Dingo and fox baits

Department of Agriculture, Western Australia

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THE Vermin Control Section of the Agriculture Protection Board has devised an effective method of preparing poison for impregnating dingo and fox baits. The method is recommended where it is not convenient to use commercial ¼ grain strychnine tablets.

Directions for preparing the poison are:

Mix 1/6 oz. of methyl cellulose (“cellofas”) with ½ pint of cold water, and allow to stand for 10 to 12 hours.

During this time it will swell slightly. Discard all the gel. in excess of ½ pint, and to this remaining ½ pint add 1 oz. of powdered alkaloid strychnine, mixing thoroughly.

When this has been thoroughly stirred each quarter of a cubic centimetre of the mixture will contain about half a grain of strychnine poison. This is enough to kill one fox or dingo (or wild dog.)

Using a hypodermic syringe and large bore needle the bait can be easily impregnated with this mixture.

Any poison mixture not used can be stored in an airtight jar, and should keep indefinitely. Left in contact with the air it will dry out and harden, and will not readily pass through the needle.

The advantage of this method is that it can be used to accurately measure the quantity of poison placed in each bait. This has always been one of the problems of the home manufacture of baits for dingo and fox poisoning.
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An article (with plans) on sheep yard design is being prepared for a future issue of the Journal of Agriculture.

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