

Sheep Scabies Eradicated In Penna.

Minnesota, Michigan, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania have been declared free of sheep scabies by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, following campaigns by the State and Federal livestock regulatory workers.

The scabies-free designation, announced today, means that precautionary dipping of breeder and feeder sheep being moved to other areas is no longer compulsory.

Today's announcement applies to 49 counties in Michigan and all of the other three States. Thirty-four counties in Michigan previously had been declared free of the disease.

Established eradication procedures were followed in the four States. All sheep were carefully inspected, and affected sheep were treated and dipped. Reinspection showed that the treated sheep no longer have the disease.

Scabies, also called mange or scab, develops from tiny puncture wounds inflicted on the sheep's skin by mites. Chronically diseased skin areas become hardened and covered with tightly-adhering, scaly, grayish crust. This condition causes intense itching. Seriously infected sheep lose weight and fleece, and may die unless treated.

The disease is transmitted readily from one animal to another by direct contact.

BOOKS EXPLAINED TO MERRY STITCHERS 4-H

Mrs. Herbert Royer, club leader explained the use of project record books at the Tuesday afternoon meeting of the Manheim Township "Merry Stitchers" 4-H club at Production Credit Building, Roseville Road.

Next meeting will be held July 8 at 1:30 p.m. at the same place.

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Excess Nitrogen Cuts Quality Of Grass Silage

Heavy nitrogen fertilization of forage grass can cause significant reduction in the quality of high-moisture silage, a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist said today.

Other studies, however, indicate that farmers can get the higher yield benefits of heavy fertilization without the problem of poor quality by waiting the forage crop before ensiling, or by adding preservative when silage is made, according to USDA's Agricultural

Research Service.

Although the alteration of plant composition by changes in fertilization has been repeatedly demonstrated, the importance of these alterations to silage quality has not been generally recognized, Dr. Chester H. Gordon told the American Dairy Science Association, which is meeting at Purdue University.

Dr. Gordon, a dairy husbandman with the Agricultural Research Service, pointed out that high-moisture silage made from orchardgrass that was heavily fertilized with nitrogen (400 lbs. of ammonium nitrate per acre) was a lower quality and less acceptable to dairy cows than silage from unfertilized grass. High moisture silage is made by the di-

rect-cutting and immediate-ensiling method.

These silages were fed as the only forage on a three-week alternating schedule over a period of about three months in experiments conducted at Beltsville, Md.

Cows on silage from fertilized grass ate about 15 percent less dry matter than they ate when offered silage made of grass not fertilized with nitrogen. Milk yields were about the same during the short periods of this study, but the effects on milk production of prolonged feeding of silage from the fertilized grass were not measured.

Chemical analysis of silage from the fertilized grass indicated higher pH, higher ammonia nitrogen content, higher butyric acid content,

and lower lactic acid content — all indications of inferior quality, Dr. Gordon said.

Earlier studies at Beltsville have shown fairly similar results. Nitrate poisoning was not involved since nitrate practically disappeared during ensiling, but the quality of the silage was poor. Consumption of the material by milk cows was low and, in one experiment, milk production decreased and the cows lost weight.

Rural Areas Development is a major USDA effort to keep farm communities prosperous and to restore prosperity to those by passed by technological developments.

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