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THE SHEEP FLOCK IN SUMMER

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Sheep are more difficult to handle in Summer than Winter. Water should be supplied them at all times. Grub in the Head may be prevented. Rape for supplementing sheep pastures.

THE great increase in the demand for lamb and mutton and the prices obtained during the past few years for all the products of the flock, makes the sheep industry by far the most profitable part of the live stock business. That the flock should be kept growing twelve months every year is of the utmost importance. We should make the conditions, during the hot months of summer, so as to get the best results possible.

As sheep will stand a steady cold winter without any discomfort, it is much easier to carry the flock through the winter months (other things being equal) than it is to tide them over the summer. The hot weather, ewes suckling lambs, the annoyance of flies, etc., all tend to make a heavy drain on the breeding flock. They do not suffer from such in winter. In the winter season there is also more leisure time in which to care for them. When the bustle of spring work is on, most farmers give a long sigh of relief, as the flock goes to the pasture, not to be taken in to the barn again until snow flies, except should the butcher come around, or the latter need replenishing.

ACCUSTOM THE SHEEP TO THE PASTURE

Although sheep are always restless and quite willing to leave the barnyard for the pasture, as the weather grows warm, it is poor economy to turn them out early, or before the grass gets a good start. They should be allowed to pasture an hour or two every fine day at first, gradually accustoming them to the change from dry to green fodder. Before leaving the barn altogether the flock should be shorn. It is a very bad, not to say cruel practice and one frequently indulged in, to leave the wool on the sheep until all the seedling and other spring work is done. Aside from the suffering of the poor animals from the heat, there is a great loss of wool from such a practice. The laxative condition of the grass causes a looseness of the bowels which in some cases amounts to scouring. The loss from dirty wool caused by scouring amounts to quite an item in a flock numbering thirty or forty. If it is not convenient to shear before turning to pasture, trimming and tagging should certainly be done for the sake of economy, as well as for the comfort of the sheep. The practice of wash-

ing sheep before being sheared, happily never much in vogue in the Maritime Provinces, is now done away with altogether, although it is quite common in some parts of Ontario.

THE SHEEP IN APRIL

For a number of years the writer has adopted the practice of shearing in April, on warm days, a few at a time. Sometimes, but not always, it may be necessary to cover the sheep with old rugs or bags and keep them in a warm place until they get accustomed to the change. This early shearing was at first confined to sheep intended for exhibition purposes, and as they did so well, it was finally adopted for all. The practice was always followed with equally good results on the entire flock.

Docking, and castrating the ram lambs should also be attended to. More important than this, however, is the dipping of the lambs to destroy ticks. This can best be done about the week after shearing, for then the ticks will be all on the lambs, and generally one dipping is sufficient. If not, dip again in a week or ten days. This should on no account be neglected if the lambs are to do their best. After a good dipping it is a pleasure to watch the rapid growth of the young things.

While stomach worms are not much in evidence in the "Provinces by the sea," yet it is

It seems quite out of place to mention the importance of a good water supply in the sheep pasture. However, it is a fact that a good many who keep sheep seem to think that they will thrive as well without water as with it. While it is true, that sheep drink less water than other live



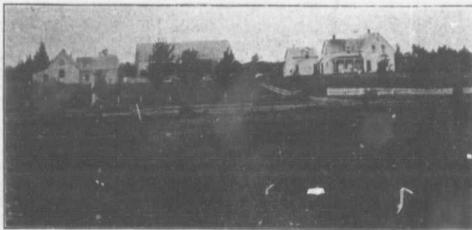
Lambs on Rape

Rape is one of the best forage plants for Lambs. It comes in very convenient at weaning time, as the lambs will do well when turned upon rape.

stock, and apparently will live without water in seasons when there is heavy dew falling, let those who entertain this idea, divide their flock. Put a few in a pasture where they can have free access to all the water they require, and the rest where they can get no water except that which falls on an occasional rainy day. Then note results.

PREVENT GRUB IN THE HEAD

There have been many complaints of late years of sheep dying of "grub in the head." This does not seem to be confined to any one district, but is quite common all over the Provinces. We have replied to letters from nearly every county in Nova Scotia from farmers who are seeking a remedy for this trouble. There are a great many so-called "cures" resulting from using "this" or "that"; but for "grub in the head" prevention is better than cure. We believe that the best preventive is a narrow strip of ploughed land in each sheep pasture, or several strips in each pasture, ploughed fresh once or twice every summer. Every one has noticed sheep running with their heads down and stamping wildly with their feet. Just then, the fly that causes all the trouble in trying to deposit its eggs on the sheep's nostrils. If the adult is successful in depositing the egg, the young grub, as soon as hatched at once commences to crawl upward and finally lodges in the sheep's head, or in the nasal cavities, and it may eventually cause the death of the sheep. When the fly is attacking, just watch those sheep make for that piece of ploughed ground; and by stamping and raising a dust, prevent the fly from accomplishing its work.



House and Sheep Barns on the Farm of Andrew McPherson, Pictou County, N.S.

Mr. McPherson is a strong believer in sheep, and considers the sheep industry by far the most profitable part of the Live Stock Business.

a beneficial practice to change the flock from one pasture to another. If it could be conveniently arranged, three pastures are better than two, the sheep being left a week on each. This will be good for the pasture, keeping it from getting grazed too closely. It is also good for the flock, as it gives them the much needed change.

Shade should be provided. If there are no trees for the sheep to lie under, during the heat of the day a few boards nailed on to posts that have been driven in the ground, makes quite a satisfactory shelter when left open facing the north.