

Sheep Husbandry.

Cutting Grass Early and Feeding Sheep on Mowing Lands.

One of the best and cheapest methods of improving mowing lands is by feeding off the aftermath by sheep and folding them on them at night.

In order to do this satisfactorily, the farmer must of course look out that there shall be an aftermath to feed off, and to secure that, he must cut his first crop early. The advantages of early cutting are appreciated by our farmers more and more every year, and no one, who has ever tried it, will return to the old custom of postponing haying until "after the fourth."

Last year, by the 20th of June, all my rough, rocky pieces were mowed and the hay housed. I commenced on the 9th, with a piece of orchard grass in full blossom. On the 20th I began with the buckeye and cut as fast as six men, a tedder and a horse-rake could take care of it, and before the 4th of July more than half my hay was housed without a drop of rain, the rest being easily saved in the few bright days of that memorable rainy July.

Now, farmers, for the results:—1st. The rain which caused long faces to many of you on beholding your fields scattered over with drenched hay cocks, started up a rich aftermath on my mowings, gladdening my eyes with its promise, and before most of my neighbours had harvested their first crop, dead ripe, made in the fields before it was cut and afterwards, soaked with rain, my machine was again at work cutting a second crop nearly as heavy as the first, after which a good third crop sprang up to be fed off by sheep.

2nd. I had enough rowen to feed a flock of 114 sheep from the 1st of December until the middle of May, one colt, and one to three calving cows, and have one-half ton left.

3rd. The first crop, most of which I sold, weighed very heavily for its bulk. A fair sized load, to weigh a ton, always running over 100 to 200 lbs. It gave universal satisfaction to the buyer and brought a higher price per ton than the average market rates.

4th. My flock have not suffered as many have during the past winter from "grub in the head." I have not lost a sheep, and some of my ewes to-day, after yielding a heavy fleece, are worth \$14 per head for the butcher.

These, brother farmers, are not theories, but facts; they are facts, moreover, which touch our pockets, and such is the kind of facts which we want.

Now for the second part of my subject.

I am strongly in favour of keeping up mowing lands by top-dressing, and have found no method of top-dressing to answer so well as by folding sheep upon them during the fall of the year. I commenced last year the middle of August to fold my flock of 150, and continued until December, except rainy nights late in October and November, and in that time manured several acres. I used the moveable hook and eye fence, sufficient to enclose a space of 50 feet square, moving it to a fresh spot every day. The effect was wonderful. The first rain caused a rich growth to spring up, which was again fed off, and the present season these lands, which have been mowed for five years, look as though they were cut for the first time, and the white weed, which last year composed most of the crop, now scarcely shows its hoary head. The crop will be, without exaggeration, twice as heavy as on adjoining lands, previously in the same condition, but which had not the benefit of sheep-folding.

Nor is the effect of manure applied in this manner exhausted in one year. My first experiment was in the fall of 1862, when I folded on a piece of mowing which had scarcely paid for the cutting; in 1863 I took off two heavy crops, and the present crop promises to fully equal that of last year.

I have previously given my views on this subject in the Co. Genl., but I regard it as one of great importance and I trust this statement of facts will induce many to try the experiment for themselves the coming season. The cost is trifling and the profit large.—EDWARD R. ANDREWS, in *Country Gentleman*.

Teeth of the Sheep.

The sheep has thirty-two molar teeth—eight incisors in front of lower jaw, and six molars on each side in the upper and lower jaw. The lamb at birth has two incisor teeth visible, or pressing through the gums. Usually before it is a month old it has eight comparatively short, narrow ones. At about a year old, though sometimes not until the fourteenth or sixteenth month, the two central "lamb teeth" are shed and replaced by two "broad teeth," which gradually attain their full size. The sheep is then termed a yearling, or "yearling past." Two lamb teeth continue to be shed annually and replaced by broad teeth, until the sheep has eight incisors of second growth, when it is termed "full mouthed."

The teeth afford the most decisive test there is of the age of a sheep, until it is four years old, though there is sometimes a variation of a number of months, or even a year in their development. High kept and rapidly grown sheep acquire their second teeth earlier.

When perfect, the incisors are sharp and rounded on the edge, a little concave without and convex within (or gouge-shaped); and they project forward, so that with the firm, elastic pad on the upper jaw, with which they are brought into contact, they are capable of taking up the smallest body. They will not only crop the shortest grass, but scoop up its very roots. A sheep yarded on unpulled turnips, usually scoops out the centres of them so far as they are in the ground, leaving little more than the mere skin of the sides and bottoms, remaining like cups in the soil.

At six years old the incisors of the Merino begin to diminish in breadth and lose their fan-like shape and position. At seven they become long and narrow, stand about perpendicular with respect to each other, and have lost their rounded, cutting edges. At eight they are still narrower, and their outer ends begin to converge considerably towards the middle. At nine the convergency is still greater, the teeth are not thicker than very small straws, and are very long, particularly the middle ones. At ten these appearances have increased and the teeth are becoming quite loose. At about this period of life the teeth begin to drop out, though frequently all are retained until twelve. The sheep is then called "broken mouthed." In two or three years after beginning to lose them, all the incisors are usually gone but one or two. These should be pulled by a pair of nippers, as they prevent the sheep from cropping short grass. The gum of the lower jaw hardens after the removal, so that it becomes, in a measure, a substitute for the lost incisors, in separating their food. The molars, though shortened and worn, are never shed, so that mastication continues complete. Old breeding ewes often live, thrive, and raise good lambs three or four years after ceasing to have any front teeth.—*Prairie Farmer*.

Concussion as a Remedy for Grub in the Head.

ON page 151, No. 10 of THE CANADA FARMER, we inserted a letter from Mr. B. M. Clark, of Ernestown, in which knocking sheep on the head was recommended as a remedy for the grub. We thought it a severe and hazardous mode of treatment, and doubted its efficacy. We notice, however, a somewhat similar case to that detailed by Mr. Clark in the *Rural New Yorker*, of July 23, which we transfer to our columns as a confirmation of our correspondent's theory and practice, strange and harsh as it may appear at the first blush:—

"J. McDONALD GLENN & BRO., Noblestown, Alleghany Co., Pa., writes us.—'Grub in the head is now being a good deal written about. We knew of a ram which was thought hopelessly affected, and being so reduced that he was unable to stand, it was determined to put him out of his misery. He was struck two or three severe blows with a heavy stick on the forehead up near the horns. This dislodged 10 or 12 large grubs. This being observed he was let alone, and in two hours he got up, and his recovery commenced. Would it not be advisable for those having sheep thus affected, to place a bit of wood on the forehead and strike it smartly with a hammer to see if the concussion will not dislodge the worms? We think it worth the trial.'

Fine-woolled Sheep in Illinois.

THE *Prairie Farmer* asserts that as good fine-woolled sheep are to be found in Northern Illinois as in Vermont; and that the celebrated sheep which carried off the great prize at the Hamburg Exhibition, last year, have been outdone by the sheep raised by Mr. Kelly, of Wheaton, Du Page county, Illinois. These sheep were exhibited at the Illinois State Fair, last fall, where they took the first premium, as the best pair of ewe lambs. Their weights and weights of fleeces are given below:—

Three ewe lambs receiving 1st prize: weights respectively, 143, 124, and 14 lbs.

Three yearling ewes, 1st prize, 15, 15 and 13 lbs., the latter having raised a lamb.

Three old ewes, 1st prize: 143, 15 and 124 lbs.; the latter having raised twins.

The united weight of fleeces of the 9 ewes and 1 buck, taking the 1st prize in sweepstakes, was 1394 lbs. Included in this were the fleeces of 6 ewes (yearlings when awarded the prize) and shorn on the 18th day of June last year; hence their fleeces are the growth of but 10 months and 16 days. The 2nd prize in sweepstakes was also awarded to Mr. Kelly on older sheep which gave a larger average yield. This, compared with Mr. Campbell's sheep, which went to Hamburg (being only about 12 lbs. per head), certainly puts Illinois ahead of Vermont, and shows that the awards of the committee were well made at our last fair.

A WOOLLEY LAMB.—Last fall, Jos. W. Worcester, of Lorain, sold a June buck lamb to W. B. Asmun, of Summit, for \$30. This lamb was wintered along with a lot of other sheep, and in May, when the lamb was eleven months old, was shorn, and yielded ten and a half pounds of wool, the weight of carcass being at the same time just thirty-three pounds. This comes within the merest fraction of being thirty-three per cent. of wool. Last week Mr. Worcester sold a splendid young Tottinham ram to Geo. W. Knapp, of Norwalk.—*Ohio Farmer*.

A GOOD AVERAGE.—Mr. N. T. Sprague, Jr., of Brandon, Vt., writes us that his flock of "Spanish Infatado sheep," numbering 36 head, 27 of which are ewes, altogether sheared 459 lbs. of wool—an average of 123 lbs. per head. One yearling buck named "Tom Sayers," weighed before he was shorn, 78 lbs., and the fleece taken from him weighed 174 lbs. Mr. Sprague was offered for this lamb last fall \$1,000. Another, "Heenan" by name, weighed before shearing 97 lbs., and his fleece weighed 154 lbs. Both had even, thick fleeces with long staple, and even the fore arm of the latter was filled under with wool.—*Co. Genl.*

THE WEALTH OF THE WOOL CROP.—The *Daily Wisconsin* says:—"The wool crop of the West this year will compensate many farmers for the loss of their wheat crop. This State will sell at least 4,500,000 pounds of wool at \$1 per pound. The wool crop of Michigan for the present season is estimated at twelve million pounds. The State has now about four and a half million of sheep. In ordinary years the crop of Wisconsin and Michigan did not command more than one-third the money it does at the present time. It can be seen at a glance that if the farmers receive four and one-half million dollars for their wool crop, and Michigan twelve millions, what a resource they have to compensate for their deficiencies in the harvest."

SHEEP IN OHIO.—The number of sheep in Ohio at the several periods is given in an article upon Ohio statistics: In 1840, 2,028,400; in 1850, 3,942,928; in 1860, 3,368,174; in 1861, 3,934,763; in 1862, 4,448,227; in 1864, 4,800,000. In 1860 the number of sheep was 600,000 less than in 1850, the cause being the reduction of the tariff 1846-7, the full effect of which on agriculture did not take place till several years had elapsed. Between 1852 and 1860, sheep fell off \$800,000. The average product of wool per sheep, as deduced from the census, was: In 1840, 3,685,315 lbs., average 14 lbs.; in 1850, 10,196,371 lbs., average 24 lbs.; in 1860, 10,649,161 lbs., average 31.0 lbs. It will be seen from this statement that the average product of wool per sheep had nearly doubled from 1840 to 1860. This is an extraordinary fact in agriculture, and is a demonstration of the superior productive value of blooded, or high-bred animals. There can be little doubt that the average fleece of Ohio in 1864 is fully four pounds, which would give at least nineteen millions of pounds of wool for the State.—*Prairie Farmer*.