

in type and ideal in utility. Size, type, vigor, masculinity, conformation and fleece are all important factors. For a pure-bred flock, breed characteristics are of great consequence and a thorough knowledge of the breed type is necessary in making such a choice. A grade flock demands attention to utility factors in preference to mere fancy features, as, for example, extraordinary wooling on the head and face, lack of perfection of which, with some breeds, is sufficient to destroy chances of winning with close competition in the show rings. The ram should possess such characters of utility importance as well-shaped head; strong neck; wide, evenly covered but not obtrusive shoulders; full heart girth; well-sprung ribs; thick, wide loin; full leg of mutton; level back, fully and uniformly carried out to the tail-head; strong chest; straight underline; short legs; fleece dense and good in length of staple, lustre and crimp; lastly, but not least, vim and masculinity. It should be the endeavour of every breeder to essay to correct the weaknesses of the ewes by the selection of a ram which excels in these points.

TIME OF BREEDING.

Mating will depend upon the purpose for which the lambs are intended. The uses of lambs can be divided into three classes, namely, flockheaders, hothouse lambs,



Good type of ram which would be a credit at the head of any flock.

summer and fall market lambs. The last division concerns the average owner of a small flock who raises lambs for the summer or fall markets. The date of lambing must be fixed to suit the shepherd. The term of pregnancy for sheep is approximately twenty-one weeks. Unless an abundance of nutritious feed can be supplied, the lambs should come when pasture is available and when the weather is mild, so that every lamb may be assured a good start in life.

April represents the real harvest month for the flockholder. To have lambs born at this time, mating should take place during the nine weeks beginning the last week in October and terminating the third week in December. Flockheaders and show lambs must be dropped in March and sometimes as early as February or the end of January. This necessitates breeding in the months of September and October.

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