1-1-1963

Vermin control this month

Department of Agriculture, Western Australia
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RABBITS

Poisoning

In this exceptionally wet winter rabbit poisoning is now reduced to cleaning up isolated patches on high ground. In some of the flatter districts, such as Serpentine or Capel, where rabbits have all moved to high ground (mostly on sand ridges), good poisoning kills can be obtained. Work done on these areas, at this time, will prevent a lot of trouble in the approaching summer.

Fumigation

Fumigation at this time will also be very limited but wherever active warrens are found, “Larvacide” or “Phostoxin” fumigation will prevent a big build up in population in the spring.

Further advice on rabbit control can be obtained from your local Vermin Control Officer or Shire Council.

FOXES

A lot of cubs will be born by now but vixens, heavy in milk, will be confined close to their dens. Heavy baiting around known dens and suspected cover will result in the death of not only the vixen but also the cubs.

WILD DOGS

Ground baiting drives against wild dogs, which would normally be completed by the end of May, will not be finished this year until well into August owing to seasonal conditions. Pastoralists in the Kimberley region will continue with their baiting programmes and can start to give thought to the organisation of the coming donkey control programme. Wild dog control in the southern part of the State has been severely hampered by wet boggy conditions. However, the main drives were successfully carried out before the winter set in.

EMUS

Some winter poisoning of emus can still be carried out in places where the natural (or introduced) pasture grasses and native flora have not yet come into flower. With the exceptionally wet year, pasture flowering may be delayed somewhat, and the period to poison emus extended. However, by next month the period for maximum kills will have passed, and all farmers with emu problems are advised to get on and poison them without delay. A brief article on the subject appeared in the July issue of this Journal.

GRASSHOPPERS

Some hoppers hatched in early July this year and by August will be in the hopping stage. They can be quite troublesome at this time and spraying operations should now be in full swing. Once again the wet seasonal conditions will play a part and some areas may still be too wet to spray. An article dealing with spraying of grasshoppers with Dieldrin appeared in the July issue of the Journal of Agriculture and farmers in affected areas should all make a point of reading this before commencing to spray.
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Journal of Agriculture Vol 4 No 8, 1963