

Mycotic Dermatitis.—One case of this disease was recorded from Canterbury, the badly affected pelt being forwarded to the Wallaceville Laboratory.

Pregnancy Toxæmia of Ewes.—There was no increase in the incidence of this trouble during the year. In many cases the deaths followed a shortage or check in the feed-supply of the pregnant ewes, and the cases were more numerous after severe weather conditions, heavy frosts, or snow. In a rather severe outbreak in the North Island following several severe frosts, the mortality ceased with the additional feed provided, combined with a few days' regular slow exercise.

Contagious Ecthyma (Sore Mouth).—Some vaccination in regard to the prevention of this condition in lambs has been tried, and so far the results are encouraging. No cases have been seen in the lambs previously vaccinated.

Sheep Blow-fly.—A preliminary survey with a view to more intensive research work in regard to this pest has been carried out during the year. Further work will be executed during the coming year with the increased staff now available.

Liver-fluke.—The presence of this parasite is mainly confined to the Hawke's Bay district, where its association in the causation of black disease has been previously recorded. It was also found on another farm in the Auckland district, where control measures are being taken.

Foot-rot.—There has been an increase in this disease of sheep in some districts. The feed conditions and wet season favour an increase in the number of sheep affected.

Lice and Ticks.—The previously recorded system of inspection of flocks inaugurated in the Poverty Bay district has continued to give good results and has reduced the prevalence of lice-infested sheep exposed for sale. More care in dipping is being exercised, and more interest is being taken by the farmer.

The number of prosecutions for exposing lice-infested sheep for sale during the year shows clearly that much improvement is still desirable. There may be some excuse for men with small lots of sheep and no dipping facilities, but, generally speaking, the offenders are not confined to this class alone.

PIGS.

The number of pigs slaughtered for the season 1936–37 at registered premises was 1,062,510. Those slaughtered on holdings and examined at butchers' shops numbered 25,488, making a total of 1,087,998 carcasses, an increase of 63,008 over last year's figures. In addition, approximately 20,000 pigs are slaughtered annually on farms and consumed thereon, bringing the total estimated slaughterings to approximately 1,107,998. Of 1,060,835 carcasses coming under direct inspection, 194,517 carcasses were found to be affected in varying degrees with tuberculosis, the percentage infection being 18·33 per cent. (the majority of these showing only slight head lesions).

The year's killings of pigs (minus those referred to for farm consumption) are as follows: Meat-export works, 807,041; abattoirs, 170,063; bacon-factories, 58,243; ordinary slaughter houses, 27,163; shops, 25,488; total, 1,087,998.

Pasteurellosis and Suipestifer Infection.—These infections are responsible for a large number of the deaths in young pigs after the weaning-stage, where the major lesions are either pleurisy and pneumonia or enteritis, or occasionally the infection is of a septicæmic nature. The experience of field officers in dealing with the above infections undoubtedly shows that much of the mortality in pigs from these causes can be prevented by improved methods of swine husbandry, with special reference to better feeding and housing and better sanitation and hygiene of pig houses and runs.

Sarcoptic Mange.—This disease of pigs has been well under control during the year, no outbreaks being recorded. The practice of dressing pigs with oil to eradicate lice is a factor also in the control of sarcoptic mange.

Necrotic Ulceration of the Skin.—This condition still remains on too many pigs sent forward for slaughter and is the cause of rejection of many carcasses. Where the standard of swine husbandry on a farm is reasonably good, no cases are seen, so that improved hygienic measures would eradicate the condition from many farms.

Owing to the greatly increased interest in pig-keeping and the growing importance of this aspect of farm economy, Mr. M. J. Scott, M.A., B.Sc., of Lincoln Agricultural College, was appointed to the position of Superintendent of the Pig Industry in order to organize and co-ordinate the various activities necessary for swine husbandry along sound lines. Mr. Scott has submitted a report as under:—

“The development that has taken place in the pig industry during the last ten years is displayed by the following figures:—

Year.	Number of Sows.	Total Pigs killed.	As Baconers.	As Porkers.
1927	69,487	380,954	268,075	112,879
1928	83,103	476,828	237,960	238,868
1929	74,692	518,025	247,292	270,733
1930	61,706	515,428	255,758	259,670
1931	64,981	525,286	212,206	313,080
1932	75,409	474,094	207,096	266,998
1933	87,686	635,282	243,820	391,462
1934	98,299	784,952	313,135	471,817
1935	111,793	936,700	346,948	589,752
1936	116,058	1,077,883	427,178	650,705