

Spring Management Problems In Cattle

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Before animals go on pasture for the summer the following conditions should be considered and the necessary preventive steps taken.

BLACKLEG
This is an acute fatal disease of cattle caused by a spore forming bacteria that live in the soil. Once a field (or pasture) is infected, the disease will always be there. There are no communities in P. E. I. that are free from this disease.

The major blackleg symptom is a dead animal, although it is sometimes possible to notice the animal is lame prior to death. Death is caused by a rapid buildup of the bacteria in the animal's system. The bacteria produces a poison which causes death. After death air pockets form under the skin giving a tissue paper like noise when the skin is rubbed. The bacteria gain entrance to the animal's system through the mouth during grazing. Control is by vaccination and Blackleg vaccine is one of the most effective vaccines produced. All animals under two years of age should be vaccinated each spring prior to going on pasture. An animal that has not been vaccinated or exposed to the disease will have no immunity with the result that in rare cases an adult animal will become infected and die. There is also another condition and it is advisable that the vaccine should be made up on any cold days. Vaccination should be carried out by a practicing veterinarian or by the owner after he has had instructions from a veterinarian. The cost per animal will be approximately twenty cents. All animals under two years of age should be vaccinated yearly at the time they are put out on pasture. This will mean that some animals will be vaccinated twice and this will boost their immunity.

POISONS
At this time of year in the early pasture season there is usually an increase in the number of cases of reported poisonings of cattle. Types of poisons are usually lead and arsenic. Sources of these are potato top killer from discarded cans and other containers. Sources of lead are painted lumber, discarded paint cans, storage batteries, old engine oil, oil filters, linoleum and putty.

SYMPTOMS
The most noticeable symptoms of poisoning are sudden loss of appetite, loose bowel movements and death. If the amount of poison is great enough.

Prevention of poisoning is the best cure. The farm dump should be well fenced and used for all discarded materials. Before cattle are turned out on pasture a check should be made so that foreign material which may be harmful are removed from areas where cattle are present. After a long stabling period the animal may have some in a deprived appetite. This condition may result in the animal eating or licking sources of poison.

It is advisable to have minerals available free choice when animals go on pasture to avoid deprived appetites. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure when dealing with poisons on the farm.

MASTITIS
Mastitis is a common condition of dairy cattle and is best described as an inflammation of the mammary glands of cattle. It is usually an increase in this disease in the early pasture season. This is due to cattle lying on the ground while it is still cold. The only way that mastitis can be introduced into a cow's udder is through the teat opening. However, bacteria may be present in the udder for some time and only show up as mastitis after a chill or injury.

Prevention
Prevention consists of picking out these dormant cases of mastitis prior to an acute flare up as well as preventing the introduction of bacteria into a cow's udder. Finding dormant cases can be achieved by routine laboratory examination of individual quarters by means of milk samples. As well, the necessary sanitary precautions should be taken to prevent the introduction of bacteria to the cow's udder.

WHITE MUSCLE DISEASE
White Muscle Disease is a condition observed mostly in beef calves and lambs, although it can occur in dairy animals. The symptoms as observed in this province are stiffness of the legs and a stilted walk. These animals find it very difficult to stand and walk and they lie down as much as possible. The White Muscle Disease always occurs in milk fed animals and is caused by a Vitamin E and Selenium deficiency. When conditions are right for one calf in the herd to develop this deficiency then all other animals that are handled in the same fashion and still on a milk diet may develop this disease. Some farmers have lost a great percentage of their calf crop to White Muscle Disease and it has become very costly to them.

These animals may have the deficiency within them for weeks and sudden exercise or stress will make the disease develop very rapidly. This development is usually associated with (1) either turning the calves out to pasture with their dams

or (2) the increase in milk production due to turning the dams out to pasture. Treatment of this condition is mainly aimed at prevention. If this condition has occurred in your herd some thought should be given to treating the calf crop with Vitamin E and Selenium. Calves affected with White Muscle Disease usually respond very slowly to treatment. Vitamin E and Selenium prevent further development of this disease but nature has to heal the damaged muscles. Cows may also be treated prior to calving to prevent White Muscle Disease.

If you are suspicious that this disease has been robbing you of calves it is advisable to work out a preventive program with your local veterinarian.

CASTRATION
The best form of castration is removal of the testicles by the use of a knife. If animals are over two months of age then some form of device should be used to prevent hemorrhage. These might include an emasculator (a device for crushing the blood vessels) for this purpose or tying of the cords with a sterile cord. Calves can be castrated by the owner prior to two months of age with a clean knife or razor blade and shredding of the blood vessels. These animals are quite easily handled and the operation is very simple.

The "burdizzo" can be used on any age of animals, however, when used on very young animals it is very easy to miss a cord. The cords leading to the testicle should be clamped twice on each side (in different places) and there should be sufficient skin left that has not been clamped to feed the lower part of the scrotum and prevent it from drying and dropping off. It is advisable that the pinched areas on each side of the scrotum are not directly opposite each other. This form of castration destroys the blood vessels to the testicle and the testicle dies and is absorbed. Animals castrated in this fashion will not be as thrifty as those castrated by a good clean knife operation.

Elastic bands used for castration are the cruelest type of castration available to farmers and after their use the portion of the scrotum and testicles below the elastic band died and gradually rots off. All humans

and veterinary associations have requested the discontinuation of this type of castration.

If you are going to castrate animals they should be done as young as possible.

RETAINED AFTERBIRTH
A cow will retain her afterbirth after calving as a result of malfunction of her hormonal system. This is usually caused by excitement or any mismanagement which will cause her not to be content. A light rug and a warm drink of water will make this animal more content and more likely to expel her afterbirth. Any other small management practices helping to make animals comfortable will help them to expel their afterbirth. Afterbirths are retained because the junction between the afterbirth and the uterine buttons is abnormal. This abnormality is generally the result of a low grade bacterial or fungal infection. This type of afterbirth retention is very firm and very difficult to remove.

MANAGEMENT
If a retained afterbirth can be removed completely then the animal will be in better health because of this removal. If there are portions of this afterbirth remaining they will effect the health of the animal as much as if the complete afterbirth was left within the cow. Anytime an afterbirth is manipulated by hand, uterine capsules should be used to prevent an infection in the cow's uterus. These are available from local veterinarians or drug supply establishments. The animals that lose weight after a retained afterbirth, whether removed or not, do so because of a uterine infection. It is very important to control this infection as quickly as possible not only to insure good milk production at the time but also to get the uterus back to normal quickly so that the cow may be bred and get in calf with little delay.

Production of milk and the reproduction of the cow are the two reasons for keeping livestock. The uterus is very delicate tissue and any manipulation with this organ should only be carried out by a veterinarian or under his supervision. Improper care at this stage of its very costly; the loss in



ANNUAL CLEANUP
Four members of Southport four youngsters from LEFT Cub Pack are seen here taking part in their annual cleanup day in the village. The members are: David Carragher, Michael Carragher, Colin Coody and Gary McCarville.

HMCS Mallard Has Docked Here

The HMCS Mallard docked today at the Department of Transport wharf on a shakedown cruise in preparation for four summer training cruises. The ship will have aboard 10 midshipmen taking their final summer training period before their graduation from university as naval officers next day.

The Mallard and her two sister ships, the Cormorant and the Loon, are anti-submarine patrol vessels which have been brought out of reserve and stripped of

their armament for the training cruises.

LEAVES TODAY
The Mallard leaves Charlottetown harbor this morning at 8 o'clock, but will return with the Cormorant June 21, each vessel carrying 10 midshipmen receiving training in navigation, piloting and general small craft training. Half the midshipmen are from the Royal Military College in Kingston, the rest from various universities across the country.

Lieutenant Guy Comeau, cadet-midshipman training officer in command of the three-ship squadron in most Northumberland Strait ports during the summer, including Charlottetown, Summerside, Georgetown, Souris, Pictou, Pugwash, Shediac, Cape Breton ports and others. Each cruise will last from two to three weeks.

SDU Professor Attends Meeting
Joseph Revell, of the economics department of St. Dunstan's University, left recently for Ottawa to complete a consulting assignment with the management development branch of the federal government.

He will also travel to Sherbrooke, Quebec to attend a meeting of the Association of Canadian Schools of commerce and business administration to be held from June 5-7. Various aspects of curricula and trends in teaching will be among the items discussed at the sessions of the association.

Mr. Revell is expected to return to the province about the end of June.

Island Delegates Attend Course
W. E. Garber, principal of Civil Defence College at Arnprior, Ont., welcomed delegates across Canada to a special emergency feeding training course at Canadian Civil Defence College, Arnprior, Ontario, that got underway on Monday, and will continue for one week.

Since 1954, 37,000 people from provincial, federal and municipal level have been trained in 30 different types of courses in both English and French.

Island delegates taking part in the emergency welfare planning are: P. Lawrence, Charlottetown, deputy chief of emergency feeding; Mrs. L. MacLeod, Montserrat, chief of emergency feeding; Mrs. G. Webster, Souris, deputy chief of emergency feeding; Mrs. Reg. Eldershaw, Tignish, chief of emergency feeding and Mrs. Randall Boates, O'Leary, deputy chief of emergency feeding.

Island News Page

The Guardian, Charlottetown, Fri., June 3, 1966.

Research Officer Heads Panel Talk

J.V. Klein, research officer, Department of Citizenship and Immigration headed a panel of rehabilitation experts in a discussion held at the Prince of Wales College on Thursday on the special problems and characteristics of handicapped groups.

There were several controversial issues raised during the session. One was the question of whether or not voluntary associations and agencies such as service clubs should become involved in rehabilitation work or whether rehabilitation should be regarded as a governmental project to be state run and operated.

Another contentious point revolved around whether Canadian employers were demanding, in many instances, too high educational levels in relation to job requirements. It was suggested that many employers were discriminating against the physically, mentally, socially and educationally deficient groups. Under such circumstances, it was pointed out, a great deal of useful productivity was being lost to the Canadian economy.

In terms of productivity loss, Mr. Klein pointed out that there was a very large "hidden" group of potential workers for the Canadian labour force who were voluntarily idle because they were too discouraged to work. He felt that more should be done toward encouraging these people to enter training programs which would make them employable. The panel discussed at considerable length the question of whether or not we were doing as much as we could for such handicapped people as the physically and mentally retarded, the mentally disadvantaged and others.

Panel members were: Jean Dolgan, Civilian Rehabilitation, Citizenship and Immigration, and H.E. Newell, executive director, Welfare Council of Halifax, Frank Weiland, co-ordinator of rehabilitation, Nova Scotia.

Board President To Attend Session

President of the Charlottetown Board of Trade, A. Walthen Gaudet, was named the official delegate to the annual meeting of the Maritime Provinces Board of Trade at a council meeting of the Charlottetown Board of Trade Wednesday night. The annual meeting is to be held in Sydney, N.S. June 12 to 14.

Mr. Gaudet will be accompanied by his wife. Others expected to attend the meeting from the Charlottetown Board include: Captain and Mrs. Claude Hancox, Mr. and Mrs. William Hancox, Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Godfrey and Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Moffatt.

It was decided to hold the 79th annual meeting of the Charlottetown Board of Trade on July 14th. The guest speaker will be Major General R. H. Keefler, president of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

Twenty-five members of the

Nurses' Service Is Scheduled

The Prince Edward Island Hospital School of Nursing graduation church service will be held at the Kirk of St. James Presbyterian Church on June 5th at 7 p.m.

The students will attend in uniform in a body. All registered nurses are invited to attend this service either in uniform or street clothes.

The graduation exercises are scheduled to take place at 8:00 p.m. Wednesday in the Confederation Centre. Diploma will be presented by Lieutenant-Governor W.J. MacDonald and the address to the graduates will be by Rev. Dr. J.S. Bonnell, of New York City.

Presentation of pins will be by Vera Dewar, RN, associate director of nursing education with Sharon Howatt delivering the valedictory.

International Atlantic Corridor

Road committees have been invited by the board to hold their next meeting in Charlottetown on July 2. Delegates are expected to attend from the state of Maine and the provinces of Quebec and New Brunswick.

C. W. Moffatt, general manager of the Charlottetown Board of Trade, will make representation before J. H. Darling, chairman of the Maritime Commission early next week protesting the discontinuance of the return fare discount rate on the ferries between Prince Edward Island and the mainland.

Later in the year the Charlottetown Board of Trade will present a series of 13 radio talks on Canada's Economic System. Those taking part will include W.R. Brennan, William Hancox, Frank Curtis, Charles Downe, Walter Auld, Ivan Sinclair, Rupert Godfrey, Hugh McCannell, Frank O'Neill, Walthen Gaudet, Mayor Walter Cox, George Chandler and C. W. Moffatt.

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