Sheep Notes.

Of all animals on the farm, the sheep is usually credited with being the best weed and briar eater known.

When early lambs are wanted, it is best to commence feeding the ewes grain two or three weeks before breeding them, or else give them fresh, flush pasture runs.

That kind of husbandry in which sheep of some kind do not figure is lacking in a most substantial means of sustaining fertility.

If you keep sheep at all, put enough good blood in them to get the very best returns from their products.

Whatever the breed is, profit requires that the greatest feasible amount of mutton be gotten out of it.

The fleece from a well-fed sheep of any breed is much heavier than from a poorly-fed sheep.

With all classes of stock, the value of good feed is wonderfully increased by close attention.

The character of wools varies much with climate, soil, etc., which necessitates many subdivisions.

With sheep, as with all animals raised especially for meat, the greatest profit in feeding is gained while the animals are young.

While sheep pasture is close in dry times, it is just as true that at such times sheep will be thriving while cattle will be losing flesh.

There is no wool in the flock so important as the yearling fleeces, and the success of the wool crop depends almost entirely on the care of the lambs.

Confinement is much against the sheep's nature, and unless it has a variety of food, such as could be gleaned from the fields, it will be much poorer in the spring than when taken off the pasture the fall before.

When wool will pay all expenses of keep, whatever growth the sheep are making, whatever lambs they are raising, may be counted as profit. If the sheep are worth no more at the close of the year than they were at the beginning, there will be no profit. It is not only important that the flock as a whole should gain in value, but each sheep of the flock should be gaining. It is better to cull at an early age, and not wait until a sheep has lost you money before it is sold.

Seasonable Sheep Notes.

Wean the lambs at four to five months old, and give them the freshest pasture on the farm, and keep clean water and salt within their reach.

The cull ewes intended to be sold for mutton or for breeding will sell better if given a chance to pick up on fresh pastures.

If a change of ram is needed for service in the flock, look out for one early in the season, before the best are picked up by dealers, speculators or others. There is often a big difference between the best and the second or third best.

Choose a ram with a strong head, neck and back; broad chest; strong and well-set legs; a fine, dense and even fleece, and true to the best type of the breed.

A few acres of rape, sown as late as August first, on well-prepared ground, will, in a reasonably favorable season, produce a lot of the very best fattening forage for lambs or old ewes.

If you have sheep or lambs for sale, advertise and let it be known. There are lots of buyers on the lookout for such stock, and will be in the coming months.

If you purpose showing sheep at the fall fairs, better begin early to feed a little grain twice a day. It may mean all the difference between winning and failure to win under the judge's hands.

It pays to take the time to do a little trimming once in a while; makes the stock more attractive to prospective buyers, who will give a better price for a uniform and well-fitted than for a ragged lot.

Take a pride in your flock, and remember that in this, as in other branches of farming, what is worth doing is worth doing well.

If you desire to increase your breeding flock, buy a few young ewes if you can; if not, a few older ewes, if bought right, may prove a paying investment if mated with a good sire, as the first crop of lambs should repay the first cost.

The sheep that will meet the demand of the present and the future, must have a fleece and carcass of equal value; that is, a fine, even, heavy fleece, on a large or medium-sized, straight and symmetrical body.

It takes blood to feed sheep ticks, and blood is too costly to be used in this way; dip or pour for ticks spring and fall, without fail.

Fatten the lambs well on clover or rape before sending to market. A little supplemental food, in the form of oats and bran, will be more than paid for in the increased weight when marketed.

A Balanced Ration for Calves.

Calves that will be steers and milk cows two years from now, are being fed by the thousands on skim milk. What kind of steers they will make and what kind of cows they will become, depends partly on the breeding, but to quite a considerable extent on the kind of a ration they are fed for the next three or four months.

There is nothing better than the ration which nature provides, but, unfortunately, the farmer on one-hundred-dollar land cannot afford to feed his calves in nature's way. As a rule, that would cost him more than they are worth on the market.

In the dairy section calves are raised on skim milk, and the result will depend not on the amount of skim milk that is fed, but on the way in which it is balanced. For the first ten days the calf should have nothing but the mother's milk. For the next ten days or two weeks it should gradually be put upon a skim-milk ration. As soon as it has a grain-and-grass stomach it should be given all the grass it wants, or good bright clover and timothy hay, and these feeds balanced up with a carbonaceous feed. The best and the cheapest is corn meal for the young calf, and shelled corn for the calf six weeks old and over. Why? In milk, nature provides a balanced ration, but in running it through the separator, or removing the cream in any other way, you take out the fat. This must be supplied, and the carbohydrates of corn prove an excellent substitute for the fat of the milk.

This milk should be fed as sweet as possible, and about the temperature of the cow, or about 100 degrees. It should be fed in clean troughs.

Mr. Henry Dudding and His First-prize Lincoln Shearling Ram.

At the Bath and West of England Show, 1906.

It can then be balanced up with shelled corn, fed in a clean trough.

Many farmers, of course, shake their heads and bring out the old saw, "When creameries come in, good calves go out, but it is none the less true that hundreds and thousands of farmers have shown themselves fully capable of developing a calf raised on skim milk, that cannot be distinguished in the feed-lot from the calf that has run with the cow and been fed in nature's way.

The mistakes farmers make in raising skim-milk calves, are feeding the skim milk sweet one day and sour another, feeding irregularly, and feeding it without a balance. If the calf does not do well, they double the skim-milk ration, and it naturally does worse, becomes spindle-shanked and pot-bellied, and after two or three months' treatment of this kind cannot by any means, however skillful, be developed into a first-class steer.

Another mistake they make is in feeding oil meal as a balance for skim milk. Instead of correcting the balance, it makes it more unbalanced still, for skim milk and oil meal are both highly albuminous or nitrogenous products. The skim milk itself has this element in excess. Neither will oats or barley or wheat, no matter how manipulated, balance the ration.

Skim milk can be balanced by corn. This is the cheapest, and also the best. Therefore, if your calf is not doing well, don't double the amount of skim milk and make it do worse, but divide the skim milk between the calf and the pig, and divide the pig's corn between the pig and the calf, for corn alone is as unbalanced a ration for the young and growing pig as skim milk for the calf. On the ordinary farm the calf needs what the pig gets in excess; and on the average farm where dairying is followed, the pig needs what the calf gets in excess. Divide their rations, and you will benefit both.—[Wallace's Farmer.

"Redwater" or "Bloody Murrain" in Cattle.

This disease is unfortunately very common in many districts throughout Ireland, and is occasionally seen in British Columbia, and an analogous disease in the United States, known as the Texas or tick fever, and it frequently causes serious losses to owners of cattle.

When an animal is attacked by this disease, the following symptoms are plainly noticeable: The usual signs that the animal is unwell—such as loss of appetite; the inclination of the animal, if at grass, to separate itself from its companions; the urine is usually dark in color, varying from light red to chocolate, or even approaching black.

In many cases the affected animal is not passing a proper quantity of dung, and if this condition continues, so that there is great constipation, stockowners frequently speak of it as "dry murrain." This condition is dreaded by experienced herdsmen when it accompanies the "bloody murrain," or "redwater."

As the disease progresses, it is noticed that the animal wastes very rapidly, even one in good condition becoming very thin and weak.

The eye soon becomes deeply sunk in the head. The beast is usually not inclined to move about, but prefers to stand with its back arched, and, if compelled to move, does so more or less stiffly.

If the "dry murrain" get a firm hold, there will soon be noticed a painful grunt, and if relief is not afforded, death usually follows.

It has been satisfactorily proved within recent years that this disease is really a blood disease. It is unnecessary here to describe the nature and composition of the blood. It must suffice to state that in a healthy animal the blood consists of a fluid in which float very small red bodies.

In "redwater," however, some of these bodies have been destroyed, and being now useless, they are thrown out by the kidneys. It is their red color which gives the urine of affected animals its characteristic color.

It may be asked, "What destroys these red bodies?" It is believed that they are attacked by small creatures of a parasitic nature, and that these parasites get into the blood in a very surprising manner, namely, by the bite of the common ticks, which are the chief, if not the only, carriers of the disease.

Ticks are frequently found in large numbers about the lower parts, thighs and udders of cattle on grass. Such cattle are not always affected with "redwater," but if "redwater" exists amongst animals on a pasture, it may be spread by means of these ticks, since healthy ticks are liable to get the infection from a sick animal and convey it to others.

In the past, certain kinds of soil and certain herbs were regarded as the cause of "redwater," but it is now definitely known that the disease may be met with on any pasture where there is suitable shelter for the ticks which carry infection.