Spring Care of Lambs.

As soon as a lamb is dropped, the shepherd should see that the mother gives it the proper attention, and in the course of half an hour he should see that the little one draws its mother's milk freely. Very often they will need assistance perhaps for a day or so, and often the shepherd will find a core in the ewe's teats, which will prevent the milk from being drawn; whether this be the case or not, the shepherd should ascertain by stripping a little milk from each teat; this will remove the core, which in some cases is harder to remove than in others. If the sheep are still in the pen, a small place should be partitioned off for each ewe as she lambs, and kept there until the lamb is strong, say from five to eight days, according to the strength of the lamb; then all the ewes which have lambs should be put in one pen by themselves; if you have not two pens divide the house in two rooms, those ewes which have lambed should be in one pen and those yet to lamb should be in the other. The young lambs should be taught to eat as soon as possible; this they will do when very young. A low rack should be provided for them on one side, and a temporary partition put around this, leaving an entrance at some particular place large enough for the lambs to go through, but too small to admit of the sheep; in this rack the best clover hay should be placed, a very little at a time, and as soon as the lambs begin to eat, that which has been picked over should be removed morning and night and fresh put in, and that which is in the rack at noon should be shook out and turned over. They will also learn to eat turnips early if they are properly prepared; this may be done by cutting very thin shavings of a turnip, place them in a trough near their hay rack and sprinkle a little cracked oats and peas in the trough; a little oil cake meal will also do good service, the meal should consist of one-third oats and two-thirds peas, all of which should be cracked very coarse, and as soon as they learn to eat well they should be fed whole grain, consisting of same proportions, which may now be sometimes boiled. If you wish to force your lambs along as fast as possible give them as much turnips and grain as they will eat up clean, feeding three times each day; it would be better to feed boiled grain morning and night, mixed with bran enough to absorb all the juice of the grain; at noon give them raw grain, in which mix oil-cake meal, in the proportion of one-half pint to a quart of grain; after they have done eating clean their troughs out, and do not allow them to become crusted with filth, and on no account allow any grain to remain in them. You may have some trouble to get the lambs to eat the boiled feed at first, but this you can do with patience, by mixing it at first with raw grain after they have learned to eat well, but it is much safer to learn them to eat boiled grain at first, as it is not so heating or so apt to cause apoplexy by overfeeding; in fact lambs rarely eat enough to hurt themselves when the feed is properly boiled and a sufficient amount of bran mixed into it. If your sheep are in the pasture and it is convenient to the sheep house, put the lambs' feed in their troughs, and if the grass is not abundant you should have some soiling food at hand with which to fill their rack; when all is prepared drive them and their dams in and let all remain until the lambs have done eating, when they should be returned to the field. Morning and night is often enough to feed when they are on grass. When it is not convenient to drive them to the house, a small pen should be provided in some sheltered and convenient place, when you can feed the lambs as above described. Lambs will not grow as well as they should if their dams are not looked well after; they should be in good condition when they lamb and should be kept so all the time while suckling. We have found oats and bran, half of each, an excellent food; a few peas may be mixed in to advantage; a pint twice a day of this mixture will give good results at all times, but should be especially fed if the grass is poor; soiling crops should be grown and fed liberally in racks when the grass is short, and salt ought to be kept within the reach of all.

FOSTER LAMBS.

Sometimes a ewe loses a lamb and another may have two; in such a case, select a young lamb, one which does not appear to get enough milk, the ewe should then be shut up in a pen by herself, the skin taken off the dead lamb and sewed on the live one, the liver of the dead lamb should be taken out and well smeared over the head, legs and all uncovered parts of the live one; if then given to the ewe she will generally take it without much ado, but she should be kept in the enclosure for a week or so; the surplus skin should not be left on the lamb more than 12 hours.

TWINS.

Twins generally need more care than single lambs, and sometimes may need to be fed with cows' milk from a suck-bottle, and should always receive that of a new calved cow (shepherds consider farrow cows' milk dangerous to feed); neither should a lamb a few weeks old suck the thick milk which first is found in a ewe's bag after lambing, but lambs just dropped should get this thick milk. The shepherd should see that every ewe which gives birth to a lamb raises one. The great secret of success in feeding is to be regular, both in time and quantity, and scrupulously clean with the racks and troughs.

DOCKING, &c.

We have found docking and other operations which are required to be performed on lambs best done at an early age, at three to eight days, according to the strength of the lamb, but in most cases about the fourth or fifth day is the proper time. The tail should be cut off at the second joint from the body; care should be taken to cut at the joint, or the healing will take much longer; a little ashes or flour may be put on the wound to obstruct the bleeding, which will soon stop, but should it not and the lamb seem to be getting weak, a piece of twine tied tight above the dock will stop the blood; the twine must be removed in twelve hours time or it will have an ill effect. At this season of the year the ticks leave the old sheep and attack the lambs; they should therefore be protected by some tick destroyer. With the above management our lambs have gained one pound per day for several months after they commenced eating well.

Over-Production.

If anyone will take the trouble to look into the facts about the comparative price of the different kinds of fruit grown in this country, he will see how foolish is the idea that the country is in danger of being overstocked. Take the price of apples, peaches, pears, strawberries, grapes, etc., and for forty years, dividing that time into four periods of ten years each, and statistics show that on an average the price of fruit has constantly increased. In strawberries and other small fruits this has been very marked. Production has grown rapidly in that time, but prices have constantly advanced. Occasionally we have a year of great abundance of apples and the prices are low. But farmers do not seem to have realized yet that the surplus apples may be very profitable utilized in fattening both hogs and cattle. The best of meat may be made with a little corn and plenty of apple food. In older countries it is well known that this kind of feed, cooked and mixed with ground grain, is very healthful for all kinds of stock, and it is doubted that hogs would have the disease known as cholera if fed this kind of ration frequently. So we see that in years of abundance the surplus fruit, when the price is low, may be profitably fed to stock, and thus we may realize a good price for it. There is no danger of planting too many orchards, or of getting too much fruit.

On the Wing.

On the opening of spring the animal and vegetable kingdoms awaken to new life and energy. Our migratory birds call to mind the advantages of a change, and having been pretty closely caged up all winter, we take a short flight to the County of Huron. We stopped at Londesborough, a small village on the L. H. & B. R., a few miles from Goderich and Clinton. A Union Spring Show was being held there. We were much pleased with the exhibit of heavy draught stallions and Durham bulls; these fine animals must rapidly improve the stock in this locality. There are not many sections in Canada that could make such a fine local show, as many of the Provincial prize animals are now owned here. The land is excellent in this section, and the farmers are thriving. There was a large attendance of farmers from the surrounding country. The implement manufacturers made a large display, although the exhibition only lasted a few hours. These exhibitions do good in other ways, besides stimulating to improve the stock; many meet and exchange opinions, and often go home improved. There is always something for the brain to work on after attending an exhibition, and most all the boys for miles around run in on the afternoon to these exhibitions, unless when held at long distances from home; many cannot spare the time or money to attend them; this is the great advantage of having the exhibitions perambulating, although there is often a lack of accommodation for man and beast at small villages.

We next went to Clinton, and seen that old enterprising gentleman, Mr. Andrews, of whom we gave an account in vol. 12, page 74. He has now introduced the manufacture of sorghum into that locality. He went to the States to ascertain about it and secure a mill for preparing it. He is highly delighted with the experiment. We partook of some of the sorghum, which is very nice. It can be raised profitably here, and no doubt will be soon found in many parts of Canada. This will be a great saving to us, if we raise our own syrups and sugars.

SALT.

We wished to know a little more about our Canadian salt works. We heard that the Goderich Salt Works were doing but little business at Clinton. The manager informed us that there is no profit in making salt now; that they only keep their works in operation to prevent them from falling into decay. So we proceeded to Seaforth. Here we found activity in the salt business; new evaporating vats are being erected, and the best process of purifying and preparing the salt for dairy purposes is in use here. The salt after being taken from the evaporating vats is put into a large revolving boiler, open at both ends and set in an inclined position; the boiler is heated from the bottom, and discharges the salt in a dry state at the lower end; from this it is elevated to a mill that crushes it to powder; before passing into the mill it is all sifted, and all hard lumps or foreign ingredients are taken from it.

One of the buildings of one of the salt works had been burned down. Men were digging out the old foundation, which had been made of logs of soft elm and other perishable wood. The logs were quite sound and showed no symptoms of decay. We were astonished at this, as the soil was just suitable to rot them where they had been set in the ground. We enquired how it was that they were so sound. The workmen informed us that the timber never rots where it comes in contact with the salt. If this is a fact, and this ocular demonstration pretty well convinced us, is this not an important fact to know? Perhaps some of our readers may be aware of it, but we are quite sure