

pet lamb. It is helping them and influencing them for the better more than we know. The tending of the lamb is developing a love for the live stock of the farm, and of caring for the same. Then let the little folks get all the good they can and all the enjoyment that they can out of the pet lamb. And when the time comes for parting with the lamb, be sure to give them the price. They have earned it. Let them have it to be theirs. It will do them good, because of the encouragement it will give them to care for other lambs, and to do other work that will bring them money. In this way habits of industry will be encouraged, and the love of farm work will be strengthened. But if the little folks prefer to keep the lamb rather than to sell it, then let it be kept. If the lamb is sold and borne away with eyes looking after it half hid in tears, cords are sundered which may mean far more than separation from the lamb. They may mean the severance of ties which bind to the farm and farm life. Cut those moorings and away the little folks drift, and oftentimes on a very turbulent sea. Look well after the pet lambs both in the paddock and also in the home.

Sift out the Culls.

The fall of the year is the season when the shepherd finally separates the inferior sheep from the others, but he should look ahead. Perhaps he is breeding purebreds; if so, he will have some lambs which will not be promising. If he has, let him give them due attention. If they are males, they should be castrated. If they have upon them the stamp of inferiority, why should they be longer left uncastrated? What good can come of selling culls as breeders? They will injure the man who buys them because their progeny will be inferior. They will injure the man who sells them because their progeny will be inferior. They will injure purebred stock because of the prejudice which they will beget. And they will in this way injure the cause of progress. Therefore let the culls be sifted out. Let them be got in shape for being disposed of. The day once was when anything called purebred was considered good enough to buy and good enough to sell, but that day is now gone, and we trust forever. It is a great pity that such a day ever existed. The man who sold such stuff did his neighbor a wrong, and the man who bought it did himself a wrong. Only the average, and what is above the average, is good enough to keep for breeding uses.

Autumn Lambs from Grade Sheep.

Can we obtain autumn lambs from ordinary grade sheep? This question very naturally comes into the mind of those who have bred lambs for the market, and more especially since Dorset sheep have been introduced into this country. Can the other breeds be made to bring forth at that season? And is there any process by which we can get lambs from grades without resorting to an infusion of Dorset blood?

These are important questions. How shall they be answered? Our belief is that any habit within the realm of changes that are reasonable can be engrafted on purebreds as well as upon grades, but to engraft some habits would require many years, and a good deal of persevering effort, and we lean to the belief that the habit of dropping lambs in the autumn by breeds which have been accustomed to drop them in the spring from generation to generation would be one of those habits that it would be difficult to impart so that it would become uniform and constant in its action.

Such a habit could only be secured by a certain line of breeding and selection continued through a long course of years, and it would be, in outline, as follows: Ewes would have to be selected which had dropped lambs early the previous season. They would require to be put on some kind of stimulating food, a few weeks before the normal season for breeding, to induce them to breed earlier. In this way some advance would be made in the direction of early breeding. The ewe lambs dropped thus early would require to be similarly handled when old enough to breed, and some further advance would probably thus be made. This process would have to be continued from generation to generation, until fixity of habit were secured; that is to say, until the habit of producing lambs had been shifted from spring until fall, and until it had become so fixed that it could be reckoned on with certainty. And, while the transforming process was going on from generation to generation, the ewes which failed to breed as desired would have to be discarded. Such a transformation by this method would take a long time, so long that only some wealthy farmer could afford to do it who engaged in agriculture as a pastime.

But, by using pure Dorset rams, such a transformation should be rapid, rather than slow. It should accomplish the end sought in a limited number of generations. If Dorset rams were crossed upon ordinary grade females, no advance, of course, could be looked for until the female progeny of the first generation were ready to be bred. From their sire they would inherit the