

THE FARM FLOCK

During the past year a large number of letters have been received at the Agricultural College enquiring about one phase or another of the sheep industry. Because of these many enquiries it has been deemed advisable that a brief bulletin dealing with some phases of the industry be printed and distributed to those interested in sheep.

The object in view in preparing this bulletin has been simply to set forth the fundamental principles involved in the care, feeding and management of a flock of sheep on a farm. The material presented has been compiled from the experience of the writer and others who are handling sheep in this province. It is intended as a guide to the beginner in sheep husbandry and those contemplating the establishment of a flock, rather than to those who are already experienced in the art of sheep management.

There is an awakening of a desire on the part of many farmers to learn something about the possible profits to be made by raising sheep and the probable difficulties that will be encountered. Judging from the small number of sheep to be found in Manitoba at present, we have in the past been particularly averse to this industry. The census reports show that in Manitoba there were in the stated years the following number of sheep:

Year.	No. of sheep.
1893	35,400
1900	25,816
1910	32,223
1912	42,085

These numbers are very small when compared with many other countries of like area and population. In fact, the number is so small that Manitoba has been importing large quantities of mutton. Therefore, it seems that we have a market, and that the people of the province, at least, appreciate mutton for their tables.

In the past the success of our wheat crops has prevented us from giving much attention to sheep. The wolves and dogs have been a menace—the fencing problem has offered difficulties, and the price of wool has been low. These objections are all gradually righting themselves, and accordingly, with the increased attention to mixed farming, sheep are receiving greater consideration.