

The Agricultural Gazette

The Official Bulletin of the Dominion Cattle, Sheep, and Swine Breeders' Associations, and of the Farmers' Institute System of the Province of Ontario.

THE DOMINION CATTLE, SHEEP, AND SWINE BREEDERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Annual Membership Fees:—Cattle Breeders' \$1; Sheep Breeders' \$1; Swine Breeders' \$1.
BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP.

Each member receives a free copy of each publication issued by the Association to which he belongs, during the year in which he is a member. In the case of the Swine Breeders' Association this includes a copy of the Swine Record.

A member of the Swine Breeders' Association is allowed to register pigs at 50c. per head; non-members are charged \$1.00 per head.

A member of the Sheep Breeders' Association is allowed to register sheep at 50c. per head, while non-members are charged \$1.00.

The name and address of each member, and the stock he has for sale, are published once a month. Over 9,000 copies of this directory are mailed monthly. Copies are sent to each Agricultural College and each Experiment Station in Canada and the United States, also to prominent breeders and probable buyers resident in Canada, the United States and elsewhere.

A member of an Association will only be allowed to advertise stock corresponding to the Association to which he belongs; i.e., to advertise cattle he must be a member of the Dominion Cattle Breeders' Association, to advertise sheep he must be a member of the Dominion Sheep Breeders' Association, and to advertise swine he must be a member of the Dominion Swine Breeders' Association.

The list of cattle, sheep, and swine for sale will be published in the third issue of each month. Members having stock for sale, in order that they may be included in the Gazette, are required to notify the undersigned by letter on or before the 5th of each month, of the number, breed, age, and sex of the animals. Should a member fail to do this his name will not appear in that issue. The data will be published in the most condensed form.

A. P. WESTERVELT, Secretary.
Parliament Buildings, Toronto, Ont.

Exhibitors Report on the Feeding of their Prize-Winners at the Provincial Winter Fair.

In our issue of last week we gave the information furnished by three of the exhibitors of fat cattle at the Provincial Winter Fair held in London, Ont., as to the breeding, care, and feeding of their stock. By a printer's error, the introduction explaining this was inadvertently left out. These three exhibitors were the only ones in the fat cattle section that gave information which might entitle them to an additional ten per cent. on their prize money, but a number of the sheep and poultry and two of the swine exhibitors have supplied valuable information, a portion of which is given below.

How I Fed My Sheep for the Provincial Winter Fair.

BY JOHN JACKSON, ABINGDON.

The sheep we exhibited were all pure-bred Southdowns. Beginning with the three shearling wethers, dropped about the middle of March, 1898, these had no extra care before going out to grass where they ran with their dams without other food till the 1st of July. They were then weaned and put on oat stubble, where $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of rape seed per acre had been sown with the oats. About the 20th of August these were castrated, being the culls of the ram lambs. Castrating was done by cutting off the end of the scrotum and taking out the testicles in the ordinary way, pouring in a 20 per cent. solution of carbolic acid, after which the lambs were kept in a rather dark box stall for ten days. It is important that the operation be done as

quickly and with as little excitement and worry to the lambs as possible; better results would be obtained by castrating them when two or three weeks old. These lambs were again put on the stubble. The rape made a fine growth through September. About the middle of October they were put inside, fed a mixed feed of oats, bran and a little oil cake, commencing with $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. and increasing to $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. per day, with two or three lbs. of mangolds and what clover hay they would eat up clean. This was continued for six weeks, when they were shown as lambs at the Provincial Fat Stock Show, Brantford, 1898, where two of them took 1st and 2nd in their class, and the trio were 1st for pen of three. They were then run through the winter with the ewe lambs on about $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of the mixed feed and two lbs. of mangolds with hay for about 150 days, and again turned on grass without grain. The one that won 1st in his class at London, the sweepstake in the Southdown class, and the grand sweepstake of the show, was run in this way till the middle of October. Having no rape this year, owing to drouth, for part of the time the pasture was very poor indeed. The other two wethers, one of which was 3rd in his class and the other 5th in the dressed carcass class, were put in with the show sheep on the 8th of July, getting an average of 1 lb. of mixed grain feed per day, with green food, vetches, peas and oats and was out in pasture at night till about the 8th of August, after which they were kept inside and clover hay was substituted for the green food. These two were shown for about six weeks at the fall shows which brought them to the middle of October.

The wether lambs born in April, that won 1st and 2nd prizes in their class, were castrated when young, and

run on the pasture till and after being weaned, without grain feed up to the middle of October. The other one shown, which was in the 1st prize pen of three, was castrated in November (but this practice is not recommended).

The six ewe lambs were dropped in March and April, fed in the ordinary way till they were turned on grass about the 1st of May, and got nothing more till weaned the 8th of July. Four of these were gradually fed the grain mixture till 1 lb. per day was reached with green food as above, then taken the round of the fall shows, which brought them to the middle of October. The other two (which were twins), one of which won 1st prize in the class, ran on the grass and stubble till the middle of October. The lot were awarded 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in their class, and 1st and 2nd for pens of three. After the middle of October up to the time of the show, some 56 days, the whole lot were kept inside on clover hay, 3 lbs. of roots, and an average of $1\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. of the mixed grain feed per head a day.

COST OF THE GRAIN FEED.

To sum up the results, we find the grand sweepstake wether was in prime condition, and from birth, in feeding and fitting for the two years' shows, had consumed about 200 lbs. of grain fed at a cost of 1c. per lb., or \$2. The other two wethers in feeding and fitting for the two seasons, including the fall shows, had consumed about 300 lbs. of the grain feed each, or \$3. These were too ripe and overdone, and when put on the block were entirely too fat to win, one dressing 66 per cent. of his live weight, and that without shrinking, being within 1 lb. of the heaviest carcass in the show.

The 1st and 2nd prize wether lambs were in prime condition for the Christmas market, and had consumed only 70 lbs. of grain feed each at a cost of 70c.

The four ewe lambs fitted for the fall shows had consumed 170 lbs. each of grain feed at a cost of \$1.70 each. It will be seen that, in knocking about for six weeks at the fall shows, a large portion of this would be lost, from a mutton standpoint. The other two lambs, which included the 1st prize winner, consumed only 70 lbs., at a cost of 70c. each for the grain fed. This leads to the conclusion that six weeks is about the right length of time to feed lambs to put them in prime condition for the market. It must be borne in mind that well-bred lambs (not necessarily