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## Sydney Basic Slag

will be unprocureable in Ontario during Spring 1918 on account of the impossibility of getting transportation

Farmers who have been using Sydney Basic Slag during the last few years are respectfully asked to place their orders for their requirements for Spring crops right away and take delivery or car on arrival. We cannot secure transportation in January, February and March, 1918, as the various railways will be taxed to their utmost capacity in carrying troops, munitions and coal. Help out, therefore, as a patriotic duty, even at some inconvenience, and take your fertilizer when you can get it.

**The Cross Fertilizer Co., Limited**  
Sydney, Nova Scotia

## SHEEP AND SWINE

### Making a Start With Sheep

**T**HE strong demand at high prices for lambs and wool which has developed during the past few years as well as the scarcity of farm labor, have decided many farmers to include in their farm practice the keeping of a few sheep. Sheep raising does not require expensive equipment, or heavy labor supply and it makes a quick turnover of the capital invested. It does require, however, considerable study and attention to details if the best results are to be obtained from the flock.

The best time of year to make a start with sheep is in the late summer or early fall. At this time it is usually easier to buy ewes than later on after they have been bred. The beginner will be able to turn his stock out on stubble land or on other good fall pastures and so get them cheaply into condition before winter sets in. By caring for the sheep during the fall and winter, the beginner will have gotten pretty well acquainted with them by the time the lambing season comes around.

The beginner is usually better to make his start with grade ewes. The stock ewes, however, which are chosen should be as perfect as possible individually and should have as many crosses as possible of the blood to which the farmer is breeding. Yearling or two-year-old ewes are the best. Ewes with "broken mouths" or in other words poor teeth, should be let severely alone by the beginner. The best results in cross bred stock raising require considerable experience on the part of the breeder. The sire, however, used by the beginner or by the experienced breeder, should always be pure bred and should show the ultimate in breeding characteristics. It is always well to raise the same breed of sheep as your neighbor so that when you wish to change your sire you will be able to swap rams with him.

In size of flock a beginner may be better not to plunge too strongly into sheep raising until he gets some experience. Flocks of from 12 to 20 ewes will give this experience. Plans should, however, be made to increase this flock ultimately to at least from 40 to 60 ewes. A flock of this size can be handled more economically by the sheep breeder than a flock of smaller size. They require little more labor and will be sufficiently important in the farm practice to merit the attention of the farmer in such matters as fences and changes of pasture. The number of ewe lambs that may be kept each year for breeding, should be about half the number of breeding ewes. Old ewes can be discarded when five years of age. In this way the flock will about double in size in three years.—S. R. N. II.

### Fattening Sheep

**T**HE most economical gains with sheep are obtained by fattening for market while still in the lamb stage. Yearlings, on account of shedding their fleece, are very difficult to fatten. And while culms from the flock should be given extra grain at any time of the year, in the market, it must be remembered that a given weight of feed will go farther with lambs than with mature sheep.

Lambs, if fed properly, should be fat enough for marketing in late summer or early fall. If lambs are marketed at this season, one of the most profitable crops for fattening is rape. If rape is not to be had, however, lambs may be fattened by feeding a little grain while still on grass. This

may be oats, or oats and barley mixed. Grain should be fed in shallow, wide, flat-bottomed troughs (giving each sheep 15 inches linear trough space), so that the grain is eaten slowly. Never grind grain for sheep, except in the case of corn, which may be threshed.

Corn is the best grain for fattening sheep, but at present prices is practically out of the question. Barley is considered by feeders nearly as good as corn. Wheat and oats are grains which tend to growth instead of fattening. It is, therefore, the practice of successful feeders to replace at least part of the oat ration with barley in fattening sheep. One of the greatest aids towards fattening sheep is dipping before the fattening season begins.

### Economical Finishing of Hogs

**I**N choosing feeds for fattening hogs choice is of necessity more limited than in the case of other classes of stock. With young pigs, where alfalfa and pasture are available, the use of the higher-priced meals and concentrates may, in view of high prices, be limited and full benefit derived from the former cheap home-produced feeds. With a reasonable amount of wheat middlings, shorts or ground oats, good growthy pigs may thus be produced. For the finishing period, however, a more concentrated, more rapidly fattening ration is required. The swine-feder at once asks: "How can I profitably finish hogs at present feed prices?"

Corn, barley, oats, middlings and shorts are possibly the five most desirable grains and meals for hogs in Eastern Canada. With corn at from 38 to 50¢ per ton, barley 50¢, oats 15¢ approximately, and with the two former meals most difficult to procure, some cheaper grain must be used in the finishing ration. Wheat middlings and shorts, even though high in price (45¢ approximately), must be relied upon for the making up of the final ration. At the above price middlings offer digestible nutrients at a lower cost per ton than any one of the grains previously mentioned. By net cost is meant the total cost of the digestible nutrients, less their manurial value.

### Rations Suggested.

Oats or barley, one part; shorts and middlings, two parts, with some milk product, or, lacking the latter, 10 per cent. oil meal, should supply as economical a growing ration as is generally available. With the likelihood of a material drop in the price of oats, and the more immoderate prospect of cheaper corn, when the new crop moves, the above ration could be improved. Corn, shorts and oats, equal parts with skim-milk, is an excellent finishing ration. The addition of corn, even as a small proportion, to the shorts, middlings, skim-milk ration would distinctly improve it as a finishing ration. Corn must, however, reduce materially in price to be considered as economical hog feed.

### Value of Screenings.

Experimental evidence, as afforded by swine-fattening tests at the Central Experimental Farm, would go to prove that buckwheat screenings are of considerable value. During the winter of 1914-15, in an experiment calculated to throw light on the value as a feed of elevator by-products as represented by the various grades of screenings, buckwheat screenings compared favorably with a standard meal and milk ration. Two of the rations compared were as follows: No. 1—Shorts, three parts; corn, three parts; oil meal, one part; plus skim-milk. No. 2—Finely-ground buckwheat screenings, plus skim-milk. The pigs fed buckwheat screenings, while not

so fat as ration, at lower in economical gain. With at \$28 per buckwheat meal), the total gain buckwheat parative The swine fed in ticular f of which Stock Br latter so may be

Zebra

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