

HOG CHOLERA, AND VACCINATION
AS A PREVENTIVE TREAT-
MENT.

Precautions Against the Disease.—The greatest care should be exercised to keep the infection from entering healthy herds. If the disease is in the immediate locality, stray dogs should not be allowed in the hog lots or pastures. To eliminate as much as possible, infection from birds, the hogs should be fed in covered enclosures. Stockmen and buyers should not be allowed to enter the premises without first thoroughly disinfecting the shoes with some such germicidal solution as carbolic acid. The hogs should, under no consideration, have access to a stream which is fed from water running through other farms. No newly-purchased hogs should be placed with the general herd until they have been kept in quarantine for two or three weeks. Plenty of air-slaked lime should be used about the hog houses and feeding places.

The Bureau of Animal Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, has recently perfected a vaccine known as "Dorset's Hog Cholera Vaccine." It consists of (1) immune serum (blood serum drawn from a hog which is immune to the disease) and (2) hog-cholera virus (blood serum from a hog suffering from the disease). The two substances are injected simultaneously into the healthy hog. Experimental evidence shows that this method of vaccination is efficient.

"Dorset's Hog Cholera Vaccine" has some disadvantages. (1) These serums, both the immune and the hog-cholera serum, are expensive, because they are obtained from hogs, which, in comparison with other domesticated animals, yield only a small amount of blood serum. Under these conditions this process involving the killing of hogs to save hogs, when put into practice, is very expensive. (2) The danger that might follow the broadcast distribution of hog-cholera virus, in some instances among careless veterinarians and uninformed farmers, cannot be ignored.

The Bacteriological Department of the Kansas Station has, during the past year, conducted a line of experimental work in an attempt to produce a practical hog-cholera vaccine. The general scheme of the work has been to attenuate or so modify the hog-cholera virus by passing it through a horse that it will successfully vaccinate a healthy hog against the disease, but will not produce infection. Three horses and some twenty hogs are at present under observation, and during the fall months some field work will be undertaken. The following conclusions have been suggested by the results so far obtained:

1. Hog - cholera serum exerts a toxic influence upon a healthy horse when injected intravenously.
2. The blood serum from a horse, drawn a few hours (3-6) after the animal has received in the veins 75 to 150 cc. of hog - cholera serum, is as virulent as the original hog-cholera serum, producing typical symptoms of cholera and death when injected into healthy hogs. In some cases horse serum, drawn 3-6 hours after the animal has received intravenously a dose of hog-cholera virus, produces in healthy hogs

A bulletin is in process of preparation which will explain the above experiments in detail. WALTER E. KING,
Manhattan, Kan. Bacteriologist.

In the Maritime Provinces sheep are fast becoming a popular part of the livestock world, because of their value in eradicating ragwort, a weed that has been found to cause serious sickness among cattle. According to J. B. Spencer, of the Live-stock Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, this disease was for some time considered to be contagious. Investigation revealed the fact that it never should have been classed as being contagious, as it is now known to be due to the cattle eating hay in which ragwort is abundant. This condition of affairs was discovered on a farm opened by Dr. J. G. Rutherford, at Antigonish, N. S. It was found that sheep could eat it either in pasture or hay, without ill effects, and with the former treatment the weed soon was eradicated.

The districts infested by ragwort are found chiefly surrounding Antigonish and Pictou, in Nova Scotia, and at the east and west ends of Prince Edward Island. Last spring seventy-seven pure-bred shearing rams were selected by Mr. Spencer and sent to these districts. They were chiefly Shropshires and Oxford, but a few each of Cotswolds, Leicesters and Lincolns. The selections were made on the recommendations of the Maritime mutton-raisers. In addition, twenty-five well-developed lambs were purchased in the Maritime Provinces.

To further encourage the sheep-raising industry, sales are being arranged at which Mr. Spencer will be present. On September 30th, at Pictou Fair thirty-four fine lambs were to have been sold. At Antigonish on October 14th, an equal number will be disposed of. On October 1st, at Souris, P. E. I., 14 are to be sold, and again on October 3rd, 15 are to be on sale at Summerside, P. E. I.

The sheep-raisers of those localities are very much interested in these sales. Great results are anticipated for the sheep industry of the Maritime Provinces. At the same time a weed that has been causing great annoyance with the cattle-men will be at least partially subdued, as a result of the increased attention to sheep husbandry.

“For the benefit of those that have cows that suck themselves, Sylvester Klinker, of Iowa, submits the following to Wallace’s Farmer. He claims it is a sure cure, as he has used it for over thirty years: “Take an ordinary bridle bit, jointed in center, and bridle the cow just as you would a horse, using strap, rope, or anything to keep bit in mouth. This ends all trouble, with no inconvenience to the cow. Publish this for the humane part of it, as I see so many cruel and many bunglesome contrivances used.”

The time has arrived when the tests of cows must be the real tests in order to command the slightest attention from commercial milk-producers, who are starting in to breed up to or pure-breed their herds. The "private" tests may be all right, but dairymen are not looking for tests of that sort. The breed that puts out real tests is going to do the business in the near future.

Mr. John Robertson, Wyoming, Ont., has a few nice yearling Shropshire rams, good flock-heads. If interested, write him, and you will find prices right. See advertisement in this issue.

Catalogues on application to: **David Clow, Whitechurch, Ont.**

In Shorthorns, over 50 head—cows, heifers and calves from 2nd to 8 months. In Cotswolds, shearing ewes and ram and ewe lambs. In Berkshires, a few young sows.

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Stock for sale of both sexes, and reg. Cotswold
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