

DRAFT HORSES STILL HAVE A PLACE ON MANY SMALL FARMS

## Veterinary Service Shows Big Increase

Veterinary service to the livestock owners of the province has shown a steady increase each year. Since the commencement of the Veterinary Service Policy on June 5, 1951 over sixty thousand animals have been treated. During the last year the six practicing veterinarians responded to nine thousand two hundred and thirty-three calls and treated ten thousand eight hundred and seventy-six animals.

It is of interest to note the breakdown according to species as far as treatment is concerned. Cattle 7653; Swine 2301; Sheep 290 and horses 632.

The six practicing Veterinarians: Dr. W. Freeburn located at O'Leary; Dr. T.R. Furness and Dr. M.H. Clark in Kensington; Dr. H.H. Kelly and Dr. A.B. Kelly in Charlottetown; Dr. A.E. Ings Montague, render service to their clients in the respected areas.

### VETS' FEES

In order to perform these duties it was necessary for them to drive approximately two hundred

The service fee established under the Veterinary Service Policy is \$3.00 per call during normal working hours and \$5.00 at nights, Sundays and holidays. In cases where surgery is required an established scale of fees applies.

Each Veterinarian receives a subsidy from the P.E.I. Department of Agriculture to establish and maintain a practice. They must provide their own transportation and operate their own business. They are in no way Government employees.

## Rapid Treatment Needed For Bloat

Bloat is a common digestive disturbance in cattle. It is the result of an excessive accumulation of gas in the rumen. Animals suffering from bloat will die in a very short time if not promptly treated.

It occurs most frequently when cattle are turned on to leguminous pastures. Sweet clover, alfalfa, and rape are all liable to cause bloating, particularly if the pasture is wet. Thick immature stands of alfalfa are dangerous. Wilted alfalfa or clover on a hot day will often cause disastrous results.

In acute cases the symptoms are well marked. It appears suddenly and the left abdomen is greatly distended with gas. Breathing becomes difficult, the nostrils are dilated, mouth open and the tongue protrudes. Moaning and grunting are often noticed. The pressure of the gas interferes with the function of the lungs and heart and the animal dies of suffocation.

## Dried Beet Pulp Silage Substitute

Dried beet pulp, a by-product of sugar refineries, is often used as a substitute for silage or roots. It is a bulky feed, laxative, and low in protein. If heavily fed it should be moistened with three times its weight of water before feeding and molasses may be added to take the place of part of the sugar taken out of the beets and to improve the palatability. Soaking is not essential if feeding only a few pounds per day.

It differs slightly in the fact that local Boards are established and the municipality and Provincial Department of Agriculture contribute equally to subsidy which is paid to the Practicing Veterinarian. In the province of New Brunswick all the practicing Veterinarians are Civil Servants or Government employees.

They operate on salary plus mileage with offices and secretarial help provided by the Provincial Department. In Prince Edward Island as stated before the practicing Veterinarians are entitled a varying subsidy which is drawn up on animals' populations social facilities etc. by the Department of Agriculture.

The offices and secretarial help which is maintained is provided by themselves. One of the main reasons for subsidized practice in these areas is due to the fact that in the past that private practice has not produced sufficient net revenue to encourage practitioners to remain and provide service.

Through careful planning and the establishment of the existing policies in the three provinces the

livestock owners have had available an up to date Veterinary Service comparable to any existing in other parts of Canada. These services have meant the saving of many thousands of dollars annually to the livestock owners of the Maritime Provinces. The old slogan "Increase Profits by Minimizing Disease" is as true today as it ever was before.

### LABORATORY SERVICES

The Agriculture Laboratory services are extended free of charge to the livestock owners of the Province. These services can be divided into 1. Post Mortem Examinations, 2. Laboratory tests which consists of Bacteriological, Serological, Haematological, Histopathological, Viral and Chemical examinations, 3. Consultations.

The number of specimens received for Post Mortem examinations during 1957 was 1022 on a county basis 219 from Prince, 713 from Queens and 90 from Kings.

Laboratory tests conducted were 28,956. The work conducted in the Laboratory is signed, so many units according to the time and materials used. The total cost of operation and the total units of work conducted is used to evaluate the cost per unit.

A total of 61,833 units of work were performed during 1957, at an average cost of 18,930 cents per unit. In other words if this is multiplied by the total number of units the actual value of Laboratory services in dollars and cents extended free of charge to the livestock owners of the Province can be determined. This service is provided through the P.E.I. Department of Agriculture.

## Non Producers Must Be Culled

The poultry flock should be carefully watched and systematically culled throughout the year. Some birds lay well for a time and then fall by the way-side. If the general health and appearance of the flock is good, those birds which do not stand up are better removed. They are not likely to make a come back.

As the season goes on watch for birds loafing on the job, also the persistently broody hens. It is easy to pick out the birds not laying.

When the heavy winter and Spring laying is over, the flock should be heavily culled. All birds should be handled. Remove all birds that have stopped laying. Also remove birds that are very thin and those which have an abnormal accumulation of hard abdominal fat.

It is advisable to renew the flock annually for most profitable gains.

## Some Early Weeds Produce 2 Crops

Early weeds, such as mustard, can produce two crops of seed a year and each plant produces hundreds of viable seeds, which, unlike the seeds of cultivated plants, can remain alive in the soil for many years. Mustard seed has been known to remain alive for 50 years. Perennial weeds reproduce by seed and by root stalk. A minute section of the root of couch grass is capable of producing a new plant.

One Cubic mile of the ocean contains enough magnesium salts to yield about 4,500,000 tons of magnesium, a metal that played an important part in the war, and one that will be used in much postwar construction.

## Increasing Popularity Of Two-Cycle Engine

Ottawa, — Small 2-cycle or 2-stroke engines have become increasingly popular during recent years. H.J. Kemp of the Saanichton, B.C., Experimental Farm, says their simple design affords a minimum of moving parts, favours lower cost. Their light weight makes them suitable for use with small equipment, such as lawnmowers, outboard motors, washing machines, irrigation pumps and portable chain saws.

In earlier years, 2-cycle engines were known as being somewhat temperamental in their performance. Modern engineering and construction methods have greatly improved their reliability. Care, however, is still important if their greater efficiency is to be maintained.

The 2-cycle engine delivers one power stroke for each complete revolution of the crankshaft while a 4-cycle engine delivers one power stroke for every two revolutions of the crankshaft. The 2-cycle engine is provided with 1 1/2 portholes in the cylinder housing to admit a gas, oil and air mixture and to exhaust the burnt mixture by the suction and compression action of the piston.

The 4-cycle engine is provided with mechanically operated valves and in conjunction with the piston movement, these are timed to admit gas and air mixture as well as to exhaust the burnt gas. The lubricating oil is held in the crankcase from where it is circulated through the bearings and other interior working surfaces.

The ignition system, carburetor and air cleaners of 2 and 4-cycle engines are similar and may be used on both types of engines. Flywheel magnet points should be set with a gap

of .020 inches and the clearance between the flywheel magnets and the starter coil core should be .080 inches or less to ensure the strongest spark at the spark plug. The spark plug points also should be gapped at .025 inches. The carburetor is generally of the simple float type. The float operates a needle valve to maintain the proper level of gasoline in the carburetor bowl. The float hinges and the float itself must be in good condition and operate freely.

The needle and needle valve seat should seat precisely so as to prevent flow of gasoline when the proper level of gasoline in the bowl has been reached. The air cleaner may be of the oil bowl type in which case, the oil bowl should be cleaned occasionally and refilled to the prescribed level.

If an oiled wire mesh type is used, it should be cleaned occasionally. Clogged screen can result in faulty mixture of air and fuel, difficult starting, low power and excessive use of gas and oil.

REGULAR GAS Only regular gasoline or non-leaded gasoline mixed with special lubricating oil for 2-cycle engines should be used, in proportions recommended by the maker of the engine or the manufacturer of 2-cycle engine lubricating oil.

When gasoline with tetra ethyl lead is used, deposits occur in the combustion chamber. When such gasoline is mixed with automobile or tractor oils containing detergents or other additions, heavy deposits occur in the combustion chamber, the spark plug becomes fouled, and sometimes the points are burned resulting in considerable difficulty in starting and operating.

is recommended. It should be high in nitrogen, which is chemical element which provides the green growth in plants. A little early work with spudger and regular cutting with the lawn mower will help. Then there are the new 2-4-D sprays. These must be applied carefully according to directions on an enter the weather turns warm. They are a little hard on clover, but they certainly do an amazing job in destroying dandelion, ock, plant and most other weeds. Wire there is heavy infestation on should follow with fertilizer, watering and some reseedling so that grass will take over where the weeds have been killed or removed.

## Cool Weather Best For Grass

Grass seed is another thing that makes its best growth during the cool weather. The seed can be sown even before the last snow has disappeared. It is best to do this on a day when there is no wind and to make sure of even coverage, it is advisable to broadcast from two directions. Some experts even advocate sowing last thing in the fall. The seed will lie dormant throughout the winter and start to grow first thing in the spring.

For new lawns the ground should be thoroughly prepared, cultivated several times to level off the surface and kill the weeds. Repairs are handled in somewhat the same fashion, with the blades raked thoroughly to open up the soil. A light raking one way will cover seed sufficiently.

Well nourished grass and high quality old seed from a reliable seed house will usually crowd out most weeds. Grass like any other plant, will benefit from a good dressing of fertilizer. Commercial fertilizer because it is free from weed ss,

## Nervous Sows Are Problem

Nervous sows may present a problem in the farrowing season. It may be noticed with more frequency during the spring as the farrowing season gets into full swing.

This condition can get so serious in the state where the sow may refuse to accept her pigs. In some cases Veterinarians can give a special sedative to the sow to overcome their nervousness. In other cases, it may prove best to remove the pigs from the farrowing pen and keep them away from the sow for twelve to eighteen hours, except for occasional nursing periods under close supervision.

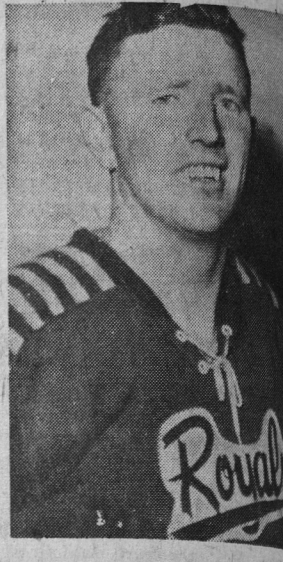
That may allow the sow to recover naturally from the exertion and tension of farrowing. There has been a mistaken impression among some that a sow's refusal to accept her pigs was caused by fever. That isn't true—sows do not develop a fever from normal farrowing. When a sow which has just farrowed presents a problem, the decision as to measures to be taken should be guided by common sense.

## Acetonemia Hits Healthy Cattle

This condition is commonly seen in dairy cattle and is believed by some to be more prevalent following calving. Most cases occur during the period when cows are kept in stalls, in fact, although it is more serious than in cows generally has a higher death rate.

The disease was first recognized in Holland, Denmark and Sweden, and then in England. A short time later it was recognized in America. At first it was believed to be complication of Milk Fever or some other condition affecting dairy cattle, however, since that time it has been found to be an entirely separate condition.

The disease generally affects well-nourished milk cows and typical cases usually occur eight to fourteen days after calving. This is not necessarily confined



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