

FARMING

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Regulating Prices for Eggs

A meeting of egg exporters was held in Toronto last week for the purpose of regulating prices for eggs during the coming season and discussing other matters of interest to those engaged in this important trade. The exporters claim that the prices paid last season were too high to admit of a profitable business being done with Great Britain. It was also pointed out that last year the United States had, in order to develop a market, shipped to England large quantities of eggs, which were sold at such an extremely low figure that Canadian exporters could not compete with them.

Whatever grounds there may be for forming a combine to control prices it will be gratifying to egg producers throughout the country to know that the scheme has fallen through and that the country dealers returned home without anything definite being accomplished in the way of pre-arranging prices. We are of the opinion that what is needed more in the development of our export egg trade is not a combine to control prices but some arrangement whereby eggs could be gathered from the farmer and sent forward in good condition. A great many eggs are partly spoiled before they ever start on their journey to the Old Land and in many cases before they leave the farm. If some scheme could be inaugurated whereby the eggs could be secured from the farmer when fresh and kept in as good condition afterwards as possible, we believe it would help producers and exporters as well, much more than forming any combine of prices. Some system of co operation between the local dealer and the farmer might be arranged in many localities whereby all eggs could be collected when fresh and kept as much as possible in that condition till they reached the English consumer. It is quality that counts in the British markets, and where that is supplied there should not be much difficulty as to prices.

Care of Young Lambs

There is no animal kept on the farm whose young require more care and attention than the sheep. Especially is this true if the lambing season comes during the winter or early spring. While old, careful ewes, that have the instincts of motherhood well developed and udders full of milk, cause comparatively little trouble if good, comfortable pens are provided, the yearlings or two year-olds with their first young ones may cause a lot of trouble if not tame, and if they have been neglected. The income from the sheep depends largely upon the lambs she raises, and if she loses them the chances of securing a good income from her are past for a year at least. The careful shepherd should therefore plan to have every sheep raise at least one lamb, and to accomplish this should be willing to sacrifice a little of his time and, if necessary, his sleep. The large Scotch and English sheep raisers have their night shepherds, who stay with the flocks through the night to see to the lambing ewe. Some sheep farmers make a practice of visiting their stock a couple of times during the night in the breeding season. This may be quite a task, but it will pay in the crop of good, strong, healthy lambs that will result from such care and attention.

Where a large number of sheep are kept it is a good plan to have a number of little four-foot-square pens that open out for use and can be folded up when not needed. An examination of the udders when the ewes are at the troughs eating will generally show how near lambing they are, and those due within a day or two can be put into the small pens, where they do not need so much watching. The ewes can be kept in these enclosures until the lambs are several days old. Twins are much less liable to be disowned when the ewes are shut in by themselves and the lambs cannot get away from their dams. These pens are inexpensive; can be put away when not in use, and are always ready for use.

Very often young lambs are lost by getting a chill when not looked after properly. A remedy recommended for this, and one that will warm up the lamb as quickly as by any other plan, is to submerge it in a pail of water at a temperature of 100° Fahr., just keeping its nose and ears above water. Keep the lamb in the water for a few minutes, and, after rubbing it as dry as practicable without hurting it, get some milk into its stomach. Care must be taken so as not to overdo the feeding if it is done by hand; there is no danger of it getting too much from its mother's udder. A little food, often and hot, is the rule in lamb feeding. Ewes in good condition, and which have udders full of milk, are usually able to feed their own young, and nothing will take the place of this condition, which is the result of the feed and treatment they have received the month previous.

Locating the Winter Show

At the live stock meetings which take place on Thursday and Friday of this week the permanent location of the Provincial Winter Show will, no doubt, be decided upon. There are hardly two opinions among breeders as to the advisability of permanently locating the show at some central point where suitable accommodation in the way of buildings, equipment, etc., can be secured. The interests of the show, as well as of the exhibitors, demand that something of this kind should be done in order to insure the future success of the show.

In regard to the place where the show is to be located there is a very much wider difference of opinion, though in this connection only two places, Brantford and Guelph, are prominently mentioned. To decide between these two is a task which we trust our stockmen will perform to the satisfaction of all concerned. Both places can, no doubt, put forward good reasons why the show should be permanently located in their midst, and it will be for those who have the work of locating in their hands to weigh these carefully, and decide only for the place that is best suited in every respect for the purposes of such an organization as the Provincial Winter Show. In making a decision, all personal leanings towards one city or the other should be sacrificed, and the claims of each place decided upon their merits. The decision that will be arrived at on Friday will not be one affecting only the present, but one that will affect the success of the show for many years to come. From what we know of the breeders of this province we believe they will approach this matter in a fair and impartial manner, and if they do, whatever place is selected