

SHEEP AND SWINE.**WINTER CARE OF SHEEP.**

In the first place give them good shelter. Then, as there are usually a few sheep that need extra care, separate them into flocks; or should there be but two or three feeble ones, they may be easily taught to come to you and receive an extra amount of food at each feeding.

Mr. L. D. Snook says you should always provide racks for feeding hay and other coarse fodder, and take care that there is plenty of space, so that each sheep may eat without crowding its neighbour. Arrange the racks so that seeds, sticks, or dirt of any kind may not fall upon the sheep's neck, as carelessness in this respect often damages the wool to such an extent that it must be sold for a lower price. Construct the rack with board sides, with a long opening six inches wide near the bottom. The sides of the rack should incline inward, so that hay, etc., may gravitate toward the opening of the bottom, thus making it "self-feeding." If possible, so arrange the yard that the sheep may be fastened out while the racks are being filled.

Some farmers manage to get through the winter with a large flock of grade sheep, feeding only straw. But it is plain that had they fed each animal a few ounces of grain each day, the increase in the quantity of wool alone would more than pay this slight expense, to say nothing of the extra value of the manure and the better condition of the sheep. It matters but little as to the kind of grain fed. Of course one will feed less at each meal of corn, wheat, or rye, than of oats. Keep the sheep shut up when scattering the grain in the feed troughs; and be regular in feeding, whether of grain or hay. If possible, give once or twice a week a meal of roots, or even apples or potatoes. The sheep will relish the change from dry food.

Some farmers do not provide water during the winter, but allow the sheep to eat snow when thirsty. This is a poor plan, either for the farmers' profit or the health of the animal. While they do not need as much as other animals, nor as often, still they should have the privilege of getting water when they want it.

Mr. Snook refers to the common practice not to clean out the sheep stables until spring. This saves much labour, and if the following points are observed but little loss will result from this careless habit: 1. Once a week scatter plaster (gypsum) over the pen, at the rate of two pounds to every ten square feet of surface; or in place of plaster scatter over twice the amount of dry muck. Either will absorb the escaping gases, rendering the atmosphere more pure and increasing the value of the manure. 2. After applying the absorbent, always scatter fresh straw over it, which is not only valuable as an absorbent, but aids to keep the wool and feet clean and dry. When the pen is small and crowded, straw should be applied twice a week, and if you never allow the manure and litter to accumulate to a depth of more than eight inches before cleaning out, you will have but little trouble from sheep pulling their wool, or any other disease or habit contracted by lying on beds of fermenting manure.—*Selected.*

AN UNLUCKY FARMER.

A neighbour was tempted to buy a few sheep, and asked me what I thought of it. "Don't do it," I replied, you are not fixed for sheep. "Oh, they will take care of themselves," said he. "Well, try it, and then you will find out." He tried it last winter. A few days ago I passed his place. "How are your sheep getting along?" I asked. "Oh, I had bad luck with them. I put them in the yard here to run with the cows, and the first day the red heifer, there, punched the buck and he died the next day. His ribs were all broke." "Well, what then?" "Well, you see I had no buck, and so I had no lambs, and the ewes kinder moped round, and the colt kicked some of them, and two got mired in the swamp meadow, and one broke its legs in the bars, and one night I forgot to bring them in, and the dogs worried some of them, and at last I had only one left out of the dozen, and that got into the horse stable last night, and I found it dead there this morning. Yes, I had bad luck; you see I wasn't fixed for sheep anyhow, and they are miserable poor stock, I guess." Alas, there are too many men, not only farmers, but men in business as well, who have just such luck; and they think how much they ought to be pitied.—*New York Tribune.*

HOW TO PREVENT RAMS FROM FIGHTING.

This may be done by fixing a broad piece of stout leather to the animal's horns, which completely covers his face. He is thus prevented from taking aim at his adversary when lowering his head to charge, and fighting to any serious extent is avoided. The visor is made with a hole sufficiently large to slip over one horn, while an opening is cut to take in the other, and the ends are tied to hold the leather in its place. The visor comes well below the eyes, but does not set so close as to injure the sheep's sight. He can walk about, and by holding up his head a little, see all around, but directly he lowers his head to fight all in front is obscured from his view, and he reluctantly gives up the contest. The visor sadly spoils the beauty of the ram's frontlet, but that is a small matter compared to the injury often done by the fierce battles that take place among rams when turned loose.

FEEDING OFFENSIVE FOOD TO PIGS.

The prevailing notion that the hog has digestion equal to any undertaking in the way of converting crude or offensive food, leads many to give, in excessive quantities, whatever refuse happens to be on hand, whether spoiled grain, putrid meat, or other refuse. The result of such a mess when given to a sow about to pig, or having a litter at her side, is inevitably damaging to the pigs. The milk glands act in such cases as an outlet for offensive substances that get into the system through the stomach, or that, through any species of disordered action, are engendered within the system. From this it will readily be seen that the milk of an animal not in a perfect state of health must contain a considerable portion of the impurities that are, from hour to hour, given off.

The fact that poison taken into the system of the young, either human or brute, through the milk, acts so promptly, generally producing disorders of the stomach and bowels within a very few hours, in sufficient proof of the virulence of the poison, as well as of the importance of guarding against such accumulations within the system of the brood sow while suckling her young. Dry corn gives a tendency to feverishness. Too much sour slops if the sow be debarred from access to the earth, ashes, charcoal, and like substances, capable of neutralizing the excess of acid, will derange digestion; the blood becomes impure, and, as stated, these impurities escape, in part, into the milk.

SUNLIGHT FOR PIGS.

What an exchange says about pigs is true also of all animals. They cannot thrive without sunlight: "Where the sun does not come the doctor does," applies to our animals as well as ourselves. A breeder asked our advice about his pigs; they did not thrive; he was always unfortunate with them, and with the utmost care they never reared their young to perfection. The stys face the North, and never get any sun; the beds are lower than the outside ground, and the bottom is of earth; of course, always damp and offensive, notwithstanding that straw is added day after day. Stys should face the sun, and be allowed plenty of fresh air; the bottom should be concreted and slightly sloping, to carry off the wet, and, although some do not like it, we approve strongly of a wooden bench at the back for the bed. The sides of the sty should be railed, not bricked or boarded, as young pigs are often crushed by the sow pressing against them.

GOATS TO PROTECT SHEEP.

The farmers of Hunterdon and Somerset counties, New Jersey, use goats to protect their sheep from dogs. The goats can drive away a dozen dogs, and two are about all each farmer puts in with his sheep. As soon as a dog enters the field at night, the goats attack him, and their butting propensities are too much for the canine, who soon finds himself rolling over and over. A few repetitions of this treatment causes the dog to quit the field, limping and yelling. Formerly, when a dog entered a sheep field at night, the sheep would run wildly around and cry piteously. Since the goats have been used to guard them, they form in line behind the goats and seem to enjoy the fun. The idea of utilizing goats in this way came from the west, where they are put in sheep pens to drive away wolves.

A SMALL quantity of ashes given to pigs while fattening is found very beneficial, as their food is generally rich in phosphoric acid and deficient in lime, which the ashes supply. In this way the phosphoric acid is made available as a food.

A CORRESPONDENT says; "I had a hog that was completely covered with lice. I was told to put black machine oil on, and I did so. I took a spring-bottom can, and with it gave the hog a good greasing. One dose thoroughly eradicated both lice and nits. That was last summer, and the hog has not been troubled with lice since. Anybody having stock troubled with lice, will find a sure cure in the oil."