

after which the lambs were kept in a rather dark box-stall for ten days. It is important that the operation be done as quickly and with as little excitement and worry to the lambs as possible; better results would be obtained by castrating them when two or three weeks old. These lambs were again put on the stubble. The *rape* made a fine growth through September. About the middle of October they were put inside, fed a mixed feed of oats, bran and a little oil cake, commencing with $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. and increasing to $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. per day, with two or three lbs. of mangolds and what clover hay they would eat up clean. This was continued for six weeks, when they were shown as lambs at the Provincial Fat Stock Show, Brantford, 1898, where two of them took 1st and 2nd in their class, and the trio were 1st for pen of three. They were then run through the winter with the ewe lambs on about $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of the mixed feed and two lbs. of mangolds with hay for about 150 days, and again turned on grass without grain. The one that won 1st in his class at London, the sweepstake in the Southdown class, and the grand sweepstake of the show, was run in this way till the middle of October. Having no *rape* this year, owing to drought, for part of the time the pasture was very poor indeed. The other two wethers, one of which was 3rd in his class and the other 5th in the dressed carcass class, were put in with the show sheep on the 8th of July, getting an average of 1 lb. of mixed grain feed per day, with green food, vetches, peas and oats and was out in pasture at night till about the 8th of August, after which they were kept inside and clover hay was substituted for the green food. These two were shown for about six weeks at the fall shows which brought them to the middle of October.

The wether lambs born in April, that won 1st and 2nd prizes in their class, were castrated when young, and run on the pasture till and after being weaned, without grain feed up to the middle of October. The other one shown, which was in the 1st prize pen of three, was castrated in November (but this practice is not recommended).

The six ewe lambs were dropped in March and April, fed in the ordinary way till they were turned on grass about the 1st of May, and got nothing more till weaned the 8th of July. Four of these were gradually fed the grain mixture till 1 lb. per day was reached with green food as above, then taken the round of the fall shows, which brought them to the middle of October.

The other two (which were twins), one of which won 1st prize in the class, ran on the grass and stubble till the middle of October. The lot were awarded 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in their class, and 1st and 2nd for pens of three. After the middle of October up to the time of the show, some 56 days, the whole lot were kept inside on clover hay, 3 lbs. of roots, and an average of $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of the mixed grain feed per head a day.

COST OF THE GRAIN FEED.

To sum up the results, we find the grand sweep stake wether was in prime condition, and from birth, in feeding and fitting for the two years' shows, had consumed about 200 lbs. of grain fed at a cost of 1c. per lb., or \$2. The other two wethers in feeding and fitting for the two seasons including the fall shows, had consumed about 300 lbs. of the grain feed each, or \$3. These were too ripe and overdone, and when put on the block were entirely too fat to win, one dressing 66 per cent. of his live weight, and that without shrinking, being within 1 lb. of the heaviest carcass in the show.

The 1st. and 2nd. prize wether lambs were in prime condition for the Christmas market, and had consumed only 70 lbs. of grain feed each at a cost of 70c.

The four ewe lambs fitted for the fall shows had consumed 170 lbs. each of grain feed at a cost of \$170 each. It will be seen that, in knocking about for six weeks at the fall shows, a large portion of this would be lost, from a mutton standpoint. The other two lambs, which included the 1st prize winner, consumed only 70 lbs at a cost of 70c. each for the grain fed. This leads to the conclusion that six weeks is about the right length of time to feed lambs to put them in prime condition for the market. It must be borne in mind that well-bred lambs (not necessarily pure-bred) of good quality feed at less cost per pound than rough ones of any breed; and that quality counts far more to the feeder than size, as well as being worth more per pound to the consumer.

It is difficult to arrive at the exact value of hay and pasture consumed; but, in this case, Southdowns being such small consumers, especially when on a good feed of grain, it would not figure very high. The result goes to show that the most profitable time to market sheep is before they are a year old. They will gain more in a given time