

INTRODUCTION

The maximum production from the grazing animal is only possible when healthy stock are kept with an optimum amount of the best available herbage possible; available not only in the most acceptable form but also at a time when the animal will make most use of it. The efficiency of food conversion is at its optimum level when the animal is allowed to graze and ruminate when it feels most inclined and it is with an aim at determining these inclination patterns that grazing behaviour studies are conducted.

Grazing habits of cows are of interest from the standpoint of the well-being of both the cattle and the pasture and it is as well to point out here that pasture management must not be neglected in the formulation of new animal management systems which may arise as a result of these behaviour studies.

Studies such as this give the animal husbandry man a thorough knowledge of animal behaviour and pasture management which enables him to utilize the natural grazing efficiency without harming his animals or pasture in any way.

Using improved techniques, Fawcett and McNeenan (1964), working at Ruckwa in New Zealand, also investigated differences in behaviour between rotational and continuously grazed systems. Two farms of equal area (67 acres), well