

Lamb dysentery prophylactic in 1927 / by T. Dalling, J.H. Mason and W.S. Gordon.

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Lamb Dysentery Prophylactic in 1927.

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Results of our previous attempts to prevent lamb dysentery in the field by the inoculation of ewes with a vaccine made from organisms isolated from lambs acutely affected with the disease and by the use of serum made from the same organisms were given in the *Veterinary Record* on June 12th, 1926, pp. 504-5. The work was continued during the past season in Scotland, Northumberland, Wales and Hampshire, and the following is a summary of the results:—

(a) 4,105 lambs were born from ewes inoculated twice (once in the autumn and once in the spring) and 36 or 0.87 per cent. died of lamb dysentery. On the same farms and kept under identical conditions were uninoculated ewes which produced 2,187 lambs; of these 178 or 8.04 per cent. died of lamb dysentery.

(b) On 30 different farms about 16,000 lambs were born from ewes inoculated as in (a). No control sheep were kept on these farms. The death rate from lamb dysentery was about 4 per cent.

(c) Serum was injected into over 800 lambs within two hours of birth; two died of lamb dysentery. On the same farms some 900 lambs born on the same days as those inoculated were untreated; over 16 per cent. died of lamb dysentery.

(d) Over 1,800 lambs were treated with serum on six different farms on which lamb dysentery was known to exist. Every lamb born was injected, *i.e.*, no controls were kept; two lambs died of lamb dysentery.

(e) Experimental work indicates that vaccine and serum made from the *B. welchii* type of organism found in affected cases may be sufficient to produce immunity in the young lambs.

A full report of the work will be published at an early date.

