

their tracks around the water. But in the warm season they have moist food, and they usually feed when the dew is on.

If sheep be provided with a good watering place in winter, they will frequent it often, probably oftener than any other animal; and we have no doubt that they will go as far for water as other animals, after they have been introduced to it in a kind and gentle manner.

We have observed that sheep will go and drink in the morning, even to a considerable distance, before they have half done their breakfast; and they generally go to the water several times in the day, while some other animals only go once or twice. This shows conclusively the importance of a good supply of water.

Bees—How to Feed Weak Swarms.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—I have some late swarms of bees which I wish to winter, and I think they have not enough honey and but little bee-bread. Will you please to inform me through the columns of the RURAL, how I can most successfully feed them?—J. B. L., *Cuba, N. Y.*

Feeding bees should generally be over by the last days of October. If obliged to feed bees after the middle of November, it will generally be the better way to take them up; for, if by this time, they have but a scanty supply, it will cost nearly as much to feed them as they are worth, to say nothing of the trouble incurred. However, we will do what we can under the circumstances, as our correspondent seems desirous to winter his bees if possible. Now, if Mr. L. had only taken the precaution to have stated the *kind of hives* his swarms are in, it would have saved some unnecessary remarks. As different directions must be given with different kinds of hives, i. e., hives with moveable frames and hives without frames,—this seems to be necessary.

If the swarms are the common surplus box hives, we would say, move them at once to a good dry, dark cellar, where the temperature may be uniform; and then commence feeding by placing empty combs under the hives and also in the surplus honey chamber, which are to be kept supplied with honey, or what is *cheaper* and *equally good*, a preparation made as follows:—One-third part honey, and two-thirds coffee sugar—the sugar first dissolved by warm water. After the sugar is dissolved, then add the honey—the mixture should be well stirred and nearly the consistency of honey. If the hive be not provided with a chamber, it may be inverted, and the empty comb be filled with honey, or the preparation laid directly on the combs upon which the bees are clustered. The bees will not leave the hive if the cellar be perfectly dark. It would be folly to attempt to feed bees unless they can be kept at such a temperature as to induce them

to go in search after honey for them. If this cannot be done in the cellar, they may be moved to a warm, dark room in the house, where they should remain till they have stored enough in the hive proper to last them a month or more,—this will depend upon the amount of comb there is in the body of the hive—when they may be returned to the cellar. The less bees are disturbed and the more uniform the temperature, the less honey they will consume, and the better they will winter.

If the hives have *frames*, we should say the better way would be to unite the contents of any two swarms. There will be but little contention among the bees, provided they be thoroughly sprinkled with diluted honey scented with a few drops of peppermint essence. As bees distinguish each other by the *scent*, they will thereby not be able to distinguish “friend from foe.” Again, if some colonies are strong, and have more than 25 pounds of honey,—the amount necessary to winter a good swarm,—the excess may be taken away by means of the frames, and given to the destitute swarms. This method of feeding bees by removing the frames of comb—is the best and safest known. By it bees from other hives are not attracted to the hives thus fed, as no scent is emitted by the honey as when fed in the ordinary way; no labor is required from the bees, and but little time and labour are required from the keeper. Should the swarms be united and then need feeding, they must be moved either to the cellar or room, and fed by placing comb with honey in the chamber. By proper care and attention to these directions, there will be but little danger in wintering bees having a scanty supply of stores.—*Rural New-Yorker*.

THE BEST MODE OF MIXING SALT AND LIME. Soda made according to the plan of J. Benet, Esq., M. P., for Wiltshire, I have found a good application to land at the proper time. Lay three inches of unslaked lime, ten feet long and six wide, as a bed, then spread one inch thick of common salt. Repeat these layers till a bed two feet high is formed. If the mixture is made in summer, when it is dry, it may be in the open air; at other times, under cover. After ten days turn it over, and repeat the turnings five or six times at intervals of seven days; spread from a cart about sixty bushels per acre, covering the horse with a sheet or cloth to prevent burning the hair off. It should be ploughed in before wheat sowing.—*Hillyard's Practical Farming*.

BREEDING FROM YOUNG SOWS.—The *Maine Farmer* says, “It is quite common to breed from young sows, say fall pigs when one year old, a practice to be utterly condemned, and if continued in the same family for a few generations of the swine, they will be found to dwindle down from three or four hundred hogs to two or