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Chart for packing apples

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SEASONAL REMINDERS



Veterinary Notes for May-June

By OFFICERS OF THE VETERINARY BRANCH

SHEEPMEN who have not already done so should lose no time in immunising their flocks against infectious enterotoxaemia ("pulpy kidney"). This disease may occur anywhere in the agricultural areas and is often prevalent during the flush season of the year.

Losses may be heavy, particularly in good seasons. Affected sheep usually die suddenly after an illness of short duration and are often found dead in the paddocks without any symptoms of sickness having been observed.

Within a few hours of death the carcass becomes greatly distended with gas; the flesh darkens rapidly and the wool plucks out readily. It should be noted that the symptom, pulpy kidney, which gives the disease its popular name, is a post-mortem change which is not observed in the fresh carcass but is very obvious three to four hours after death.

The disease may be prevented by inoculation with enterotoxaemia vaccine and this should be carried out just prior to the advent of green feed so that the greatest measure of protection may be provided during the period of greatest risk.

The vaccine is administered in a dose of 5 c.c. by subcutaneous (beneath the skin) injection and after an interval of 10-14 days produces an immunity which is usually sufficient to prevent losses for the remainder of the season.

HYPOCALCAEMIA

HYPOCALCAEMIA, also known as grass staggers or milk fever, affects both milking and in-lamb ewes and is particularly likely to occur during early seasons where there is a rapid and abundant growth of succulent green feed which coincides with lambing.

The grazing of lush green feed or young cereal crops favours the development of the disease and under such conditions the risk is greatly increased by droving or prolonged yarding.

Affected ewes show symptoms of shivering or trembling when driven; the gait is stilted and proppy and there is a watery discharge from the nose. This is followed by collapse and prostration.

Death usually occurs within a few hours of the onset of symptoms but may be delayed for two to three days. For the treatment of the disease the injection of a 25 per cent. solution of calcium borogluconate in a dosage of 60 c.c. is recommended and in the majority of cases this is followed by a rapid and often quite spectacular recovery.

Cartons of calcium borogluconate with directions for the preparation and use of the solution are readily available and it is advisable that a supply should always be kept on hand.

The prevention of hypocalcaemia is largely a question of management and in seasons which favour its occurrence especial care should be exercised in the handling of lambing ewes so as to avoid unnecessary driving or yarding for unduly long periods. Yarding overnight and driving to distant paddocks after release from the yards, should be avoided. Full particulars of the disease are given in Leaflet 1056, which is obtainable free of charge on application to the Department of Agriculture.

DISEASES ASSOCIATED WITH CALVING

WITH the advent of the calving season it is well to be on the lookout for diseases which are generally associated with calving, such as milk fever, after-calving paralysis, and aceton-
aemia.

Milk Fever as a rule occurs within a few days following calving, and generally affects mature cows, particularly heavy milkers. The cow goes down, usually lies on its brisket with the head turned into the shoulder, and generally goes into a coma. (See Leaflet 674).

After-Calving Paralysis usually occurs soon after calving also. There is a

paralysis of the hind legs, but the animal remains bright about the head, and eats and drinks normally unless there are other complications.

Acetonaemia generally occurs during the first six weeks of lactation and is characterised by loss of appetite, reduction of milk yield, loss of condition, and constipation, and there may be a sweetish odour of breath, milk, and urine. There is also a nervous form of Acetonaemia. (See Leaflet 873).

In some cases milk fever may be prevented by incompletely milking out during the first three days, or allowing the calf to remain with the mother for that period. In highly susceptible cows, a calcium injection immediately following calving and repeated 24 hours later may prevent an attack. It is generally treated successfully with calcium borogluconate injections.

After-calving paralysis should be differentiated from conditions in which paralysis is due to injury at the time of calving, or to fractures of pelvis, etc. due to struggling or slipping. Injections of calcium and phosphorus will often get affected animals on their feet, but some cases may remain down for weeks before finally getting up.

Acetonaemia may often be treated successfully with chloral hydrate and molasses.

As these disease conditions are frequently complicated, the services of a veterinary surgeon should be obtained wherever possible.

THE MARTYRS

"LITTLE city abounding in faith and mystery and hope, why do your myriad virgins consent to a task that no human slave has ever accepted? Another Spring would be theirs, another Summer, were they only a little less wasteful of strength, a little less forgetful of self, in their ardour for toil; but at the magnificent moment when the flowers all cry to them, they seem to be stricken with the fatal ecstasy of work, and in less than five weeks they almost all perish, their wings broken, their bodies shrivelled and covered with wounds."

—"The Life of the Bee," by Maurice Maeterlinck.

Orchard Notes for May and June

By OFFICERS OF THE HORTICULTURAL BRANCH

IF it is intended to plant a leguminous cover crop this should be done without delay. It is not advisable to sow seed later than May. Details of cover crops appeared in the previous Journal.

PRE-HARVEST DROP OF CITRUS

The pre-harvest drop of citrus fruits particularly Navels and Grapefruit which occurs during the winter months may be largely prevented by the application of a spray containing 20 parts per million of 2,4-D. This material is marketed under the proprietary name of Kling-Cit. It should be applied as a cover spray to foliage and fruit some time before the drop is expected and may remain effective as long as six months. Avoid spraying trees when much young growth is present.

HARVESTING OF CITRUS FRUITS

Careful handling of citrus fruits is necessary to minimise the development of moulds in the stored fruit. Picking boxes should be carefully examined to ensure they are free from protruding nails and rough surfaces. When fruit is clipped, the work should be done carefully and if necessary a second clipping should be made close to the button. Long or rough finger nails can injure the skin of the fruit and these should be checked regularly.

During wet weather the fruit should be allowed to dry before packing. The same careful treatment recommended for picking should be continued through all subsequent handlings.

Strict attention should be paid to packing-shed hygiene, particularly with fruit affected with mould.

MARKETING OF CITRUS FRUITS DISEASE AND PEST CONTROL

Oranges, lemons and grapefruit must be marketed according to the Grading Regulations under the Agricultural Pro-

ducts Act and according to the provisions of the Fruit Cases Act. Details of the requirements are available at the Perth Office or from field officers.

Oranges should not be marketed at an immature stage. The maturity standard is 26 mils maximum and fruit not conforming to this requirement is degraded to "inferior."

Fruit packed for export must conform to the Exports—Fresh Fruit—Regulations. Extra care should be given to the preparation of export orders, as the fruit is expected to hold its condition and quality when received by the importer.

Packing charts for citrus fruits may be obtained from the Head Office of the Department or district Horticultural Instructors.

DISEASE AND PEST CONTROL

(a) **Fruit Fly.**—Although with the onset of cooler weather and winter rains fruit fly becomes less troublesome it is nevertheless advisable to put out bait composed of:—

1 oz. sodium fluosilicate.

2½ lb. white sugar.

4 gallons of water.

or the prepared mixture "Lurotox" during fine warm spells when the flies are usually to be found on the sunny side of the tree. Leaflets on Fruit Fly Control are obtainable from the Department of Agriculture, Perth.

(b) **Brown Rot of Citrus.**—If a spray has not already been applied this should be done as early as possible in May using a 4:4:40 Bordeaux mixture.

(c) **Shothole of Stone Fruits.**—If trees were badly affected with the disease during the past season a spray of 6:4:40 Bordeaux mixture is advisable when the leaves commence to fall.

PRUNING

The pruning of vines and stone fruits may be commenced in June. Wherever possible diseased wood should be removed and all prunings burnt to destroy overwintering fungal spores and insect eggs. It is important that all vine canes showing black spot lesions should be removed and burnt. Growers needing advice are advised to contact the district Horticultural Instructor.

Poultry Notes for May-June

By OFFICERS OF THE POULTRY BRANCH

ARRANGEMENTS should be in hand for setting up breeding pens. Breeders in particular should make a special point of hatching their future breeding birds (both sexes) from second or third year hens and wherever possible should use proven cocks. It is imperative that all birds on breeding farms, irrespective of their purpose, should be blood tested for pullorum disease prior to mating. For preference chickens should be hatched in June, July and August.

Incubators, brooder houses and rearing equipment should all be thoroughly cleaned. The incubators should be fumigated before any eggs are set. All brooder houses and rearing equipment should be disinfected—the walls with five per cent. Dettol and the floors with a solution of 1 lb. of caustic soda to five gallons of water or 10 parts of ammonia to 100 parts of water. The floors of the brooder house should be covered with clean dry sawdust to a depth of three inches before the chickens are housed.

Rape is an excellent cover crop in brooder runs and this crop should be sown six weeks before the day-old chicks are delivered.

A cereal crop should be sown in the rearing pens six weeks before the chickens are transferred to them.

Coccidiosis.—Supplies of either sulpho-quinoxaline or sulphamezathine should be on hand prior to the delivery date of chickens. This applies especially to producers in country districts.

Feed.—All laying stock should be receiving a diet which contains 16 per cent. of protein. In view of the shortage of whalemeal and meatmeal a proportion of the animal protein used may be substituted with whale solubles (see Departmental leaflet).

If adequate greenfeed is not available a fish oil rich in Vitamin A should be fed at the level recommended by the manufacturer. Where possible, some greenfeed should be fed to maintain yolk colour. **This is important.**

If birds are intensively housed and sunlight is limited, they should be receiving a Vitamin D3 rich fish oil. This applies especially to chickens during the brooding period.

Lighting.—If you are using electric lights the times of switching on should be checked to see that the laying hens are receiving 15 hours of light per day.

Culling.—Odd pullets will break down during this period and these birds should be marketed.

Tobacco Notes for May and June

By T. G. HANEY, B.Sc. Agric., Tobacco Adviser

IF land has not already been prepared for the next season's crop, it should be ploughed when moist enough, preparatory to sowing of green manure crops. The recommendation, especially for new land, is to sow a mixture of a leguminous crop, such as lupins or field peas, with oats. Sow one bushel of each, or where no legume is to be used, sow oats at the rate of two bushels per acre. One cwt. of super-phosphate per acre is the recommended application of fertiliser.

Tobacco stalks should all be pulled and burnt by May 30. A suggestion to make the pulling of stalks easier, is to remove the mouldboard from the plough, and run along the sides of the plants with the share. This method pulls the plants out of the ground to a certain extent and loosens the soil around the roots. When carrying out this operation, observe the root systems. Several cases of nematode infestation have been found in the area and the disease is quickly spread by ploughing and cultivation. If severe patches of nematode infestation are found, these can be treated early, thus preventing excessive spread.

GRADING HINTS

Grading should be in full swing by this time. There will be two sales this year, on August 14 and 17. At least 250 tons will be required for the first sale, so a good majority of this leaf will need to be in Fremantle by July 14. All leaf must reach Fremantle by August 14. Grading is merely a matter of comparison of leaves. In general, the division between grades is too fine. If bottom, middle and top leaves are kept separate, there should only need to be about half a dozen grades from each bulk. If this is done, grading for size can be carried out in the same operation, thus preventing double handling of the leaf. Two sizes, longs and shorts, only are necessary. The practice of grading into longs, mediums, and shorts is unnecessary.

PREPARING FOR SALE

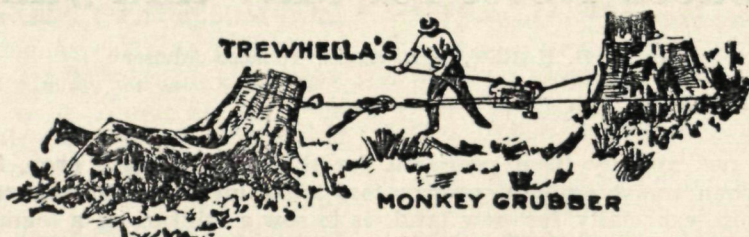
When tying leaf, don't make the hands too big and untidy. Neat, tightly-tied hands in the bale make a much more attractive sight than loose, big hands. This may also mean extra pence per pound for the grower.

It is most important to try to avoid divisions in bales. If they are necessary, keep leaf within the bale of similar grades. It is not wise at any time to have more than one division. If only a small amount of one grade is available, it is better to include it with the next grade, rather than divide the bale.

Put the correct number of hands in for tie layers so that the bales don't bend.

When baling, be sure that leaf is not too moist. Once leaf comes under pressure in the press, moisture in the leaf becomes much more apparent. Therefore, have just enough moisture in the leaf to be able to handle it. Leaf which is too "soft" is too prone to develop mould, and if it has not already done so by the time it reaches the floor, more expense is incurred by the re-drying and repacking which becomes necessary. Mouldy leaf is "taboo" to buyers.

Lastly, keep bales a reasonable size—150 lb. is the optimum size, but variation is between 100 and 200 lb. Bales over 200 lb. are repacked on the floor. Leaf in small bales is apt to be badly damaged in transit, and often arrives at the factory as a mass of broken leaf.



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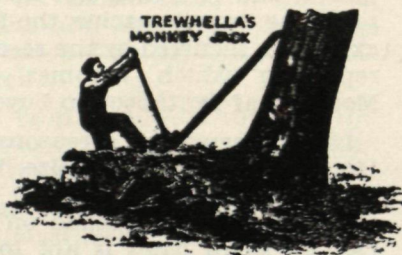
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Wheatbelt Notes for May-June

MAY is the main seeding month in the wheatbelt and varieties of cereals should be sown according to their maturity and suitability to the particular district.

Too early sowing of the early-maturing varieties is likely to result in outbreaks of septoria or may result in the crops being damaged by frost injury in the spring. See the departmental recommendations for the varieties best suited to your district and rainfall.

When seeding cereals, the best results will be obtained from seed sown in a moist well consolidated seedbed following the destruction by cultivation of early germinated weeds. Use seed of early and very early varieties, according to district, when conditions cause seeding to be extended later than normal. Apply superphosphate at the rates recommended for your local conditions, always remembering that crops on old land which has in the past received substantial dressing of superphosphate, will grow successfully following upon smaller dressings than usual. Give the heaviest dressings of superphosphate on the newer land wherever possible.

Avoiding Webworm Damage.—Seeding of wheat crops on pasture land should be delayed at least two weeks after ploughing in order to minimise the risks of damage by webworms. At the completion of seeding time, clean and store seeding machinery under cover and list any new parts required.

If possible commence your fallowing during June as early fallow is better than late fallow in the drier areas.

Wash superphosphate bags as soon as they are emptied as they are a valuable asset in these days of jute shortages.

Sheep Notes.—The tailing and marking of the lamb crop will be carried out during these months. Choose a warm dry day and avoid placing the lambs on rank wet grazing after the operation. Use sharp instruments, antiseptics and erect temporary yards in clean paddocks to minimise the danger of tetanus and other infections. The long tail (three inches) reduces the risk of fly-strike.

Lay poison baits for foxes and wild dogs prior to, and during the lambing period.

Watch for fly-strike during June as an early flush season may produce an early winter fly wave.

Pastures.—Avoid over-grazing of pastures just after the plants have germinated. It is better to continue hand feeding until pasture growth has made some progress.

Rotate grazing wherever possible, as pastures can become fouled and stale. Stock do better on fresh grazing and frequent changes.

Fumigate and destroy rabbit warrens during the winter months.

CHART FOR PACKING APPLES

A chart giving details of the correct method of packing apples is now available at the Department of Agriculture, Perth, or from District Officers. This chart embraces packs for apples of various shapes, such as round, flat, long and medium long types with brief explanatory remarks.

It is printed in two forms; a wall-type chart for packing-shed use and a small pocket-size folder.

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