

The Lambing Season.

(Extracts from a paper by A. D. Gamley, of Brandon: Sheep and Swine Breeders' Association.)

As the lambing progresses, the shepherd will have observed that some ewes are much heavier milkers than others, and that the poor milkers very often have twins. Put one of the twins on a ewe with a single lamb and a good milker. The best and easiest plan is to pick out a ewe giving indications of being a good mother, and watch for her lambing. As soon as she has lambed, and before she gets up, place the twin lamb beside the newborn one, and rub them together, which will give the same appearance and smell to both, and when the ewe turns round to survey her progeny, she will never suspect the fraud, but will commence licking both lambs. I have never seen this plan fail. If a ewe loses her lamb, make her foster a twin (aim to make every ewe raise a lamb). This case requires a little patience. My plan is to skin the dead lamb and sew the pelt on to the twin, putting the dam and foster lamb in a dark pen for a few days, always keeping a sharp lookout to see that the lamb is doing all right. It is as well in this case to tie up the ewe for the first day or so. Take off the pelt in 24 or 30 hours. Out-of-condition and young ewes require some watching at this time. The former are very often indifferent to their lambs and will leave them. Shut them up by themselves in a pen for a few days until the lamb thoroughly knows its mother. The young ewes sometimes do not take kindly to their lambs, and require to be held a few times until she gets accustomed to her lamb. If the ewe is hard to manage, a good plan is to place her with her rump in a corner, so that she can't back, the shepherd kneeling on one knee and the inside of the other leg against the breast of the ewe, one arm round the neck, and the lamb in the other hand, holding it to the teat. A little practice, and one soon becomes expert.

During the first few days of the lamb's life, care must be taken to see that no dirt accumulates under the tail, obstructing the passage. If there is any, it should be clipped away with the shears, or washed with warm water, and the parts smeared with a little castor oil.

The lambs should be docked when they are about a week old. A simple method is to take the lamb between the knees, and the tail in the left hand, drawing the skin towards the rump, and clipping off close to the fingers with a pair of shears, then sprinkling a little powdered bluestone on the stump to prevent bleeding. Castration is better done at this time too, as there is less danger than when the lamb is a few months old. This may be done by clipping off the whole scrotum with one stroke of the shears. By the time the lambs are two weeks old they will have commenced to nibble hay, and at a month old to eat oats. A separate pen should then be provided for them, with a "creep" through which they can go at will to the oats and bran and the choice morsels of hay that have been picked out for them.

The only diseases I have found lambs subject to is the "white scours" and indigestion, and for which the shepherd should have the necessary remedies at hand in case of emergency. The former trouble is caused either by some quality in the dam's milk or by a disordered condition of the lamb's stomach. When the dam is the cause of the trouble, her food should be changed and the lamb given, daily, a teaspoonful of linseed oil. When the cause exists with the lamb, two teaspoonfuls should be given, twice a day, of prepared chalk, one ounce to a pint of peppermint water. Indigestion is caused by the lamb taking too much milk at one time, which coagulates in the stomach. For this one ounce of Epsom salts should be given. These remedies I get from "Stewart's Sheep Manual," and have found them most beneficial, having used them for a number of years. By the time the lambs are a month old, the spring will have come, and if all has gone well with the shepherd and his flock, it ought to be in good shape to commence the summer's operations. For a week or two, feed them a few oat sheaves before they go out in the morning, and the same in the evening when they come in; also hay in the racks for night if they will eat it. They will eat very little hay at this time, but it helps to keep them up until they get a full bite of grass. From now till clipping time the shepherd will have it a little easier, and well does he deserve it, for if his flock is a large one, he will have been hard at work 24 hours a day all through the lambing time. Shearing ought to be done between the middle of May and 1st of June. Until the wool has grown, give them the run of the pens at night to protect them from the cold, also during the day to protect them from the sun. Dip ten days after clipping, and ten days after that again, to kill the ticks that have hatched since the first dipping.

Weaning time comes in August or September, according to the time the lambs were dropped. The ewe lambs may be kept separate for a week or ten days, and then turned in with the flock again, care having been taken in the interval to milk the ewes at least twice in that time, and the heavy milkers as often as required. The ram lambs, if bred for the butcher, and to be sold as lambs, had better be sold as soon as weaned, as they will fail rapidly if no special provision has been made for their care, such as a field of rape or turnips to run in during the day, and hay and grain at night. Care should be taken not to allow them on the rape until the frost is off in the morning, or with an empty stomach, and then not too long at a time until they get accustomed to it. At weaning time, and while the ewes are being

handled, it is a wise plan to mark those that are to be disposed of to the butcher. In this connection I would impress on the young breeder that the successful management of a flock in a great measure depends on three things: First, the choice of a ram; secondly, eternal vigilance at lambing time; and thirdly, culling close each year. Don't keep old ewes, or those not typical of the breed. Don't be afraid to weed them out. There is no better country in the world than this Western land of ours for the successful raising of sheep in large numbers, for they are subject to none of the diseases that are prevalent in the older countries. The only drawback there is to the sheep industry in this country is the wolf pest, and that, I have no doubt, will, through time, be overcome, the coyote disappearing as the country becomes more settled.

Pointers on Pig Raising.

I would feed a sow, before farrowing, a moderate quantity of oats and peas, either whole or chopped, on the ground if possible, and let her lie alone in a pen, and have exercise as she herself may incline. After farrowing, give lukewarm feed and drink, boiled peas, bran and sloop, but very light for a few days, and teach the sucklings as soon as possible to run out in feed passages or root house to keep them from getting too fat, and to help themselves to bits of roots or whole peas, etc., which may be thrown down among straw litter.

The milking quality of sow determines the age to wean. I have had to wean some litters at four weeks, but do not consider it beneficial to keep on sow more than six weeks. Use a small trough supplied with warm milk occasionally, and when fully weaned continue milk and begin to add a little bran and shorts, and some peas. Strew on ground thinly.

Barley ground, and $\frac{1}{2}$ shorts added, or peas $\frac{1}{2}$ and oats $\frac{1}{2}$, ground, is my favorite feed. I like corn fed whole with either of the previous rations when pigs are at their fattening period proper, say from 120 to 150 or 160 pounds, but no corn for three weeks before marketing. I feed dry as a rule, with warmed water to drink after if very cold water and pen is not warm.

Walls, floor, etc., in my opinion, do not effect the hog so much, other than that they should be kept dry, and not allowed to sleep in a dungy, heating bed. For exercise, where not convenient to let out every day, I would advise to put a larger number in the pen than can get to the trough comfortably, and they will exercise themselves as a natural consequence, but divide them for finishing. I think rheumatism is caused by deranged kidneys or costiveness. A little turpentine given with food, for the kidneys, I think beneficial, and soured feed, not very sloppy, for costiveness. Rheumatism often comes from overfeeding and no exercise during growing period.

Wellington Co., Ont.

Bacon Hogs.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—How to produce the best class of bacon hogs is a very important question to the farmers of Canada. One would think by the way some of the packers talk and write, that the only breeds of pigs that are fit for pork are the Yorkshire and Tamworth. I do not say that these are not good breeds, but I think it is possible to raise good bacon pigs from nearly any breed. A few years ago we bought eleven pigs, from about six weeks to eight weeks old. Four were Chester White and Berkshire, four were Poland-China and Berkshire, and three were Yorkshire and Berkshire crosses. These pigs were all put together and fed the same. The pigs of the Yorkshire and Berkshire cross were of poor quality, according to the rules of the packers, while the Chester White and Berkshire Poland-Chinas were well shaped, but they got too fat. Now, I don't believe the Chester White is a better bacon breed than the Yorkshire, nor a better breed to cross with the Berkshire, but the sire or dam of those Yorkshire and Berkshire cross pigs were not good breeding animals. Therefore, I conclude it is individual merit and the feed and treatment, more than breed, that counts in producing bacon pigs. Exercise is also a very important factor in promoting growth and the desirable quality of meat. There is more soft pork caused by lack of exercise than by improper feeding.

Oxford Co., Ont.

Prizes for Holsteins at Buffalo.

The American Holstein-Friesian Association will duplicate all prizes offered by the Pan-American Association for Holsteins in their class, and will give a prize for a young herd, consisting of one bull and four females under two years of age; also for bull and three of his get, and for a cow and two of her produce, each as follows: first prize, \$50; second, \$25; third, \$12.50; and will still further offer prizes, amounting to \$175, to practically illustrate upon the Exposition grounds the system now in practice by the Holstein-Friesian Association of America for making official butter records; the test to be made, as nearly as possible, under the present rules of the Association for such tests; to be made by the Babcock machine, under the supervision of some officer or professor of some agricultural college or experiment station; the cows to be milked three times per day.

FARM.

Windmills and Lightning.

A reader recently enquired whether or not the placing of windmills on barns increased the liability of danger from lightning. Our own observation is that such is not the case. In order to ascertain what had been the experience of users of different sorts of mills, judged from actual reports, we make enquiry of three leading manufacturing establishments. The result would indicate that they are no menace whatever to the safety of farm buildings or the mills themselves. Indeed, it would almost seem that buildings carrying windmills have been singularly exempt from damage by lightning:

The Ontario Wind Engine & Pump Co., Toronto, write:—"In our experience for some years, and with the fact that we have hundreds of windmills all over the country, we have failed yet to learn of a barn damaged by reason of the windmill erected on it. We may say that if the fact of any structure standing out prominent was an attraction to lightning, it would have been demonstrated long ago in various ways, but you know as well as ourselves that lightning is something which is very unstable in its ways, and strikes and damages the most unlikely things. We did hear one time of a man being killed in the vicinity of Sutton, but this was not by a steel windmill, but by a wooden windmill. The lightning came down the vertical shaft, and the man was standing near, in the act of raising an axe, and we presume the electric fluid jumped from the shaft to the axe, and consequently passed through the man and killed him instantly. We claim that a steel windmill acts as a lightning conductor, and, if anything, is a safety more than a danger point."

Woodstock Wind-Motor Co., Woodstock, Ont.:—"We do not think that the danger is at all increased by putting windmills on the buildings, and have had the same opinion from parties who have given this a good deal of attention. We might say that we do not know of a single instance of a windmill on a building being struck by lightning. We know of cases where barns had been struck and burned down, with windmills erected on them, but in two of these cases in particular the barn had been struck at a point away from the windmill altogether. This matter has been brought up a great deal lately, and from all the information we have had, this is the conclusion we have come to: that the danger is not increased by a windmill being there, although the building is liable to be damaged whether the windmill is there or not."

The Gould, Shapley & Muir Co., Brantford, Ont.:—"In the earlier stages of the windmill business, fear of lightning being attracted by the mill was often used as an argument against them, but in our many years' experience we have never had a building injured by lightning through the attraction of the windmill. We had one case in Eastern Ontario where the lightning struck the opposite end of the barn from the windmill, and the barn was burned, but the part with the windmill attached was the last to be destroyed. After our experience, we have not the slightest fear of lightning being attracted by the mill."

Variety Test of Sugar Beets, 1900.

VARIETY.	From 100 Seed Bolls.		Seed Bolls that will grow.	Average distance apart in the row.	Yield per Acre.	Average weight of samples analyzed.	Per cent of Sugar in Juice.	Purity.
	No. Sprouts at end of one week.	No. Sprouts at end of two weeks.						
Austrian Spec. R. G. V.	155	166	52	6	13.53	12	13.61	82.30
Austrian Spec. No. 3	122	170	30	6	15.21	12	14.03	79.27
Licht Kl.	153	177	25	6	16.29	12	13.06	80.77
Ziemann Kl.	113	207	23	6	14.11	12	13.06	78.82
Kl. Govt. Seed 394.	144	184	28	6	14.36	13	13.06	78.82
Zeh. Govt. Seed 392.	144	184	28	6	14.36	13	13.06	78.82
Kl. Govt. Seed 391.	144	184	28	6	14.36	13	13.06	78.82
Kl. Govt. Seed 394.	144	184	28	6	14.36	13	13.06	78.82
R. from D. M. Ferry & Co.	209	199	51	6	10.57	11	11.57	84.17
Russia 2 Govt. Seed 393.	144	201	33	6	13.12	12	13.12	81.91
Manitoba 2 Govt. Seed 410.	226	237	00	6	12.69	12	13.10	81.91
Simon Le Grande C. 7.	157	180	38	6	13.82	11	13.73	80.57
Simon Le Grande C. 27.	83	126	32	6	12.60	13	13.38	81.67
Austrian Spec. B. G. V.	119	169	27	6	11.08	12.3	13.63	81.30

J. D. TOWER, Agriculturist, Michigan Experiment Station.