

Easier to Ship Live Stock Now

New Quarantine Regulations Facilitate Interstate Transportation of Cattle and Hogs.

NEW regulations governing the interstate movement of live stock became effective July 1, 1914. These changes are designed by the Department of Agriculture to facilitate the movement of live stock from quarantined areas or from public stockyards. The new regulations, which are known as B. A. I. (Bureau of Animal Industry) Order 210, superseding B. A. I. Order 143, deal with the shipment of cattle from tick-infested areas, with the movement of swine from public stockyards and with the dipping of cattle and sheep for scabies.

Hereafter cattle that have been dipped once under state or federal supervision may be dipped from an area quarantined for ticks to a market center where there are proper dipping facilities and the Department of Agriculture maintains an inspector. After a second dipping there under his supervision the cattle may be sold for any purpose. Hitherto it has been necessary in times of drought for cattle owners in quarantined areas to slaughter their stock or sell it for slaughter for whatever it would bring. The resulting loss will, it is hoped, be done away with under the new regulation.

The provision permitting, under certain strict conditions, the transportation of hogs from public stockyards into interstate commerce has been made possible by the discovery by government

scientists of a serum which renders swine immune to hog cholera. Hitherto all stockyards have been considered as infected with this disease. Now, however, it is considered safe to permit the shipment of hogs which have been treated with the serum and which show no symptoms of suffering from any form of disease. As a result of this it is expected that thousands of light weight hogs will be sent from the stockyards to the country for feeding and fattening and that the country's total production of pork will be greatly increased thereby.

The new regulations also withdraw all permission for the use of nicotine solutions, coal-tar creosote and cresol preparations in the official dipping of cattle and sheep for scabies. This step has been made necessary by the difficulty experienced in keeping baths of this nature at a strength sufficient to eliminate all danger of disease without having them so strong as to be injurious to the animals themselves. The department, therefore, decided to insist upon a field test of the strength of all solutions used for dipping. A practical field test for this purpose is available in the case of the sulphid sulphur used in lime sulphur baths for scabies, and for arsenious oxide in arsenical dips for cattle tick. Official dipping, therefore, will hereafter be confined to the lime-and-sulphur and arsenical baths.

New Menace to Stock on Range

Menziesia a Poisonous Plant Which May Kill Sheep and Cattle Unless Precautions Are Taken.

STOCKMEN in the Northwest are being warned by the U. S. Department of Agriculture that the plant *Menziesia* is poisonous and may kill sheep and cattle. *Menziesia* is a straggling, branching shrub which grows to be from 3 to 7 feet in height. In this country it is found in the Southern Alleghenies and in the mountains of Northern California, Wyoming, Oregon, Idaho and Washington. The Rocky Mountain species, which is the one known to be poisonous, usually occurs at altitudes of from 3,500 to 6,000 feet on moist northern slopes in open woods and about the "balda." In some places it grows abundantly and on the other hand there are long stretches in which no specimens at all are to be found.

Stock poisoned by *Menziesia* exhibit symptoms much like those caused by a number of other plants. There is a noticeable frothing at the mouth and weakness which causes staggering in the gait and ends in more or less complete paralysis. There is usually pronounced nausea and sometimes difficulty in breathing. It is believed, however, that a considerable quantity of

the plant must be eaten before its effects become dangerous.

Where there is abundance of other fodder sheep will not eat *Menziesia*. The trouble occurs when there is no other food readily available. Thus when sheep are driven rapidly along narrow trails—where the plant is most likely to abound—they are apt to seize upon it and this is also true when bedding grounds are used repeatedly and the healthy forage in the neighborhood consequently exhausted.

The remedy is for herdsmen to learn to recognize the plant. A further investigation into the subject is now being carried on but the department has already published a preliminary pamphlet, "*Menziesia*, a New Stock-Poisoning Plant of the Northwestern States," which contains a description and pictures of the plant. The thin leaves of the shrub are 1 to 2 inches long, and one-half to one inch wide. The flowers grow from terminal buds, expanding with the leaves. They are bell shaped or cylindrical, about one-quarter inch broad and pink to greenish white in color.

Selection of a Breed

FARMERS who contemplate the raising of sheep on their farms are urged by the department to give considerable thought to the selection of a breed. In all, there are 30 breeds of improved sheep that have been brought to fixed types. Of these, 12 are already well established in the United States and others are gaining in popularity. Each has its own points of superiority and the farmer must be guided in his choice by the individual conditions, bearing in mind, however, the fact that any breed is superior to no breed.

Although it is hardly to be expected that every farmer in a neighborhood will select the same breed of sheep, there are several advantages to be derived from a number doing so. For example, new rams can be purchased for the common benefit when any individual owner might well hesitate at the expense, and if the lambs are ready in large numbers for market at the same time they may be shipped cheaply by the car load or the buyers may find it worth their while to come after them.

In selecting a breed it should be remembered that no system of sheep farming is likely to be long successful which leaves out of account either wool or mutton. One or the other, however,

may well be emphasized according to local conditions. Thus if pasturage is sparse, feed expensive, and marketing arrangements poor, wool will naturally be the first consideration. On the other hand, where conditions are more favorable, a breed will be selected for its mutton qualities. Even then, however, there is a wide latitude of choice.

In order to assist the farmer in this choice, the department has just published in *Farmers' Bulletin 576*, "Breeds of Sheep for the Farm," descriptions and photographs of the principal breeds, together with the addresses of the secretaries of various breeding associations, from whom additional information can be obtained. These breeds may be divided into three main groups—the Middle Wool, the Long Wool, and the Fine Wool. All the Middle Wool breeds have been developed primarily for mutton. The Long Wools also are bred chiefly for mutton. They are the largest of all sheep and thrive best where food can be obtained without much travel. They do well also in regions of excessive rainfall. The Fine Wools, including the American Merinos and the Ramboulett, have been bred almost entirely for their wool alone.

Some of these many breeds, says the bulletin, should be selected and maintained, for it is rarely good policy to cross sheep.

Helpful Hints

IT IS an easy matter to provide a narrow trough filled three or four inches deep with solution through which the sheep can pass from the pen to the pasture every morning. This will not cure bad cases of foot rot, but it will prevent new cases.

The reason why so many men fail in the sheep business is because they do not study it before they begin. Sheep raising means something more than buying a flock of sheep and turning them into a bare pasture without shelter.

The young heifer that is not kept growing, that is not kept in good condition during the early months of her life, will never make up for it later.

Never feed sheep heavily on one grain alone. Give them a variety and don't forget the roots.

English shepherds believe that people who eat mutton and leave pork alone will never have indigestion.

Arrange your fields so that the sheep will have good shade during the coming summer.

One of the necessary things in the care of sheep is the paring of their hoofs at least twice a year. Nature provided a rapid growth of hoof to stand the wear and tear of stony ground but soft pastures will not wear down the hoofs fast enough and the broken hoof often results in disease.

If you have any old sheep, they should be separated from the rest of the flock, and if they are to be fattened, corn should be cracked for them.

Do not make the mistake of starting the sheep business with a large flock. You will have your hands full for the first year or two with a dozen.

The most profit to be made in sheep is on the farm where small flocks can be handled to better advantage than by wholesale.

Ever try smoked mutton hams? They are cured just as easily as pig hams and are good eating.

If sheep and lambs are fed grain together, the lambs will fare pretty slim. Have a hole in the fence near the barn through which the lambs can slip and get away from the old sheep. Have a good trough out there for the grain you feed the little fellows and they will get their share and grow like weeds.

Make it a rule to see the sheep and lambs every day. Count to see that nothing has happened to them. If one is sick or otherwise in trouble, get it out of the flock where you can give it a little extra care.

Clover, pea, soy bean and alfalfa hays are milk and flesh producers. When possible they should form a large part of the farm cow's ration.

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