

2. To collect, verify, and publish information regarding the capabilities of this breed of cattle.

3. To confer with the Department of Agriculture, County Committees of Agriculture and Agricultural Societies in regard to matters relating to the breed and matters pertaining to cow-testing.

4. To encourage the general adoption of systematic milk-recording and the formation of Cow-testing Associations.

5. To do all such things as may be considered advisable by the Society to encourage the breeding of deep-milking dairy Shorthorn cattle in the South of Ireland, and to promote the interests of owners and breeders.

Middlesex Co.

W. T.

Infectious Ophthalmia in Cattle.

Infectious ophthalmia (inflammation of the eye) in cattle is present in all seasons, appearing here and there in single herds, or a more severe form of the disease developing as an epizootic and attacking many animals in an area of greater or less extent. An attack of the disease does not render an animal immune for any considerable time, but it is seldom that an animal suffers the second time the same season. The disease is no doubt caused by a specific virus, but the exact nature of the virus has not been definitely determined. The outer membranes of the eye are the parts usually involved, but in severe cases the deeper-seated structures become diseased as a sequel.

Symptoms.—The symptoms are usually characteristic, hence a diagnosis is usually easy. In the early stages the eyelids become slightly swollen and partially closed; there is a copious flow of tears over the cheeks from the inner corner of the eye. In many cases both eyes are affected, but in some cases only one, while in other cases one eye may suffer from a mild attack and the other from a more acute attack. Age appears to have little or no influence upon the susceptibility of an animal to an attack, as young and old seem alike susceptible. While sheep apparently suffer from a similar or the same disease, horses, mules, asses, dogs and cats appear to be immune. Later the tears become mixed with mucus and pus, and adhere to the hair of the face. The appetite is usually more or less impaired, according to the severity of the attack. The hair over the body becomes somewhat dry and rough. Thirst is usually somewhat excessive, and the animal drinks frequently if allowed free access to water of moderate temperature. The temperature is more or less increased, in some cases reaching 103 to 105 degrees Fahrenheit, and the patient loses flesh and becomes gaunt, in proportion to the distress experienced.

In mild cases, especially when treatment be given in the early stages, the increase in temperature, and in fact all the symptoms are only moderate and recovery is rapid. In severe cases the animal evidently suffers acutely. All symptoms are well marked: the eye or eyes present a whitish appearance over a greater or less area of their surface. This is often spoken of as "a scum over the eye," but this whitish substance is not external, the color is due to a deposit of lymph between the layers of the cornea (the outer covering of the eyeball). External to this is the conjunctiva (the mucous coat). In severe cases it is not unusual for a bulging of the eyeball to be noticed, this bulging soon becomes more localized, usually near the centre of the eyeball, the parts become reddened in color, due to escape of blood from the capillaries, eventually it bursts and discharges a bloody pus, and often refuses to heal.

The duration of the disease depends upon the severity of the attack; whether one eye becomes diseased and later the other, or whether both become involved at the same time, or one escaped an attack; also whether treatment was given in the early stages. In mild attacks a complete recovery may take place in ten to twelve days; in severe cases it may be from one to three months before inflammation subsides, and there may or may not be complete recovery. An attack may terminate in complete recovery (called resolution); there may be partial or complete blindness, owing to opacity of the cornea or lens; and there may be escape of the humors of the eyeball and consequent collapse of the sac, or an ulcer that refuses to heal may remain on the eyeball.

Treatment.—Non-infected animals should be removed to healthy quarters. The infected should be kept in comfortable, partially-darkened quarters. It is good practice to give each a mild laxative of one to two pints raw linseed oil, and feed on feed of good quality and laxative nature. A lotion made of ten grains sulphate of zinc, twenty drops of fluid extract of belladonna and two ounces distilled water should be got. The affected eye or eyes should be well bathed with hot water three times daily, and after bathing a few drops of the lotion should be dropped into each out of a dropper. Whether or not the stable be partially darkened, the patients must be excluded from direct sunlight and drafts. If after inflammatory action ceases, there is partial or complete opacity of the cornea, indicated by the scum-like appearance over the eyeball, a few drops of a lotion made of five grains of the nitrate of silver to one ounce distilled water should be dropped into the eye twice daily. If an ulcer forms it should be carefully touched with a pencil of the nitrate of silver once daily for a few days. If the lens becomes opaque the sight of the eye will be totally lost. The diseased must not be again allowed with the non-infected animals until after recovery, that is, until all inflammatory action has subsided, although there may be some permanent defects as sequels. The quarters in which the diseased have been kept should be thoroughly disinfected before healthy stock is again introduced.

Wm.

Dipping the Sheep.

With the average flock owner dipping is not a general practice, although it is to the advantage of every sheep owner that he dip his flock regularly twice a year, not only to destroy ticks and lice but to combat skin disease. If the sheep are infested with vermin, a first-class quality wool cannot be obtained, and the best of care and feed will not make up for the ravages of these pests. It is impossible to get gains where vermin is allowed to run riot. What we need is fewer ticks and more sheep. While every farm may not be adapted to the raising of sheep, yet more might be kept than are. The flocks should be given the attention which will enable them to make the maximum returns. Dipping is one practice which will help increase the revenue from the flock. Fortunately, our flocks are comparatively free from skin diseases, such as scab; therefore, dipping is chiefly necessary to destroy the tick, which is universally

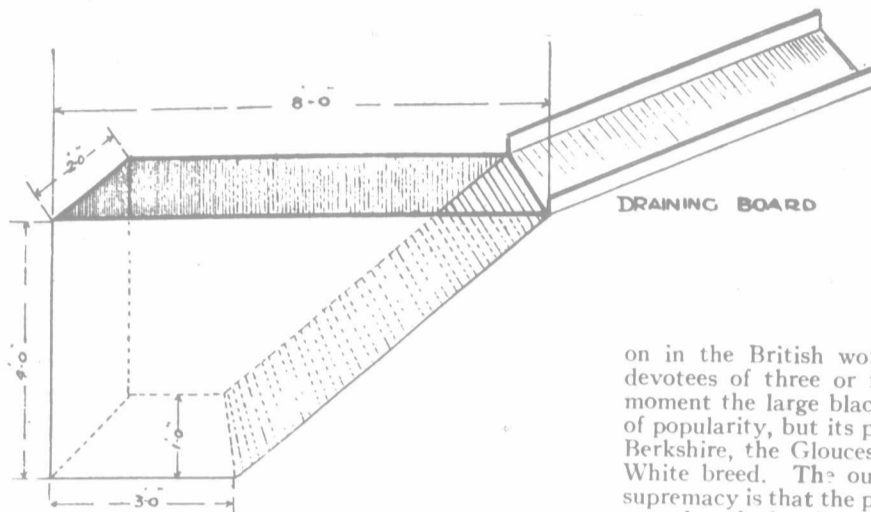
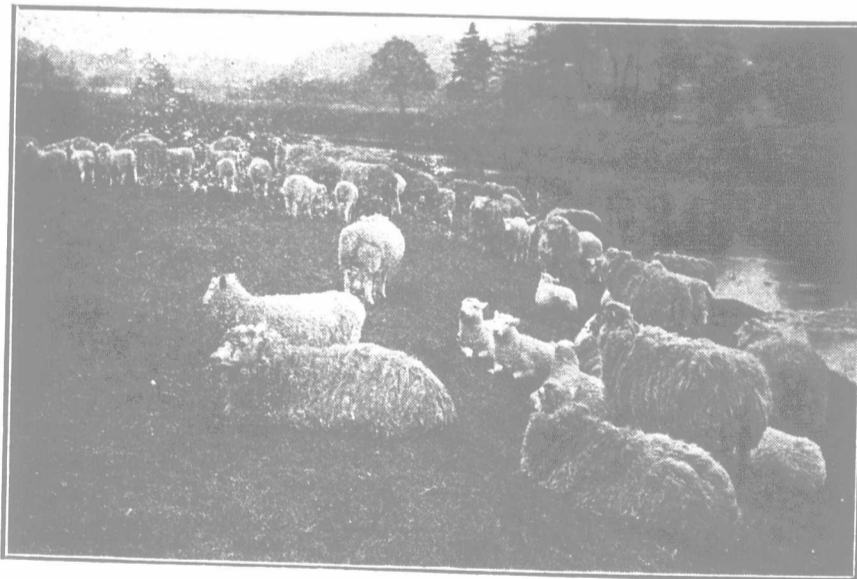


Diagram of Dipping Tank.

known as a body pest of the woolled class of stock. The necessary investment for dipping the flock need not be large. Where only a few sheep are kept they may be dipped in a tub, but where the flock runs to twenty or more individuals it is advisable to build a regular dipping tank. The accompanying illustration will give an idea of the structure, and dimensions are from 8 to 9 feet long at the top from 3 to 4 feet long at the bottom, 2 feet 6 inches wide at the top, and one foot wide at the bottom. The depth may be from 3½ to 4 feet, and there should be a sloping gang-way leading to the bottom of the vat. Then it is advisable to have a draining board on which the sheep may stand for a few minutes to allow the material to drain from their wool and flow back into the tank. Metal dipping tanks may be secured, or a tank may be constructed of lumber or concrete. Where sheep are being purchased at intervals throughout the season, the dipping material may be left in the tank and the new-comer dipped before being placed with the main flock. Where the flock is large, a couple of yards may be built with the dipping vat between. A tight floor in the one yard, to which the sheep go after being dipped, may be so constructed as to drain the material back into the vat. On some of



A Profitable Farm Flock.

the ranches the dipping equipment is so extensive that several thousand sheep may be dipped in the course of a day.

There are several proprietary dips on the market that have proven satisfactory. Home-boiled lime and sulphur has been used, but this mixture has given place very largely to the commercial material, which may be purchased in tins on which is printed the full directions for using. The usual time for dipping is shortly after shearing, provided the weather is warm, and again in the fall before the flock goes into winter quarters. The water used for dipping should be warmed, and the sheep should remain in the dip approximately two minutes, so that the material will have an opportunity of saturating the wool. Dipping should be delayed until after the ewes have lambed. It will be found that the ticks will very often leave the shorn ewes and attach them-

selves to the lambs. For this reason, they, too, could be given a thorough drenching as they will not thrive if tormented by either ticks or lice. In some cases it is necessary to give the sheep another bath ten days later to insure the destruction of vermin hatched from eggs since the first dip.

The directions for using the commercial mixture should be followed to the letter, and care taken not to allow the material to get into the eyes and nostrils of the sheep. Warm water may be added at frequent intervals to keep the temperature right. Another method is to put hot stones or hot irons into the tank. The cost of dipping the sheep is so small, as compared with the benefit accruing, that no one should fail to dip the flock this spring. If you haven't got a regular dipping vat, then use a large tub or trough. If the ticks are destroyed in the spring, the sheep will not be bothered much during the summer, and the thriftiness and health of the flock will be greater than where the sheep are allowed to fight these pests without any assistance from the shepherd.

Fashions in British Pigs.

How long it will last and where it will end, dependent knoweth not, but there is a remarkable battle going on in the British world of pig breeders between the devotees of three or four fashionable breeds. At the moment the large black pig is riding on the crest wave of popularity, but its position is being challenged by the Berkshire, the Gloucester Spotted pig, and the Middle White breed. The outcome of this struggle for breed supremacy is that the prices now being paid for pigs have soared to the heights of those given for Shorthorn cattle, even in the period known as "the golden age" of that breed—when breeders in Canada, U. S. A. and at home sought to buy their Booth and Bates cattle at figures which drew a derisive yet clever and oft quoted poem from Punch.

At the moment £600 and £700 are being paid for boars and gilts; herds are being sold at an average of over £100 per head; gilts in any number make £200; boars "just so" in matter of quality but of correct ancestry are retailed at £100, £90 and £80, where a few years ago they were difficult to dispose of for a five-pound note. A vendor who placed a number of young boars in a sale some years ago was asking for a moderate "average," if not a very ordinary sale return. To-day, he has not to fear that result, for with the establishment of so many new herds, the fresh breeders have to seek for boars of different family lines to enable them to conduct their breeding operations without the risk of too close inbreeding. At the time of writing 700 guineas is the outstanding price, paid on April 15th at Mr. Terah F. Hooley's sale at Dry Drayton, Cambridge, for the Large Black gilt, Drayton Best of All, farrowed on April 25, 1919, and the winner of first prize for the best single pig of its breed at the Smithfield Club Show last winter and also champion pig of the show against all breeds. She scaled 3 cwt. 2 grs. 15 lbs. at 7 months, and 6 days old. In gilt to Drayton Democrat her buyer, G. Holt Thomas, fixed her value at the extraordinary figure named. Other gilts in this sale realized 500, 460 and 400 guineas, and the fine average of £122 15s. was made on 82 head, or a full total of £10,066.

Berkshire pigs are meeting with a revival in trade in the Old Country. The British Berkshire Pig Society held a show and sale at Reading on April 14th, when 54 sows and gilts were disposed of at an average of £61 5s. apiece and 33 boars at an average of £56 17s. each. Thus the 87 head made a total of £5,211 3s. or an average of £53 18s. apiece. W. Howard Palmer gave 300 guineas for J. Nagle's boar Hammond's Hot'entot and 370 guineas for Lord Stalbridge's boar, Motcombe Scott, first and reserve champion at the show held in connection with the sale. In the sow department, Mrs. Beatrice Gervoise got 200 guineas for Herreard Primula 4th, first and champion of her sex.

Middle Whites (i.e. middle weight Yorkshires, as you call them) sold well at John Chivers' sale at Histon, Cambridge, on April 13th. Four gilts, all sisters, by by Histon Halo, averaged £93 apiece. Mrs. Hayes Sadler gave 110 guineas for a lengthy and level July, 1919 gilt, by Shrewsbury, the champion boar at the Royal show. All told some 62 Histon pigs averaged £50 6s. 9d., or a total of £3,132.

Supplementary estimates amounting to \$4,118,571 have been tabled in the Provincial Legislature. Of this amount \$176,000 goes to agriculture and \$50,000 to colonization and immigration.

The weather the all-important been one of little frost flock-masters been greatly re wet weather soil throughout for sowing. F in the seed, but been a better s

At the begin bodings as to There was not both hay and straw reac had the winter frost and snow enough. As the situation is di have been brou and even at th full bite for she is bitterly cold, been fairly har ening and the su a touch of frost than otherwise.

In the earl planting was although the c usually carried and at this 'im ground. A ph a considerable sold. There is The cost of pro coast is thin ar sea-weed or wi of ammonia a returns are, un extraordinary, with early pota and in every c these potatoes This catch cro kindred fodder however comp down by shee method of mai acreage suitab crops every ye after the sprin This year the remarkably we striking contr is that by the be almost who realized full va promises to be ensuring been i ensure a very disposed of th late potatoes— use—were ofte about this dat a matter of Government are likely to £12 15s. per which even creased cost must leave a profit indee sold their cro ber last got £ at that figure i in 1919 was an profitable ente FARMERS AND

A royal c recently been the whole qu incidence of Amongst othe relation of fa tax has natura review. Pric farmers were like other tr ducers on thei keeping was a rough and re was resorted representing was not asses to pay a rent tax at all, and are rented at farmer had a to his farm h arising out o basis, and in on the basis o the great ma