

# Your Sheep Business

W. E. MORRIS      EXTENSION ANIMAL HUSBANDMAN

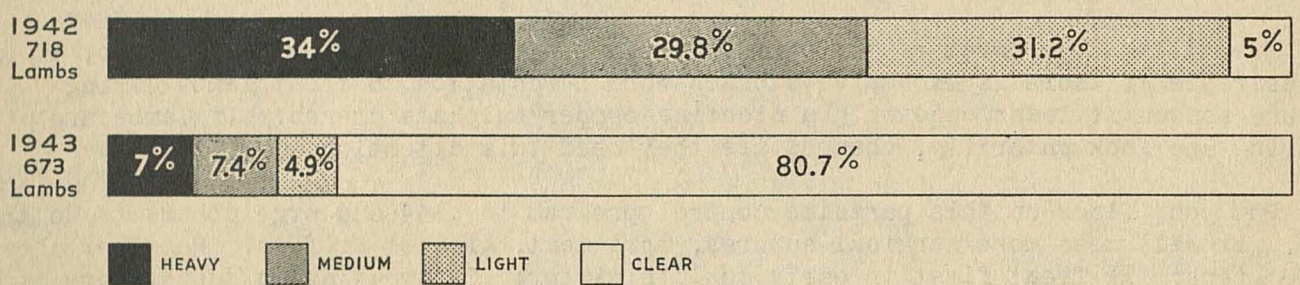
University Farm, St. Paul 8, Minnesota, January 19, 1944

Letter No. 26

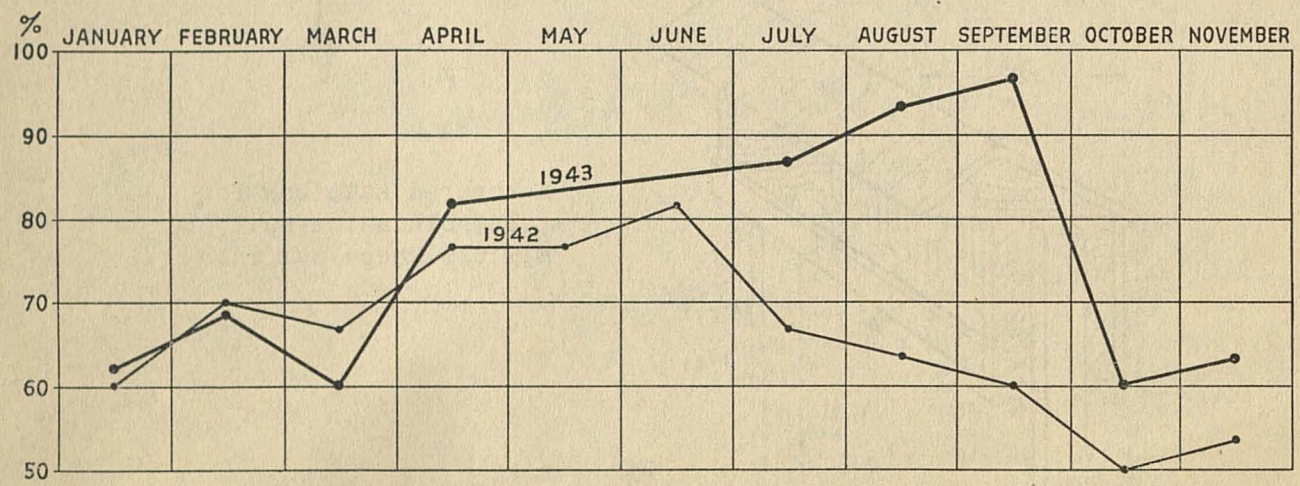
I know that as a sheep raiser you will be very much interested in the proof that appears on this page of the effectiveness of the phenothiazine treatment as a control for nodular worm. As you know, nodular worm damages the intestinal walls, making them unfit for making into "catgut" or surgical sutures for sewing up wounds. It was because of the urgent need for more surgical suture material during wartime that a statewide campaign was launched last winter to eradicate this pest in Minnesota flocks. The treatment had the added valuable results of destroying both nodular and stomach worms and improving the thrift and profitableness of flocks, especially the new lamb crop.

Now for a bit of amazing testimony. Most Minnesota counties waged an intensive phenothiazine campaign last year. The Wilson & Company packing plant at Albert Lea kept a careful record of the per cent of 9-yard lengths of casings that could be saved for surgical sutures from the total kill of sheep and lambs each month. They also kept records of the lambs from special check lots from certain flocks. The diagram just below shows what amazing results in cleaning up nodular worms were achieved by just one year of treatment. Representatives of the packing company attribute the increase in the number of "clear" intestines and the drastic reduction in the heavier infestations to the phenothiazine treatment.

Check Lots Showing Degree of Infestation



Having noted the results in check lots, let's look at the increased yield of usable intestines from 1942 to 1943, attributed to the phenothiazine campaign. These results are also from Wilson & Company and cover their entire kill (see below).



(Over)

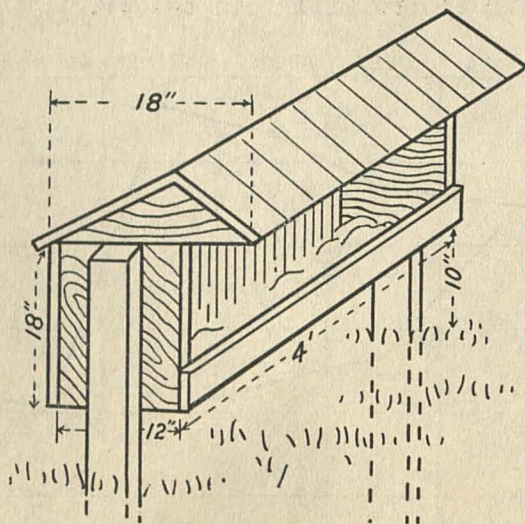
Note the steady improvement in the per cent of 9-yard lengths of intestines saved from July to September in 1943 over 1942. (The big drop in October of 1943 has been explained by heavy shipments of lambs and sheep from a distance outside of the area of treatment.) Think of the valuable yield of additional surgical supplies as a result of the cleaner sheep that arrived at this Albert Lea plant and other plants drawing animals from the treated flocks! Think of what this means in taking care of wounded soldiers! Remember, too, the improvement in thrift and the better gains made by the flocks that came to market free of parasites!

What can you do this year? What is the recommended treatment? Two treatments during winter are recommended, preferably as a drench although they can be given in the feed where sheep are accustomed to eating grain and where there is sufficient trough space to accommodate all sheep at the same time. Even then it is well to feed the smaller and more timid sheep separately. Occasionally some will not eat. These will not get the drug and so must be given an individual dose. Early to midwinter is a good time for the first treatment. The second treatment should come as late as possible before the sheep go to pasture. It is not advisable to treat ewes close to lambing—say within three weeks—not because the drug will cause damage, but because it is wise to avoid any rough handling at this time. The drench is made by mixing one pound of the powder to three or three and one half pints of milk. If a phenothiazine powder containing a wettable product is available, water may be used instead of the milk. Four ounces of this mixture is given as a dose. Sheep need not be starved before dosing. Whether phenothiazine is used in the feed or as a dose, the correct dose for a sheep is one ounce of the powder.

When the grazing season starts, a phenothiazine-salt mixture should be kept before the sheep continually. This is mixed at the rate of one pound of powder to nine pounds of salt. The salt mixture should be readily available to the sheep at all times. If the containers are out of doors they should be covered to protect against loss by rain. Plans for suitable salt boxes for this purpose are available at your county agent's office in Extension Bulletin 215, "Sheep Equipment."

Even with the program of two winter drenches and a salt mixture on pasture, it may be desirable if there is excessive stomach worm infestation to treat lambs during pasture season at least once with a nicotine-copper sulphate drench. If lambs are scouring and look unthrifty, chances are they need this attention.

Put your flock on this parasite control program in 1944 and urge others to do the same. It will mean more surgical sutures, more meat, greater profits. Remember the three steps: (1) Treat first in early to late winter; (2) treat again just before turning on pasture; (3) feed phenothiazine with salt (1 lb. phenothiazine to 9 lbs. salt) through pasture season.



A covered salt box for phenothiazine-salt mixture keeps out rain