

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

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Country Roads.

In consequence of the bad roads in a small town in New Jersey, the wagonmakers constructed four-horse vehicles to carry 55 bushel baskets as a maximum load, which was regarded as heavy hauling. Real estate thereabout had gone a-begging for years; there was no possible market for it. It had been impossible to settle up estates because no purchaser could be found for the land. But a few years ago the people of the community woke up. The town issued \$4,000 worth of bonds, and applied the proceeds to making better roadways. As a result the New Jersey wagonmakers of the vicinity of Philadelphia are making two-horse vehicles to carry not 55 bushels baskets, but loads made up of from 90 to 125 bushel, and still the loads are not regarded as heavy.—*Monetary Times.*

STOCK.

Weaning Lambs.

Generally speaking, lambs dropped before May 1st should be weaned before August 1st. They will by that time be sufficiently "sheepy" to look out for themselves in the matter of diet, provided they have access to suitable pasture. It is also necessary for the welfare of the ewes that the lambs be taken off by that time, as they invariably become thin before then and are giving little milk, when the big, strong sucklers butt unmercifully in their efforts to extract it. The ewes should be given an opportunity to pick up well before the mating season comes round. The better (not fatter) the condition the earlier will that time be. Pedigreed lambs should be ear-labelled before weaning, so that no mistake be made as to dams.

The favorite spot for newly-weaned lambs is a second-growth clover field, but a rape patch has much in its favor for such a purpose. In fact, every farm upon which sheep are kept should have a rape field, to be fed in conjunction with other pasture. Sheep, more than any other class of stock, enjoy and profit by a change of run and a variety of foods. It pays well to indulge them in their whims, especially at this season, when a setback would be of permanent and serious injury. It is well to place a few old dry ewes or yearlings among the weaned lambs in the new pasture, to lead them to the salt and grain trough, also to the water trough, which should always be present except when rape forms the food, which will provide enough succulence for their welfare. Feed grain moderately at first—a quarter of a pound of oats and a little bran is enough to commence with. A few cracked peas added in a week or two will send the flock along well. The sexes should be separated at weaning time, as the early male lambs become bothersome to the ewes, which hinders the well-doing of all concerned. If a tick can be found the flock should be dipped with one of the reputable dips.

The mothers as well as the youngsters require special attention. They should be placed upon a bare pasture, out of the hearing of the lambs, until their milk has dried up. Some of the most copious milkers will require attention the day after weaning and for some days following. It is not only cruel but a positive injury to liberal milkers to allow them to go without occasional milkings, and that means a financial loss, which one cannot afford. It is not wise to milk a ewe out cleanly, but enough should be drawn off to render the udder quite lax. After the milk has passed off liberal feeding should be practiced. A rape field can hardly be improved upon, but fresh clover, cut corn, and a little grain will soon put them into thriving condition. They should be gotten into vigorous form before the mating season commences.

Precautions in Pasturing Rape.

To those who have grown rape for a few seasons no word of precaution is necessary, but to the great number who are just commencing to cultivate it a knowledge of some of the dangers associated with feeding it will be helpful. Without care, bowel disorders are likely to occur with some of the flock; especially so if the rape is young or wet with dew or rain. If hungry sheep are turned among rape before they have become accustomed to it, there is great danger of bloating, and perhaps death if relief is not given. If such occurs, a salt and water drench should be given and a wooden gag tied in the mouth to facilitate the escape of gas. To avoid any such trouble have the rape well grown and dry before turning into it; then never admit hungry stock. Until they have become accustomed to it, which will be about a week or ten days, sheep should be allowed to remain in it only during the dry portion of the days. After that they can be fairly safely admitted at their pleasure, if they also have access to a grass pasture. This rule, however, must be departed from as soon as frosty nights commence. Frosty rape is about as dangerous a food as can be given, causing inflammation of the bowels and death in short order, but when this fact is understood it can be guarded against.

Another source of trouble in a rape field, especially with fat sheep, is that of becoming cast upon their backs in the merest depression. Drilled rape is especially liable to cause trouble in this way. When fat sheep become very full they become entirely powerless to regain their feet if once they roll into a depression with their feet in the air. The means of guarding against such a trouble is to visit the flock at least twice a day.

Care for the Calves.

"A penny saved is a penny gained," is as true now as ever it was. In fact, it is more than true, if such were possible, with calves in the matter of preventing a loss of flesh during the hot, dry, fly time. Calves that have done well up till now will require better care during the coming month than for those that are past. Not only will the heat make a draft upon the growth and flesh, but the swarms of horn flies have become a constant worry from morning till night. The wise stock-breeder will enclose his calves within darkened, cool stables during the days of August and part of September. They will get all the needed exercise if turned into a second-growth clover pasture during the night, and go on gaining and growing at a profitable rate.

Halter-Breaking Show Animals.

Many a prize has been lost by a want of schooling before the animals have been brought out to the show-ring. While this is especially true of colts and fillies, it also applies to cattle. A fidgety, nervous animal, that will shrink away from the touch of the judge, never shows to anything like the same advantage as the one that will walk up boldly to where it is wanted, and then brace up in an assured, graceful manner. The only way to properly halter-break cattle is to commence with the calf, and spend considerable time every day or two until the animal understands what is demanded. The older a calf is allowed to become before the schooling commences, the more tedious and painstaking will the course of training become. The writer has found a rope halter which fits nicely over the head, back of the ears, and around the nose, a good sort to use. It should not be allowed to draw up tightly around the jaw. A good length of shank is necessary to hinder a strong calf from gaining its freedom. It is well to commence by tying the calf until it realizes the strength of the halter. Never allow the pupil to get into a run and then undertake to stop it suddenly, as then there is danger of a somersault, and perhaps a broken horn. Give a few lessons in the stable before taking the subject out to the yard.

In showing a colt or horse of any age to halter, a great deal depends upon the way he goes, whether or not he is to be successful, and in order to have him at his best a deal of work must be given. The Hackney classes are perhaps the most attractive of all the halter-shown classes, largely because of their graceful action and manners, much of which has to be trained into them. No severity is needed in training a colt. He should be taught to go on a square trot, and never allowed to go around his trainer. Go slow at first and keep close to the head until he learns to trot in a straight line. In a short time more and more line can be given until the pupil is going with a long rein, which is the nicest way. In halter-training a colt, the trainer should never wear him out, but seek to keep him fresh and fond of him. Study the disposition of the animal and handle him accordingly.

Dogs vs. Sheep—How the Advocate is Valued.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE: SIR,—In reply to enquiries in your June 15th FARMER'S ADVOCATE, regarding dogs worrying sheep: 1st, how to prevent; 2nd, how to treat injured sheep; 3rd, what course would I recommend regarding the suppression of dogs:—

1st. *Bells on Sheep.*—My farm is near the limits of the town of Brampton, where many dogs are kept. Many of my neighbors have given up the idea of keeping sheep on account of the loss by dogs. I have kept bells on my sheep, say one nice, clear-sounding, medium-sized, open bell on every fifth sheep; have kept a large flock for 22 years and never had one worried by dogs. Bells are the preventive.

2nd. *Prevention is Better than Cure.*—I have never seen much success or satisfaction in the treatment of worried, torn sheep; they almost invariably pine away and die. Washing with warm water, a bran poultice, anointing with carbolic oil reduced, is probably the best treatment.

3rd. *The Law.*—With regard to dogs, many townships have passed a by-law that all dogs wear a numbered tag bearing owner's name, registered with the township clerk. This should be insisted upon; then when the dog is caught in the act there would be no denying ownership, which is almost always the case. I would recommend that \$1 be levied on one dog, and \$5 on each additional dog. Most people can feed one, but when they keep more they are starved, and it is generally those that worry the sheep. Also a tax of \$5 or \$10 on every bitch, for it is frequently when dogs are on the ramble that they get into mischief. This tax would insure a better class of bitches being kept, and the country would soon be rid of mongrel dogs that are of no use, and almost invariably do the mischief.

I wish the FARMER'S ADVOCATE every success. I am delighted with and very much profited by the valuable information I receive from time to time from its columns. One article on the treatment of milk fever saved the life of a heifer I value at \$300, Rhoda of Brampton, a granddaughter of Kitty of St. Lambert. B. H. BULL. Peel Co., Ont.

More Than Shrops in Canada.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE: SIR,—I imagine many Canadian sheep breeders were, like myself, amazed at the expressed opinions of "Scotland Yet" in his last letter, where he remarks that "Sheep cannot be of much interest to Canadian readers, except, perhaps, the Shropshires." No doubt, for the time, the writer overlooked the success of Canadian flocks of all breeds, except Cheviots and Merinos, at World's Fair, Chicago, in '93, and also at the great New York Live Stock Show of 1895. It would be a pleasant eye-opener to "Scotland Yet" were he to visit Canada during the holding of the Toronto Industrial, and other great live stock events of a like nature, where he would doubtless see classes of nearly all the British breeds, comparing favorably in numbers and quality with those of the greatest sheep shows in the Old Land. "CANADA YET."