

November 17, 1941

Dear Dr Lapsge,

As to the randomisation of the 30 sheep, I believe the simplest procedure, as things stand, would be as follows, namely, to give your first flock of 30 the 30 numbers assigned to the inside flock in ordinal number as they are caught for marking, and then the randomisation I have sent you will assign them to their respective treatments.

Looking over the first batch of results I have - the inside flock from Winches Farm - it is obvious that randomisation is exceptionally important, for it is evident that before the experiment started the smaller sheep had higher egg counts than the larger sheep; probably there were also associations with activity and vigour, but the association with size alone shows how easily one might completely dish the experimental comparison while thinking one was making a fair test.

I should think your plans for the outside flock would go well. I suppose you will let the whole term of, I think, 15 weeks elapse before applying a second dose. From your phrase: "If the counts rise significantly later", I suppose you may be ~~thinking~~ taking more egg counts than are down on the schedule.

Yours sincerely,