Alive-stiff-dead [tetanus]

F C. Wilkinson
IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER

This document has been obtained from DAFWA's research library website (researchlibrary.agric.wa.gov.au) which hosts DAFWA's archival research publications. Although reasonable care was taken to make the information in the document accurate at the time it was first published, DAFWA does not make any representations or warranties about its accuracy, reliability, currency, completeness or suitability for any particular purpose. It may be out of date, inaccurate or misleading or conflict with current laws, polices or practices. DAFWA has not reviewed or revised the information before making the document available from its research library website. Before using the information, you should carefully evaluate its accuracy, currency, completeness and relevance for your purposes. We recommend you also search for more recent information on DAFWA's research library website, DAFWA's main website (https://www.agric.wa.gov.au) and other appropriate websites and sources.

Information in, or referred to in, documents on DAFWA's research library website is not tailored to the circumstances of individual farms, people or businesses, and does not constitute legal, business, scientific, agricultural or farm management advice. We recommend before making any significant decisions, you obtain advice from appropriate professionals who have taken into account your individual circumstances and objectives.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Agriculture and Food and the State of Western Australia and their employees and agents (collectively and individually referred to below as DAFWA) accept no liability whatsoever, by reason of negligence or otherwise, arising from any use or release of information in, or referred to in, this document, or any error, inaccuracy or omission in the information.
ALIVE—STIFF—DEAD

Only 12 hours before this photograph was taken the lamb pictured was alive and healthy. When examined it was very stiff and unable to stand. A few hours later it was dead.

Flock History
Exactly a week before, 525 lambs had been tailed from a flock of 600 ewes. The owner was justly proud as 80 per cent. marking was excellent for Merino flocks in his area.

Last year, three lambs which were 8 weeks old at marking, had apparently bled to death after tailing and castration for which a knife was used. To prevent similar deaths this year the owner had placed an elastrator ring on the tail of each of the larger lambs and then cut the tail off just below the ring.

When checked two days after marking no deaths had occurred but exactly 7 days after marking three lambs were found dead and another 10 were lying on the ground. The owner's immediate thought was pulpy kidney disease as he had not given the lambs a routine vaccination at marking. As he lifted the sick lambs onto his utility he found they were all quite rigid. Could it be white muscle disease?

Back at his house he rang through to the Department of Agriculture's Veterinary Surgeon. The veterinarian said he would come out that afternoon.

Examination
The visiting officer listened to the history as he drove out to the flock. The sheep all ran away from the approaching vehicle, but two lambs dropped behind. Both had stiff stilted gaits. He then examined the ten lambs previously picked up by the farmer, two of which had meanwhile died. The eight live lambs were lying on their sides with legs rigidly extended and head bent back. Their jaws appeared to be locked and could not be opened.

The two freshly dead lambs were post-mortemmed. They appeared normal except for the moist smelly area where the tail had been removed.

Of the ten lambs sick and dead, all except one were large lambs on which rings had been used.

Cause
The deaths were obviously due to tetanus. Tetanus spores had entered the cut area and started to multiply in the moist, dead tissue. The lambs with the rubber rings had a large area of dead tissue suitable for the growth of tetanus bacteria. The toxin formed by the tetanus germs had passed into the blood stream and finally reached the nervous system causing typical nervous symptoms preceding death.

Action
Tetanus antitoxin was purchased that day, and 1 cc. given as an injection under the skin of all unaffected lambs. At the same time rubber rings still present were removed. Two lambs with early symptoms of tetanus were also injected with antitoxin.

Result
All the lambs showing symptoms of tetanus died. Within 12 hours of being given the antitoxin two more lambs died, but no further deaths occurred.

Future Prevention
The owner has made a resolution to mark his lambs at an earlier age. Now he knows about tetanus he will take every precaution to prevent further losses by good hygiene and marking in temporary yards in the paddock. He intends to use the knife only and will examine the lamb flock daily for at least 14 days after marking. Should tetanus become an annual problem he has been advised to use tetanus antitoxin as a routine at marking.

— F. C. WILKINSON, Veterinary Surgeon

228
Now! 1 Pump does 2 jobs!

BLASTS FIRES
FILLS TANKS

125 P.S.I.*
WITH 3/16" NOZZLE!

6,600 G.P.H.
WITH 5ft. SUCTION!

STFS FIRE
LISTEN
— MHB
125 P.S.I.*
WITH 3/16" NOZZLE!

Here now is the perfect firefighting combination! The South Pacific FIRE QUENCHER gives you all the pressure you need to blast tree-top fires and fog spray ground fires . . . plus a handy high volume output for other jobs such as tank filling and de-watering.

2 STAGES, with twin impellers placed back-to-back give greater efficiency, guarantee a smoother-running pump.

SELF PRIMING and completely trouble free. Most dependable pump you'll ever own.

DIRTY WATER is no problem. Handles mud and grit better than any other firefighter.

The South Pacific Fire Quencher is approved by firefighting authorities. We'll gladly demonstrate its unmatched performance.

MAIL COUPON FOR FULL INFORMATION

WESFARMERS TUTT BRYANT PTY. LTD.
Railway Avenue, Bassendean, W.A.

Please send me, without obligation, more information on the "FIRE QUENCHER"

NAME
ADDRESS

We are also W.A. Distributors
of REX SELF PRIMING
PUMPS—Australia's best-selling,
most complete pump
range.

WESFARMERS TUTT BRYANT PTY. LTD.
RAILWAY AVENUE, BASSENDEN, W.A.
TELEPHONE 79 1616

Please mention the "Journal of Agriculture of W.A." when writing to advertisers