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Erratum
Article finished on page 188 All animals which die or which are slaughtered in connection with the eradication of an exotic disease must be buried or incinerated as directed by the Chief Inspector and all offal at an abattoir must be similarly disposed of on the abattoir site. Premises within the Infected or Control Areas must be disinfected and may require treatment with insecticides as directed by the Chief Inspector. The methods of all animals which die or which are slaughtered in connection with the eradication of an exotic disease must be buried or incinerated as directed by the Chief Inspector and all offal at an abattoir must be similarly disposed of on the abattoir site. Premises within the Infected or Control Areas must be disinfected and may require treatment with insecticides as directed by the Chief Inspector. The methods of carrying out these procedures will be specified. Milk may not be collected within these areas except under permit and then only if the type of vehicle, route, destination and treatment of the milk are approved by the Chief Inspector. No meat or meat products can be moved within, or taken out of, Infected or Control Areas except under permit.
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THE NEW STOCK DISEASES REGULATIONS

A summary of major regulations under the new Stock Diseases (Regulations) Act

By M. R. GARDINER, Chief Inspector of Stock

The new Stock Diseases (Regulations) Act proclaimed on August 1, 1970, introduces some new regulations and makes many changes to existing regulations, which could affect most farmers at some time or another.

This article summarises the regulations most likely to affect farmers, with emphasis on new or changed regulations.

The regulations under the new Act are divided into five parts; most come under three of these parts, and only these are discussed in this summary. They are—

- Enzootic diseases regulations. Enzootic diseases are those already found in Western Australia.
- General regulations for dealing with suspected exotic diseases.
- Emergency regulations which may be proclaimed if an exotic disease is confirmed.

This article is for general information only and is not an official statement of the new Stock Diseases Regulations.

ENZOOTIC DISEASES REGULATIONS

Enzootic diseases regulations deal with the following conditions:

- Anthrax, actinobacillosis, actinomycosis, babesiosis, bovine cysticercosis (T. saginata infection), bovine vibriosis, brucellosis, buffalo fly infestation, cattle lice infestation, cattle tick infestation, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, echinococcosis, ephemeral fever, footrot, infectious bovine rhinotracheitis, infectious equine anemia, infectious laryngotracheitis, Johne's disease, listeriosis, leptospirosis, mucosal disease, ovine cysticercosis (T. ovis infection), paratyphoid, pullorum disease, sarcoptic mange, sheep lice, sheep ked, swine erysipelas, trichomoniasis, tuberculosis, vibrionic dysentery, vibriosis of sheep, viral encephalomyelitis of pigs.

General regulations

Reporting diseases

A stock owner or person consulted regarding stock must report any suspected case of any of the above diseases to the nearest inspector of stock within 24 hours and he must isolate such stock from other animals on the property.

The owner must supply the inspector with any information required for control of the disease, and must muster or yard livestock, or disinfect any item or premises, as directed by the inspector. He must not sell or offer for sale any stock affected with a disease.

In some cases a quarantine order may be served, and travelling stock affected with a disease may be directed to a place of quarantine.

Quarantine

When premises have been quarantined, no animal or animal product may be moved out of the area until released by the inspector, and other stock moving into the area automatically come under the same quarantine restrictions.

Nobody is permitted to come into contact with the quarantined animals unless authorised by the Inspector.

Livestock sales

The Chief Inspector may prohibit or restrict exhibitions or sales and may require stock sent for slaughter to be marked to designate the property of origin.

(This is already being done for tuberculosis and brucellosis eradication in cattle and is being considered for cysticercosis in sheep.)
Diseased stock must not be sold or offered for sale and infected stock may be ordered withdrawn from a sale, or, in some conditions, for immediate slaughter.

The Chief Inspector may order the destruction of diseased stock and direct the manner of their disposal.

Importation of livestock

No livestock can be brought into Western Australia unless covered by a certificate of health from the country or the State of origin, as laid down in the Second Schedule to the regulations.

All livestock entering the State must be presented for health examinations at one of the officially designated points of entry.

The importer must give advance notice in writing of intention to bring stock into Western Australia, to the inspector at the point of entry. Notice must be given one day in advance for air transport and seven days in advance for other kinds of transport.

Control and eradication of bovine pleuropneumonia and cattle tick

Western Australia is already divided into “Free” and “Protected” areas under pleuropneumonia and cattle tick regulations. The only remaining infested places are in the north-east of the Protected area, and these are under permanent quarantine.

Within the Protected area (north of the 20th parallel) travelling cattle cannot be left on any stock route or on any station; cattle unable to be moved must be destroyed and the nearest inspector notified.

Cattle may now be taken under permit from the Protected area to the south of the State so long as they have been on the property of origin (which cannot be one of the quarantined stations) for at least 12 months, or have been born there, and provided they

- carry the registered brand of the property of origin,
- have passed tests for pleuropneumonia and tuberculosis,
- are free of tick and have been dipped under supervision before leaving.

- are isolated from other cattle during transport (which may be sea or road) and
- are placed in quarantine on an approved property of destination for the next six months.

Some of these requirements may be relaxed if the cattle are consigned for immediate slaughter.

Tuberculosis regulations

“Free,” “Infected” and “Protected” areas will be established under the tuberculosis regulations.

The South-West Protected Area, comprising the South-West Division and certain other shires, has already been proclaimed and other areas will be proclaimed from time to time.

Cattle over six months old cannot be moved into protected areas except under permit, and unless they are either negative to the tuberculin test or are consigned for immediate slaughter.

Under some circumstances, such movements of cattle are permitted if the cattle proceed direct to a saleyard and the cattle are publicly declared as having originated outside the Protected Area, and the nearest stock inspector and the purchaser of the cattle so informed. The purchaser of the cattle must either remove the cattle from the Protected Area or isolate them and have them tested for tuberculosis.

Brucellosis regulations

As with tuberculosis, “Free,” “Infected,” and “Protected” areas may be established by regulation. There are at present two constituted protected areas, which cover the whole of the State except for certain districts in the South-West Division. These designated South-West districts now make up the gazetted South-West Brucellosis Infected Area.

Strain 19 vaccine can be used only in the South-West Infected Area, and only by inspectors or approved private veterinary surgeons. Only cattle younger than six months of age may be vaccinated with Strain 19.

Older cattle may be vaccinated only with a non-agglutinogenic vaccine, such as Strain 45/20.
“Compulsory Vaccination Areas” and “Compulsory Calf Vaccination Areas” may be constituted, in which all female cattle or all heifer calves must be vaccinated with the approved vaccine, and must then carry a special earmark.

The movement of breeding cattle out of the South-West Infected Area or into the Kimberley Protected Area requires a permit, and the cattle must first pass a blood test for brucellosis, if they are pregnant females they must be isolated and retested on the property of introduction after calving.

Cattle tail-tagging regulations
Cattle cannot be sold or consigned for slaughter unless they carry a tail tag.

Exceptions to this are:
- Cattle brought into the State or slaughtered within seven days of entry.
- Cattle from the Kimberley Protected area (as defined under the pleuropneumonia regulations.
- Cattle that do not have their first two permanent incisor teeth,
- Stud cattle sold for breeding purposes only,
- Stores or breeders proceeding directly to the purchaser's property, and
- Cattle remaining on land that has been sold by the owner.

The tail tag cannot be removed within 30 days of application, except by an Inspector.

Only the Chief Inspector can authorise the manufacture or issue of tail tags.

Footrot regulations
An owner or person in charge of sheep affected or suspected to be affected with footrot must notify the nearest inspector of stock and must submit the sheep for treatment as directed.

The sheep must be isolated from other sheep on the property and must not be removed from the property except under permit.

It is possible for the Chief Inspector to order slaughter of affected sheep.

Cattle may be required to be isolated from affected sheep on a property. These regulations are in addition to the general regulations summarised in the first part of this article.

Sheep lice and ked regulations
The establishment of “Infected” and “Protected” areas is controlled by sheep lice and ked regulations. The only Protected Area at present includes the South-West Division, the Shires of Esperance, Westonia and Yilgarn, the Shires of Merredin, Narembeen, Lake Grace and Phillips River and parts of the Dundas Shire. The rest of the State comprises the Infected Area.

Within the Protected Area
- Sheep must be dipped or sprayed within 30 days of shearing unless they are consigned for slaughter within that period.
- An owner of infested sheep must inform the nearest stock inspector of the infestation, must not offer them for sale, or remove them from his property except under permit. He may be ordered to shear, dip or spray his sheep.

Within the Infected Area
The owner of sheep cannot move them off his property on to any property within the Protected Area except under permit and accompanied by a declaration of freedom from lice and ked.

Pullorum disease regulations
The pullorum disease regulations cover domestic fowls and turkeys; most of the regulations will be brought into full operation on or about January 1, 1971. Provision is made in the new regulations for the establishment of accredited pullorum-free flocks and hatcheries after the incidence of the disease has been reduced to a satisfactory level.

Hatchery licences will continue in force until revoked; they will not have to be renewed annually. No hatchery licence will be granted until an inspector has inspected the hatchery and found it satisfactory.

When a licence is granted, the owner is subject to restrictions on the addition of birds and fertile eggs to his flock, and
must have all poultry at the hatchery tested when required by the Chief Inspector.

A breeding flock licence is required as in the past for any person producing hatching eggs for sale, and the same requirements necessary for a hatchery licence apply to this situation.

Licences cannot be transferred.

No person can sell or offer for sale any chickens or poults or hatching eggs which have not been produced by a licensed hatchery or breeding flock.

EXOTIC DISEASES (GENERAL) REGULATIONS

The Exotic Diseases (General) Regulations are interim measures should any animal be suspected to be infected with one of the following exotic diseases:—


Any person suspecting the presence of one of these diseases must immediately report it to the nearest Government veterinary officer or stock inspector. If he must leave the premises to do this, he must first disinfect himself and, after reporting the matter, return to the premises until released by the proper authority.

The Government officer must immediately examine the animal, and if he also suspects an exotic disease, must isolate them on the property. He will notify the Chief Inspector, who will arrange for a diagnostic team to carry out the necessary tests and collect specimens for further testing.

If the Chief Inspector agrees with the suspicion the premises are placed under quarantine and are designated an "Infected Place." If the tests show that no exotic disease is present the quarantine is lifted. If an exotic disease is confirmed the machinery for proclaiming the Emergency Powers Regulations will be invoked.

While there is a suspicion of an exotic disease, no person, livestock or farm produce will be allowed to leave the Infected Place except under permit.

The Officer in Charge may require the owner to supply a full account of the movement of stock, farm produce, vehicles and persons on and off the Infected Place during the preceding 21 days.

Certain other premises may then be designated "Dangerous Contact Premises" and will be treated in the same way as the Infected Place.

EXOTIC DISEASES (EMERGENCY POWERS) REGULATIONS

The Exotic Diseases (Emergency Powers) Regulations will not be proclaimed until the Governor has declared a state of emergency in respect of the exotic disease.

When proclaimed, the Regulations will prohibit movement of a great variety of animals and animal products within the State.

The animals and products controlled will depend on the exotic disease confirmed.

Under the regulations, Infected and Control areas will be established and emergency centres will be set up in or near the districts concerned.

Depending on the disease, swill feeding of pigs and whey feeding of calves may be prohibited throughout the State, or within specified districts.

No person will be allowed to enter or leave an Infected Area except under permit and then only by designated routes and check-points, where he and his vehicle must be disinfected and where he must provide the inspector with details of his contacts in the Infected Area.

No animal, animal fodder, animal product or other thing contaminated by soil can leave an Infected Area except under permit.

Again, depending on the nature of the exotic disease, the Chief Inspector may quarantine milk factories, prohibit artificial insemination in designated Control Areas and he may order the vaccination of stock anywhere in the State. He may also order the destruction of stock infected with an exotic disease and of those in any way exposed to the disease.

(continued on page 188)