

## SHEEP AND SWINE.

### CARE OF BROOD SOWS AND YOUNG PIGS.

Although swine-breeding is looked on with contempt by some breeders, the fact remains, nevertheless that to become a successful swine-raiser one must make the science a thorough study. We see annually the failures of many novices who think that it requires no study to breed hogs. Some hog raisers seem to think that their breeding sows can get along without any care except at farrowing time and then only for a few days. The eye of the careful and successful breeder daily notes the condition of his animals; if anything is wrong with any member of his herd he cares for it at once. At this season, as a general thing, there are many sows due to farrow and strict attention to mother and litter must be paid. Beginning about the month before farrowing the sow should be fed with slops, composed of bran, middlings, oatmeal, etc., such food tending to the secretion of milk. A week or ten days previous to farrowing the sow should be penned up that she may become used to the place; put in a good supply of straw, so that it shall have become well trampled by farrowing time. Indications of parturition are readily noticed, the sow will collect all available bedding, the teats will become full and hollows appear on both sides of the tail. While we think that in most cases a sow in ordinary breeding condition will need no aid in delivering her pigs, the feeder to whom the sow has become accustomed should be near at parturition to give aid if necessary. Great care must be exercised in feeding the sow after farrowing, feed should be administered sparingly and of a character tending to keep the bowels open and eradicate fever. The removal of the long sharp teeth (often black) from the pigs should be made with a pair of nippers as soon as possible after birth, if not removed, these teeth aggravate the sow, she will not let the pigs suckle, and will often kill them. The young pigs should be taught to eat as early as possible, and the sow must be fed well with nutritious, milk-producing food. The swine-raiser must always bear in mind that although he may have the best bred hogs money can buy, *without a judicious use of feed, good blood will avail nothing.* In rearing pigs we should keep the fact before us that during the first few months of the young pig's life, its future character is established and the profitable and advantageous gain is made.—*Farmer's Review.*

### THE FEED OF SHEEP.

There is no better or healthier food for any kind of sheep, and none they like better than good, bright corn fodder—though Mr. Fowler has written against its use for breeding ewes. I have wintered breeding ewes for the last fifteen years mostly on corn fodder and hay, fed alternately twice a day each without grain, until the corn fodder was gone, and then topped off in spring with a little corn in the place of corn fodder, and the sheep invariably came out in excellent condition, and I have had as good, or better luck in raising lambs as when no corn fodder was fed. Clover, when cut in the right stage of ripeness and cured without getting wet, is excellent hay for sheep, but once wet in curing—as it frequently is on account of being so long in operation—it is the poorest hay that can be fed to sheep. Timothy, when sown thick and intermixed with finer grasses, is as good as the best cured clover, and there is not so much waste in feeding it to sheep as in feeding clover, for sheep will not eat clover stalks so close as horses or cattle, hence it is not as good economy to feed clover hay to sheep unless it is fine in the stalk, cut early and cured in the

best possible manner, then, as above stated, it is excellent hay for them.

Sheep are more fastidious in their tastes about food than other domestic animals, and twofold more loss results from careless, slipshod feeding and bad management generally than from such maltreatment of any other stock on the farm. A horse, steer or mule may by neglect and poor keeping run down and get poor, and then by better care and feeding be restored to good condition and no great loss result—except that it takes five times more food to restore lost flesh than would have been required to prevent that loss. Not so with sheep, when sheep run down and get poor of course there is just as much loss in the carcass of the animal as in the case of other stock; and there is also an equal or greater amount of loss in the fleece. A sheep well kept for a while has a healthy growth of wool, and then poor keeping for another while, before being restored to its former condition, will leave a joint, or weak, rotten place in the fleece, and such wool is of but little value for manufacturing purposes, and is termed "jointed wool" by writers on sheep husbandry. Hence to avoid this double loss by poor management, give the flock good care and an even keep the year round.

It requires more nice, discriminating care and judgment to feed sheep successfully in winter than any other stock. Just the quantity should be fed each time that they will eat clean; if a little more than they will eat is given, cut them short the next time, and by a little practice the right quantity can be gauged very accurately. By over-feeding a few times and leaving some sorts in their racks they will acquire the habit of wasting hay, and when once acquired, it is hard to break. It is good economy to feed store-sheep a little grain when it is not too high; by so doing they can be made to eat hay up very close and do better; but when no grain is fed all the hay is forced into them that can be, and they are liable to be over-fed, hence a waste of hay. Salt is conducive to the health of sheep, and they should have it once a week at least, either by brining the sorts left in their racks or by salting in their feed troughs, but never give salt when sheep depend on snow for drink; it creates a thirst that snow will not quench, and damage rather than benefit results.—*Carlos Mason, Lake Co., Ohio.*

### SUCCESS WITH LAMBS.

Over-feeding ewes with heating grain, such as corn, and no exercise, has a tendency to make lambs small and weak; if fed heavy on grain, half oats or wheat bran mixed with corn is better than clear corn; clear oats are better still; it is not heating, and makes muscle, and is healthier, while corn produces heat and makes fat. When feeding very light with grain, corn does well enough. With full feeding on hay and corn fodder (if you have it) with a small grain ration once a day, and plenty of exercise, with plenty of water, and an open shed, well bedded down with straw, to run in and out at pleasure, and bred to a vigorous ram, ninety per cent. of Merino lambs ought to be raised in large flocks, and a larger proportion in small flocks, without any trouble. When a ram runs at large in large flocks the first get are largest and best, and more ram than ewe lambs. It takes more pains to raise high-bred Merino lambs than common or runabout breeds.

Last spring I had a good many lambs dropped that were strong enough to get up, but did not know enough to find the teat, but after catching the ewe and putting teat in lamb's mouth two or three times while the ewe was standing, the lamb would go along and take care of itself. Most any lamb just dropped that has any life in it with proper care can be raised; it is astonishing

how much vitality an almost dead lamb possesses. When too far gone to try to suck when chilled, place close to the fire where it is quite warm, feed a little warm milk containing a little hog's lard, and it will soon be on its legs bleating; have its dam close by; place the teat in its mouth while the ewe is standing, and it will feed itself. In some cases this may have to be repeated two or three times before the lamb gets a good send-off. The lard in the milk, as every one skilled in raising lambs well knows, prevents costiveness, which cow's milk in a young lamb has a tendency to produce.

A lamb that has strength enough to get up and get hold of the teat, will start for the milk without any help, but when so weak it can't do this, it may be well with the thumb and finger after being wet with a little saliva to gently start the milk, but if they will suck they generally have power enough in the jaws to accomplish the desired result. It is not profitable to breed Merino ewes until they are coming three years old; if bred younger they are apt to run off and leave their lambs. In such cases shut sheep and lamb in a small enclosure and while holding the unnatural mother for the lamb to suck have the dog in the pen with you, which in many cases will frighten her to her senses, and after keeping up for a day or two she will own her lamb. To make a sheep that has lost her lamb own the lamb of another, skin her own dead lamb and wrap the skin around the lamb you wish her to raise; in this way, it is said, many an old sheep has been fooled.—*Carlos Mason, in N. Y. Tribune.*

### TO KEEP HOGS FROM ROOTING.

If you want to keep hogs from plowing up your fields, I can tell you of a plan adopted with complete success by the late cattle king, Jacob Strawn, of Morgan Co., Ill., who was also a very extensive raiser and dealer in swine. Mr. Strawn's plan was to have what he termed "snouting day," when all hogs to be operated upon were collected in an enclosure. The hogs in turn were caught and brought to a block of wood, when a man with a sharp chisel sliced off the rooter on the top of the nose. They were then turned into a clover pasture and were perfectly harmless so far as plowing up the ground was concerned. I have seen hundreds of hogs in Mr. Strawn's fields, but never saw any damage done by them. The plan is simple and effective, and does away with the expense of buying rings.

### WATERING SHEEP.

A writer urges more careful study of pure water and of drinks in general, on the economy of animals. The privation of water tells more rapidly on health than abstinence from food. In every kind of beverage, the part efficacious in assuaging thirst is the water. The quantity of water required by an animal varies with the air's temperature and humidity. A sheep requires least, a pig most water, horses and cattle come between. In the care of sheep much water thins the blood. They ought never to be deprived of water, as many shepherds practice, nor at the same time allowed to fully slake their thirst. The latter observation applies also to horses. The sheep and horse are, of domestic animals, the most sensitive to impure water. For draught animals and sheep warm drinks are enervating.

If sulphur is well dusted around the sheds and hog pens it will effectually drive off lice. Dust it on the hogs also, and leave a little in the troughs for them to eat.

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