In the mixing of a sheep lick to correct copper deficiency, bluestone should be used at the rate of 10 oz. to 1 cwt. of salt. It is best to first dissolve the bluestone in half a gallon of water and gradually add this solution to the salt, mixing continuously until the colour is uniform. Leaflet No. 679 deals with worms in sheep and is available free of charge from the Department of Agriculture.

COW WITH NASAL TROUBLE

One of my cows has been troubled for some time with an irritation in her nose. She has been snorting, blowing and rubbing it and at times there are traces of blood.

The symptoms you have described are those of nasal granuloma. In addition to intense irritation there are usually symptoms of nasal discharge which may be tinged with blood, and an inspection of the nasal passage reveals it to be inflamed and ulcerated, and sometimes studded with nodules.

There does not appear to be any satisfactory curative treatment for this condition and it is suggested that you should fatten the animal and dispose of it to the butcher.
COW POX

The udder and teats of a five-year-old cow frequently break out in an eruption. This appears as a number of sores exuding a watery substance and these dry into hard scabs which fall off but others appear in a short time. The presence of the sores make milking very difficult. Is the trouble contagious and likely to be communicated to human beings?

The eruption on the udder appears to be a disease known as "cow pox". This disease may be communicated to human beings, but in actual fact it seldom seems to affect milkers' hands in this country, especially if ordinary precautions are taken such as washing the hands before and after milking.

The condition may be treated by the application of a lotion prepared by dissolving one ounce of zinc sulphate in one pint of water. The lotion should be applied to the affected parts night and morning after milking. An application of 4 per cent. salicylic ointment should be found equally satisfactory.

Do Not Relax Foot-Rot Control Measures

ALTHOUGH the incidence of foot-rot has been slowly reduced, the disease is still very prevalent in the areas of higher rainfall, and it is important that there should be no relaxation of the measures which have been adopted for it control and eventual eradication.

The disease is usually at its worst during the spring, when wet conditions underfoot and a heavy growth of clover and other herbage favour the spread of infection. Under these conditions a large proportion of the flock, including both adult sheep and lambs, may become affected.

When the feed dries off in summer the disease subsides, and although carriers of infection are still present there may be little or no evidence of foot-rot in the flock. These carriers perpetuate the disease, and, with the onset of winter, active cases commence to appear and to increase in numbers until the infection reaches its peak in the spring. Foot-rot results from infection with the microbe Fusiformis nodosus, which is always present in the feet of affected sheep, where it may persist for several years.

The infection is, however, unable to survive in the soil for more than 7-14 days, and it is consequently possible by disposing of the whole of an infected flock for slaughter, and restocking after a fortnight with "clean" sheep from a dry inland area, to completely eradicate foot-rot from a property. This method has been successfully employed by a considerable number of farmers in the higher rainfall areas. In a somewhat similar manner the disease may be eradicated by the removal of "carriers" while the disease is quiescent in summer.

The eradication campaign should commence in the winter when the feet should be kept pared and the flock regularly passed through a foot-bath and transferred to spelled paddocks. Any sheep showing evidence of the disease should be isolated in a convenient paddock where the feed is short, and treated in a foot-bath containing bluestone or formalin until recovery is complete and they may be safely returned to the main flock.

It is necessary to emphasise that unless paring is drastic enough to expose all pockets of infection, success in treatment will not be achieved.

By adopting these measures throughout winter and spring it will be possible to keep the disease under control; fewer cases will occur, and this will enhance the prospects of successful eradication when the removal of the "carriers" is undertaken during the summer months.

The detection of these carriers will involve the examination of every foot of every sheep on the property followed by the removal and segregation of every animal showing evidence of infection, or the presence of hidden pockets of infection. The feet of these sheep should be carefully pared, and they should be treated in a foot-bath until freed of infection. Alternatively they may be disposed of for slaughter, or if the number are not too great, retained on the property in isolation and used for ration purposes.

In the areas where it exists, foot-rot represents a greater source of loss to the sheep and wool industry than all other sheep diseases. It may definitely be eradicated by one or other of the methods described, and this should be the objective of all sheepmen whose flocks are known to be affected.

Further information is contained in Leaflets Nos. 2099 and 2126, which may be obtained upon application to this Department.
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