



Your Sheep Business

W. E. MORRIS

EXTENSION ANIMAL HUSBANDMAN

University Farm, St. Paul 1 Minnesota

Letter No. 34

July 1 1946

Farmers often wonder if experimental work on sheep parasites will actually work out under farm conditions. Knowing this to be the case, I approached a number of county agents in southern Minnesota a year ago, asking each to enroll farmers who would agree to follow a recommended plan of parasite control, using phenothiazine as the drug. The plan used was the one I have repeatedly recommended, - winter treatment with phenothiazine, one dose given when the sheep are put on winter feed, the other given shortly before the sheep are turned to pasture in the spring; followed by phenothiazine-salt mixture (one pound of phenothiazine to nine pounds of salt) before the flock constantly during the pasture season.

We asked also that information be obtained from some farmers who did not treat for worm control. All of the lambs from these farms were delivered to one packing house where killing results could be obtained.

The following table shows the results. There are eight farmers in the group, all but one of whom did some treating. Two used only the salt mixture on pasture. Five dosed individually in the winter and used the salt mixture on pasture. One did nothing.

| Farmer | Individually Dosed--Winter | Salt Mixture on Pasture | No. Lambs | Average Live Weight | Average Yield % | No. Carcasses Grade AA |
|--------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. | No | Yes | 19 | 87 | 46.6 | 10 |
| 2. | Yes | Yes | 34 | 93 | 47.6 | 30 |
| 3. | Yes | Yes | 25 | 99 | 47.4 | 25 |
| 4. | Yes | Yes | 43 | 99 | 47.4 | 38 |
| 5. | Yes | Yes | 45 | 104 | 48.9 | 38 |
| 6. | Yes | Yes | 25 | 82 | 44.5 | 10 |
| 7. | No | Yes | 43 | 99 | 47.4 | 38 |
| 8. | No | No | 28 | 82 | 39.7 | 2 |

To analyze these results a little more closely, note that No.1 kept his lambs only on the salt mixture. He appeared to get pretty satisfactory results, however, as his lambs weighed 87 pounds. They did not quite make top price, however. The carcasses graded well. It is safe to conclude, I think, that these lambs were in good thrift and clean, but should have been held a little longer. Then probably all would have made top grade.

All the others except No. 6 and No. 8 showed yields of 47.4 or higher. In other words, these lambs undoubtedly topped the market. The lambs of No. 6 weighed only 82 pounds and yielded 44.5 per cent. These lambs appear to be clean and thrifty but probably were sent to market a little too soon. No. 8 with no treatment of any kind had lambs weighing 82 pounds. These lambs, however, yielded almost five points below No. 6. It is likely that there was some infestation of worms in this lot. Undoubtedly the selling price was very much lower than that of No. 6.

The results obtained by all of these men indicate that this plan of parasite control works, that it results in heavier weighs, better finish, and higher selling price.