

which is so pronounced in the animal in the "pink of condition." It is the aim of the feeder to finish the sheep just before the show or to have them nearly finished, but in any case the flesh which they carry must be kept firm and not allowed to become soft or to slip on the sides. The sheep will often become very delicate in their feeding during the hot weather and it is important to remember these points:—

1. Do not feed more than the sheep will eat.
2. Always keep the troughs clean.
3. Keep a good supply of fresh water before the animals at all times.
4. Keep a box of salt in one corner of the feed trough. A medicated salt may be used as it acts as a good conditioner.

From the writer's viewpoint, the importance of exercise in fitting sheep cannot be too strongly emphasised, for when they are being fed a heavy ration of grain, it sharpens the appetite, helps to keep the digestive organs working freely and improves the carriage and alertness of the animal. A lack of exercise often causes the flesh to be put on in soft flabby lumps over the body and is also accompanied by a notable weakness of pasterns. A sheep which is carrying a large amount of flesh must have strong pasterns to sustain its weight. The sheep should have shelter from the strong sun during the day in cool, well ventilated barns, darkened to protect them from flies, and in the evening they should be turned out on good clean pasture where they will have to crop over a considerable area in search of food.

When the pastures become dried up and short, rape will be old enough to be cut and fed to the sheep. They should receive all they will eat with their other feed, that is, grain fed in the morning and evening, followed by

green feed and then clover or alfalfa hay. Green feed may also be fed at noon if the sheep desire it. An excellent grain ration consists of a mixture of equal parts of bran and oats with the addition of a small quantity of oilcake. Peas also make a very good fattening food but it possesses such strong and heating qualities that its use during the summer months, except by an experienced feeder, should be discouraged. Lincolns, Cotswolds and Leicesters may be safely given a larger proportion of grain than some of the Down breeds such as Shropshires and Southdowns. By the middle of August a welcome variation in the diet may be made, for early cabbages and turnips will be fit to use. A good feeder will always endeavour to find something to tempt the sheep to eat heartily, knowing that "good digestion ever waits on appetite."

CARE OF THE EWES BEFORE LAMBING

To insure good strong lambs, the ewes must receive a moderate amount of care so as to be in a strong condition before parturition. They should be allowed to run on pasture until the snow falls and may then be fed outside in troughs if the weather is not too stormy and a shelter or barn is not convenient for use. If they are in good condition, liberal feeds of roots and hay without any grain will be all that is necessary. It is important that the ewes should not be too fat. Two weeks before the lambing season begins, the ewes should be brought into a warm dry barn which has plenty of windows to admit light and sunshine. Grain should now be added to the feed, and the quantity of roots increased so as to insure a maximum flow of milk for the rearing of the lamb. The lambs should come between the first of February and the middle of March.