Contagious Disease Report

The annual report of the Veterinary Director General, for the year ending March 31, 1917, contains some interesting information in relation to the prevalence of contagious animal diseases in the three prairie provinces. In Manitoba there was one outbreak of hog cholera. Seventeen animals were destroyed valued at $198. No cases of cholera was reported from Saskatchewan, but for purposes of examination nine hogs were destroyed valued at $77. There were eight outbreaks of the disease in Alberta. One-hundred-and-forty-five hogs were slaughtered valued at $1,424, and $949.33 was paid in compensation. In addition, 11 hogs valued at $127.50, were destroyed for examination.

Out of 671 horses in Manitoba tested for glanders, all proved healthy. In Saskatchewan, out of 4,712 head tested, 164 were killed, valued at $24,320, for which $16,046.35 was paid in compensation. One-thousand-one-hundred-and-sixty-seven horses were tested in Alberta, 55 were destroyed, valued at $7,795, compensation to the amount of $5,196.61 was paid.

The outbreak of cattle mange was confined to southern Alberta, and southwestern Saskatchewan. The latter province had 12 outbreaks, with a total of 892 animals affected, and Alberta 40 outbreaks with a loss of 682 head.

Prevent Silage Spoiling

Several methods of closing the silo until the feeding period begins are in use. The blanket that is to keep the the top layer from spoiling should be heavy and moist to shut out the air. Quite often weeds are run through the cutter as a finishing layer, or the last few loads of corn stalks from which the ears have been jerked may be used. In the latter case no grain would be lost. If spoiling is to be prevented entirely, C. H. Eckles, of the University of Missouri College of Agriculture, recommends the use of tar paper. A single thickness cut to fit snugly over the top of the silage will exclude the air effectively, and keep the silage in good condition for many months.

Champion Berkshires, owned by Wm. Gilbert, Stony Plains, Alta.

At intervals of two or three days, for a period of two weeks or more, it will be advisable to tramp the silage around the edges. As the mass settles, it draws away from the sides of the silo. If the silo is not yet filled, this difficulty may be prevented to some extent by changing the form of the surface layer as the mass nears the top. Where the surface is kept saucer-shaped at first, it should be gradually changed into an inverted saucer by the time the silo is full.

The immediate use of silage is not recommended. If not allowed to stand for at least ten days, the mass is neither green corn nor ensilage, and cattle do not relish it. A period longer than this is desirable.

Sale and Show Directory

October 16.—G. H. Hutton, cattle, sheep and swine, Lacombe, Alta.

October 23-24.—Alberta Provincial Sheep and Swine Breeders' Association sale; also show of soil products by the Edmonton Exhibition Association at Edmonton, Alta.

Oct. 23-24.—Manitoba Sheep and Swine Breeders' Association sale of sheep and swine, Brandon, Man.

October 30.—Alberta Sheep Breeders' Association, pure-bred rams and ewes, Calgary, Alta.

The many friends of Jas. Bansfield, MacGregor, Man., will regret to learn of the death of his son Cadet H. W. Bansfield, who was killed in an aeroplane accident recently at Beamsville, Ont.

Fie

Wheat-Stem Saw

THE Western wheat-st has been known in about 22 years, whe cause of more or le Indian Head and S not known to be very trou side of those sections w wheat is grown rather Previous to the settlement provinces and before whea the Western wheat-stem sa grasses com- monly known as wheat grass, rye grass or bunch grass. In 1906 and the fol- lowing year there was a serious out- break of this pest in Mani- toba. In fact the fly was so numerous that the native grasses were unable to pro- vide sufficient nourishment and the wheat fields were at- tacked with the result that considerable injury to the crop was man- ifest. Since the attack in 1907 the saw- fly has appar- ently formed the habit of attacking the wheat stems to a greater ex- tent than it did previous- ly.

Showing

The adult sawfly resem- bles somewhat a narrow-bod- ied wasp, the female bei quarters of an inch long what shorter It is blac sessing four wings an rings surround the abd male fly has a short hor dage at the end of th purpose of depositing time of appearance of ersed somewhat by the arily, however, it is second week in June ar on the stems of various as on wheat and rye, head downwards. In weather the fly is inac prefer bright warm d work. The eggs are female, usally above t into the leaf sheath. whether the egg is dep side of the stem, belo leaf sheath or inside t known that the larva the inside of the stem three days for the eg they commence to wor through the stems and reach the ground. Ab dences of the fly ma that the heads of th turns white. Wheat than rye due to its si the larva has reached stem at the ground it it inside, and thus stem which causes it t larva then remains that portion of the ground and the follow in the pupa stage, a month later into when the breeding are ready to deposit plants.

The work of the sa recognized. The first sible is that the step broken down much l the effects of a hail