

Flock Notes.

Now is the time, before winter sets in, to treat the sheep for the eradication of ticks. It will pay well for doing, whether it appears to be necessary or not. It will pay in the assured health and thrift of the flock, and in the increased growth and weight of wool and mutton. If neglected now, the result may be a shabby-looking and emaciated flock before spring. It doesn't pay to feed these blood-suckers, and while they are at work more food will be required to keep up the condition of the flock. The operation of pouring from a coffee pot a solution of one of the advertised sheep dips is easily practicable at any time in December, and if carefully performed may be made quite effectual. To make rapid progress in the work, three men or boys are required. One to hold the sheep, one to part the wool, and one to pour the liquid, which should be kept and applied warm, as it will run more freely over the skin in that condition and prove most effectual. The sheep is first set upon its rump, the wool parted at intervals of four or five inches on neck and belly, then turning first on one side, then on the other, opening the wool in streaks, and pouring in enough of the dip to run along the skin, covering the spaces between the openings, lastly standing the sheep on its feet, open the wool the entire length of the back, from tail to forelock, and pour in freely of the liquid, which will thus cover all the surface of the skin. As a rule, one quart of the liquid is sufficient for an ordinary-sized sheep, but if more is required to make the operation thorough, it should not be grudged. It is well, before commencing this operation, to prepare for it by first, with the shears, squaring the tails of the sheep and clipping away any dirt that may have accumulated.

It is well to avoid too sudden a change from succulent to dry food when sheep are taken into winter quarters. If roots are not available, let the sheep run out by day on the pastures. Indeed, this is good practice for the in-lamb ewe flock at any time in winter when fields are bare of snow. It may not be good for the pasture, but some field that is to be plowed in spring may be thus utilized. Exercise is essential to the production of strong, healthy lambs.

It is well to make sure that the ram in use is proving sure. If the indications are that he is not, it may be better to make a change before it is too late. It sometimes happens that a ram that is not sure at the beginning of the season is more sure later on, but if a considerable proportion of the ewes return the third time it is time for a change.

In all well-managed flocks, the breeding ewes and the last-spring lambs are kept in separate lots, and the latter more liberally fed. If there are a few aged ewes that require better feeding than the younger ones, these may be fed with the lambs, but there is no profit, as a rule, in keeping ewes that are over five years old or whose teeth have failed them. Salt should be kept in a box in the sheep pen at all times, so that they may take it at will.

Quality.

Quality is a word much used in reference to live stock, and yet, perhaps, not very fully understood. Many men know well what they understand by quality, but would be at a loss to define it in words. Prof. Mumford, in a bulletin recently issued from the Illinois Experiment Station, gives the following definition, which is worthy of careful study:

"Quality may be considered, first as a general quality, and second as a quality of flesh and condition of the animal. General quality in the fat steer is indicated by a medium-sized, fine, clean-cut, breezy-featured head, bearing ears of moderate size and texture; short legs, with clean, fine bone; a fine, nicely tapering tail; fine hair; a pliable skin of medium thickness; and smooth, well-rounded outlines.

"The quality of beef depends largely upon the condition of the animal. By condition we refer to the degree of fatness of a bullock. It should not be assumed, however, that the highest quality of beef is found in the fattest beast. There are three principal reasons for fattening a steer. First, in order that, when dressed, there will not be a high percentage of offal and other waste, as a fat animal, other things being equal, will dress a higher percentage of carcass than a half-fat or thin one; and, furthermore, in the fat animal the proportion of those parts which from their very nature are unsalable is reduced to the minimum. Second, in order that the flesh or lean meat shall be rendered more tender, juicy and of better flavor by the deposition of fat through its substance. Third, in order to permit of proper ripening of the meat, as a thin carcass, being full of moisture and lacking the protection of a covering of fat, will rot before it will ripen."

Finishing Hogs for Market.

During the fall and early winter, when the marketable supply of hogs is increasing, and the price in consequence on the decline, many are induced to market their hogs before the most desirable weight has been reached. The outcome of this is the weekly cry from packers that too many light ones are coming forward, and the trade, as a result, is the sufferer, if not the feeder himself. On the other hand, some will continue feeding when the price is at a low ebb, hoping for an advance, until their stock is classed overweight. Both these conditions must be regarded as extremes, and those who are making the most money from hog-raising are not the men who pursue such practices.

In the matter of feed, the quality and character must depend largely on the condition of the hogs. If they be strong in bone and comparatively lean, it will pay to have a ration high in fattening elements, such as barley or corn, but where they have become rather fat before reaching the desired weight, oats, shorts and bran, with roots, should constitute the bulk of the food. Usually, the quantity of roots or green feed given may be diminished during the finishing period. Exercise, too, is not necessary at this time, unless where the animals are too fat. The principal factors to be borne in mind are: feed to suit the condition; keep pens clean, and market when 160 to 200 lbs. in weight.

Hog Cholera Germ.

In the official instructions which have lately been issued from Ottawa, regarding hog cholera, the following is noted:

The bacilli of hog cholera will live in water



LAVENDER 11394, IMP.

Clydesdale stallion, two years old; sired by Glanzier 10353, by Mains of Airies.
IMPORTED AND OWNED BY SMITH & RICHARDSON, COLUMBUS, ONT.

from two to four months, and in manure for an indefinite period, varying according to the season. During the prevalence of this disease, the manure should be carefully collected from the piggeries, and at once mixed with newly-slaked lime, and removed in water-tight wagon boxes to an inclosed yard, to which none of the animals on the farm have access. This is the more necessary on account of the impossibility of disinfecting a barnyard or manure pile during hot weather, or so long as frost lasts. When used, it should be plowed in, not spread as a top dressing. Avoid the careless custom of throwing it into common piles in the barnyard, over which all classes of stock root and trample it down, for this is one of the means by which the disease is perpetuated and extended. There is no other contagious disease of domestic animals that requires for its eradication so much persistent co-operation between the owners and the Government veterinary inspectors.

Hog Cholera Treatment.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—In dealing with hog cholera the only thing required is that hogs that have been exposed to cholera, and are not sick, be placed under quarantine till the State Board of Live Stock Commissioners see fit to release them from quarantine. But exposed hogs are not condemned. Any person taking diseased hogs about or violating quarantine laws is subject to a severe penalty.

I know of no treatment that will cure the disease. The liberal use of germicide about the pens, and keeping the yards clean, I regard as the only satisfactory method of keeping down the trouble. Personally, although I have had charge of swine for years, I have never suffered from the herd being afflicted with cholera.

C. S. PLUMB,

Professor of Animal Husbandry,
Ohio College of Agriculture.

Raising Pigs.

An important point in successful pig-raising is involved in arranging the breeding operations so as to have the pigs born at the best seasons in order to their steady growth and development. It will be generally agreed that pigs born in the early spring months, as a rule, do best, owing to comfortable weather and the opportunity for healthful exercise, a bite of fresh grass and access to the grit which they find in the ground and which their nature seems to demand. But we cannot, in these times of a steady demand the year 'round for pigs at good prices, be content with spring pigs only or with one litter in the year from each sow.

Experience has taught that in order to their best growth, fall litters should be born in September, while the weather conditions are such that they can be given abundant exercise while young, in order to promote the growth of bone and muscle and lay the foundation of a strong constitution which will carry them safely through the winter months, when confinement to close quarters is in many instances inevitable, and in most cases a necessary condition.

Allowing four months as, in round numbers, the period of gestation in sows, they should, for early April pigs, be bred in early December, and for September pigs, the mating should be in May. Allowing six weeks as the period of nursing, if the sows are to produce two litters in the year—one in April and the other in September—it will be clear that the first must come as near the first of April as possible, and where favorable weather conditions generally prevail in March, and suitable quarters are available, it may be better to have the spring litter arrive in that month, which leaves time to have the second litter come early in September, and the earlier in that month the better.

The strength and vitality of the litter at birth will depend very much upon the treatment of the dam during the term of pregnancy. Ample exercise, and a variety of food, in which roots, oats and bran are included, will go far towards keeping her in the best condition. A sow fed heavily with rich or sloppy food, and confined in a pen without exercise, is liable to produce soft, flabby, helpless pigs, which, in many instances, are born but to die in a few hours, and prove a total loss. A good plan to induce exercise on the part of the sow is to scatter grain on the ground, so that she must work for what she gets.

A couple of weeks before the time she will be due to farrow, the sow should be given a comfortable pen to herself, that she may get well used to her surroundings, but may be let out for exercise on fine days. She should be lightly fed at this time, and with food having a loosening effect on the bowels. It is well, also, to accustom her to being handled in order that she may be quiet in case of difficulty in parturition. Ordinarily, if the pigs come strong and able to help themselves, no assistance is needed at farrowing time, and in that case, the less interference, as a rule, the better. But if the pigs are weak and the sow restless, it may be well to place them where they can receive nourishment, or to rub them dry and place in a basket until all are born, when, by rubbing the udder, the sow may be quieted and the piglings placed at the milk-fountain. No feed will be required by the sow for the first twelve hours after farrowing, and then only a drink of warm swill. The feeding for the first few days should be light, and may be gradually increased in quantity and richness until she is on full feed, which should be of a sloppy nature, and will be needed as the requirements of the litter increase. At the age of three weeks, the pigs will learn to take feed in the form of milk, which should be warmed and fed a little at a time, in a low, flat trough, protected from the sow by means of a partition under which the pigs can pass. Before weaning, a little sifted oatmeal and bran may be added to the milk, and at six weeks old the pigs may be safely weaned, though if the time for again breeding the sow allow, they will be all the better for her help till they are eight weeks old. From this time, milk will be found, by all odds, the best food as the bulk of their supply, with the addition of shorts, ground oats, barley, wheat, or, better, a mixture of these. When the milk supply proves insufficient for the demand, the next best thing is kitchen swill, and whenever practicable, a run on grass or a supply of roots is essential in the growing stage, and richer and more concentrated food in the finishing period.

Live Stock Interests Helped.

Success to the "Farmer's Advocate." It has done more for pure-bred stock than all the other farm papers combined. Your editorials are just splendid. I do not know how you can produce such a paper for the small sum of \$1.00. I will do all in my power to advance your interests in this section of Quebec.

ANDREW GILMORE,

Huntingdon Co., Quebec, Oct. 27, 1902.