

CARE OF THE LAMB

The essentials for the rapid growth of a young lamb are a plenteous supply of milk, plenty of sunshine and a large pen for exercise. When the lambs are two weeks old they will begin to rustle a little feed for themselves and a "creep" should be provided in which a trough with a mixture of equal parts of oil cake, bran and oats and choice bits of second cutting alfalfa or clover should be found at all times. They will thrive exceedingly well upon this, and when a month old they should receive this grain feed three times a day, followed by a few pulped turnips and hay.

On nice, warm days, the ewes and lambs should be turned out for exercise and even on colder days, providing it is dry, they should be turned out, as there is nothing which young lambs appreciate more than plenty of room to play. As soon as there is pasture they should be turned upon it. *Do not pasture lambs on old sheep runs* as it is at this period that they are the most susceptible to stomach trouble and ravages of tapeworms, with which old pastures as a rule are infested. The largest, most typical and outstanding lambs should be separated from the rest of the flock and receive extra feed and attention. Each day, when fed at noon, they should be separated from their mothers for a couple of hours so that when weaned about the end of June they will not miss their mothers to any appreciable extent. These lambs may all thrive and make notable gains, but as a rule there will be some whose unthrifty condition is easily recognized by a hard dry fleece and listless appearance. These unthrifty ones should be culled out and placed with the remainder of the flock. Feed the lambs liberally, as it is not probable that a lamb will become too fat, but do not

feed too many peas or foundering may result. An excellent pasture for them is a cloverfield or second growth alfalfa to which they will do no appreciable harm. The other items as applied to the older sheep will apply well to the lambs.

PUTTING THE FINAL TOUCHES ON THE FLOCK

The next consideration, after the fleshing of the sheep, is that of producing a good fleece in a fine, well trimmed condition. About a month before the show, they must be watched carefully and kept out of all dirt and not allowed out in any heavy rains as this takes the yolk out of the wool and makes it hard and difficult to trim. Two or three trimmings, as a rule, will put the fleece in fine shape. To do this, we need a pail of soft water, a coarse brush with which to dampen and work the wool up, a cattle curry to bring out the ends of the wool and break up the clots and a wool card to put the finishing smoothness upon the wool. Many sheep when first handled, will become very restless and excited and gentleness must always be exhibited in handling them. In trimming, start at the shoulder and work back, always keeping a straight topline. The rear end is next trimmed, making it correspond with the back, to the best advantage. The left side and then the right are trimmed and finally the head and neck are finished. It should be the object of the trimmer to give the sheep a compact, finished appearance, for at this work his artistic instinct is brought out and he endeavours to cover up the animals weak points and exaggerate the desirable ones. Of course, in the case of the long woolled breeds, as a rule the preparation of the fleece consists of separating it into "straps" and cutting off the rough ends.