



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

Journal of the Department of Agriculture, Western Australia, Series 3

Volume 6
Number 1 *January-February, 1957*

Article 12

1-1957

Bluetongue - Its relationship to the importation of cattle from the U.S.A.

C. R. Toop

Follow this and additional works at: https://library.dpird.wa.gov.au/journal_agriculture3

Recommended Citation

Toop, C. R. (1957) "Bluetongue - Its relationship to the importation of cattle from the U.S.A.," *Journal of the Department of Agriculture, Western Australia, Series 3*: Vol. 6: No. 1, Article 12.
Available at: https://library.dpird.wa.gov.au/journal_agriculture3/vol6/iss1/12

This article is brought to you for free and open access by the Agriculture at Digital Library. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of the Department of Agriculture, Western Australia, Series 3 by an authorized administrator of Digital Library. For more information, please contact library@dpird.wa.gov.au.

BLUETONGUE

Its Relationship To The Importation Of Cattle From The U.S.A.

IT was announced by the Commonwealth Health Department a few weeks ago that an embargo had been imposed upon the importation of cattle from the U.S.A. as a precaution against the introduction of bluetongue. This is an infectious disease of sheep which has been mainly confined to the African continent, and it has been responsible for heavy losses in the Union of South Africa, over a period of many years.

by

C. R. TOOP, B.V.Sc.,

Chief Veterinary Surgeon

The infection was at first thought to be confined to sheep, but it was recently revealed during the course of transmission experiments that it may also be present in the blood of apparently healthy cattle.

The disease first made its appearance on the American continent, in Texas in 1948, where it was known as "sore muzzle," and it was subsequently reported in California and Utah in 1952, but it was not until the following year that its true identity was established. Since stud cattle from the U.S.A. were being exported to Australia in considerable numbers, this created an immediate problem for our quarantine authorities.

Bluetongue is highly infectious and is caused by a virus which is transmitted by biting insects such as sandflies. The symptoms as described consist of fever, depression and loss of appetite. There is inflammation, swelling and ulceration of

the mucous membranes of the mouth, tongue and nasal passages, which show a bluish discolouration, and this is accompanied by salivation, bleeding and nasal discharge. Affected animals become stiff and lame, and in severe cases there is emaciation, weakness and prostration. The mortality rate is usually of the order of 10 per cent. but may at times reach 30 to 40 per cent., and losses of up to 90 per cent. have been recorded.

It was reported from South Africa that outbreaks of bluetongue in sheep ceased abruptly with the onset of the first hard frosts and that infected cattle ceased to harbour the virus after an interval of three months, and from this it appeared that importations of cattle could be made with safety for a period of about four months extending from February to May. More recent research has, however, shown that cattle may remain infected through-

out the year and that their introduction into Australia at any period would involve a serious risk.

How bluetongue was introduced into the United States has not been definitely determined, but it is known that some Afrikander cattle were imported about 20 years ago and it has been suggested that these animals may have provided a reservoir of infection.

This emphasises the need for constant vigilance on the part of our quarantine services. The consequences to our sheep and wool industries would be extremely serious should an insect-borne infection of this nature ever be introduced and become established in Australia, and it is certain that it could never be eradicated.

I think it will generally be agreed that the embargo which has been imposed is fully justified.

(From a Rural Hour broadcast. By courtesy of the Australian Broadcasting Commission).

PLAN

**Your egg supply with easy to rear
DAY OLD CHICKS**

or

STARTED PULLETS

Hatched and Reared in our Government Licensed Air Conditioned Hatchery.

Ring ML 543.



Breeders Australorp, Rhode Island Red,
White Leghorn and First Cross

Cnr. Epsom and Smith Aves., Redcliffe

BINDING OF JOURNALS

To keep your journals clean, orderly and readily accessible, have each volume of six issues strongly bound in a durable and attractive cover.

29/- for completed binding including cover.

24/- with cover supplied by customer.

Packing and postage is FREE.

Please enclose name and address and cost of binding with journals, and send to:—

**A. PRITCHARD,
General Bookbinders,
130a Murray Street,
PERTH, W.A.**

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

FOOTROT QUARANTINE

Owners of flocks under quarantine for footrot are reminded that the removal of sheep from their properties is subject to the permission of the Department of Agriculture.

Permits are required not only for sheep forwarded to Midland Junction for sale for slaughter, but also for sheep consigned to the meatworks at Fremantle and Albany and to master butchers at Midland Junction and Fremantle. These permits may be obtained upon application to the Department either direct or through a livestock agent.

All sheep forwarded under quarantine permit either by rail or by road for sale for slaughter at Midland Junction will be required to be delivered to the quarantine yards which adjoin the Quarantine Siding.

Sheep from country sidings must be consigned to the Quarantine Siding, Midland Junction, and it will be the obligation of the owner to see that the consignment note is legibly and correctly addressed. The Railway Department will ensure that the sheep are delivered to the destination specified on the consignment note.

Sheep consigned by road will not be permitted to be unloaded at the main saleyards. They must be delivered direct to the Quarantine Siding and immediately after unloading, the vehicle must be thoroughly cleansed by hosing with water under pressure so as to remove all mud and manure at the washing bay provided for this purpose.

Railway trucks used for the transport of sheep with footrot will continue to be cleansed in the railway yards.

The movement of permit sheep must be nominated to the livestock agent not later than 12 noon on the Thursday of the week preceding the week of sale.

It is the purpose of these requirements to prevent the further spread of footrot and the full co-operation of sheepowners in the matter is requested.

Buy Best – Save More

SPORTS TROUSERS



Gabardines, Albany Cloth 82/6
Clan Murray, Tropical Weight 92/6
Nylo-wool, Economy priced 56/-



TROPICAL SUITS £16/16/-

Excellent finish and a light-weight cool wearing cloth. Available in Single Breasted Style in 4 shades and slim, regular or stout fittings.



KANGAROO HIDE BOOTS 75/6

With waterproof tongue, rivet reinforced, double wax stitching and 3 decker sole. Pearse Bros. Quality make.

KANGAROO HIDE SHOES



Special finish Black Shoes, guaranteed long wear and comfy fitting.



DRIP DRY SHIRTS .. 31/6

With fused collar in White, Blue, Grey, Fawn and Green. Launderers like Nylon. No ironing required. Sizes 14½ to 17 neck.



AIR FORCE BERETS

Genuine Service make. Blue wool with waterproof lining and adjustable leather headband. Sizes up to 7½. 10/6.



DRILL TROUSERS 24/6

Khaki or Navy. Special low price for a strong lightweight drill trouser in all regular fittings. Also in a heavier weight unshrinkable drill at 30/-.



DRILL JACKETS 12/6

Special Service quality Lumber Jacket, suitable for summer wear. Sizes for Small, Medium and Large fittings.



WALK SHORTS

Best quality drill, famous make, smart cut, 21/6.

Special American satin finish drill, with belt and zipp fly, 39/9.



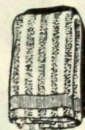
SPORTS COATS

New seasons. Summer weight all wool cloth with silk lining. Most sizes, good patterns, £8/8/-.



BLANKETS

Pure wool Grey Blankets, size 60 x 80.
37/6



SERVICE TOWELS 9/11

Everyone knows the quality of the striped Service Towel. Large size.

- WRITE
- PHONE
- CALL



R.S.L. SHOP

570 HAY STREET - - - - - PERTH
OPPOSITE RURAL BANK. PHONE B 2883



*The home that
never grows old...*

Monocrete is the latest in pre-cast building units—a completely impermeable material, which simply cannot wear out. Not only is it unaffected by weather-wear, it actually gains in strength the longer it is in place. When you build in Monocrete you build for good.



...with

MONOCRETE

Write or telephone to-day for free literature, specially written to explain to you the details of Monocrete construction, with sample quotations to show you the cost, to the managing agents:—

CONCRETE INDUSTRIES (W.A.) Pty. Ltd.

333 EPSOM AVENUE, BELMONT. Phone: ML 275

A DIVISION OF CONCRETE INDUSTRIES (AUST.) LIMITED
Manufacturers of Monier Concrete Products

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