

prevent her udder getting dirty, causing the lamb to refuse its food,

Then sheep require salt regularly once a week, or, what is better, keep rock salt, or a box of salt, at all times within their reach. While the ewe is suckling her lambs she requires generous treatment, so that the lamb may not be stunted but kept growing in its youth. In about a week or ten days after the ewes are shorn the lambs should be dipped in a sheep dip, for about this time if any sheep ticks are in the flock they will be upon the lambs.

In my opinion more of our farmers should have a breeding flock corresponding in numbers with the size of the farm and the other live stock kept. For the capital invested, the feed consumed, and the time and labor expended, none of our domestic animals are so profitable.

MISTAKES IN SHEEP BREEDING.—It is a mistake to pasture sheep on the highways during the summer months, to be run up and down by all the passing dogs who take great delight in chasing them. Besides, the owner is losing their manure, which is very important, for the amount of food consumed. The droppings of sheep have more manurial value than that of other animals kept on the farm.

It is a mistake to think that a straw stack is sufficient protection, and that the sheep can pick from it all the food they need during the winter. Is it any surprise the sheep kept in this way are a disappointment and the owner says that sheep do not pay? For in the spring the sheep that remain alive to tell the tale will probably have lost about half their wool, and the little that remains will be of very poor quality.

It is a mistake to think that the only use for a sheep is as a scavenger to eat down the briars and other bushes on the back lot and around the fences, and to keep down the thistles and weeds upon the summer fallow, if there should happen to be one. None of our animals respond to generous treatment more readily than the sheep.

It is a mistake to crowd too many sheep into an ill ventilated pen or stable, during the winter season, or to have too many on the pasture during the summer. During the winter sheep need protection from the storms, but the buildings need not be expensive nor too warm; all that is needed is for them to be kept dry and sheltered from the winds. In the summer they require plenty of pasture, but it should not be allowed to grow too high or to run to seed, because they prefer the sweet and fresh grass near to the ground. They like changes, and it is better if it can be so arranged to have them a few days in one field, or portion of a field, and change to another field.

It is a mistake to use a scrub sire, because he can be bought cheap. Some farmers go to a sheep dealer

and pick a ram from the flock he has bought to ship to some lamb market, and get a sire at about mutton prices, because they say that it would not pay them to go to a pure-bred breeder, and pay the price for a good pure bred sire. The result is that in all probability they get a mongrel-bred sire, and as like begets like his get have no particular type or character, because he has none to transmit.

AVOID CHANGES OF BREED.—It is a mistake to change the breed every time a change of sire is necessary. It is better to aim to have some particular breed in view, and keep to it, always buying sires of that particular breed. If good sires are selected the flock will soon have the type and character of that breed, and it will be uniform, and when either wool or mutton is desired to be sold it will command the highest price.

It is a mistake to go out of keeping sheep every time there is a change of government, or because there is a temporary depression in prices. It is true that legislation may help some industries, but it would be folly for the stock breeder or farmer to look for success in that direction. Success depends more on the knowledge, thrift, energy, economy and business-like tactics adopted by the manager of the industry, whatsoever kind it may be. Besides is it not a well known fact that there is nothing we raise or produce upon our farms but has its season of depression?

It is a mistake to say that sheep do not pay. There are but few farmers or breeders who carry on their business either for the pleasure or fun there is in it. Nearly all of us who are engaged in these occupations are doing so because our bread and butter depends upon them. If the sheep business does not pay us, we should certainly go out of it. There are two sources of revenue from the sheep each year, wool and mutton. It used to be said that the wool would pay for the sheep. But that was when wool commanded a higher price than it does at present, but with the addition of the crop of lambs we not only get return for food consumed and attention given, but interest on the investment and a profit besides. I have sold lambs for mutton purposes in the early part of November at \$4.12½ per cwt. that realized \$5.60 each. A flock of grade ewes are worth \$6 to \$10 each, and the flock of ewes raise one and a half lambs to the flock. By selling the crop of lambs in the fall the investment is returned, and the flock of ewes remains to the good.

It is a mistake to assume that sheep require but little or no attention. The careful shepherd will see that his flock has plenty of nutritious food during the summer months, and a similar ration during the winter, for he knows that it is only in this way that the crop of wool will have a long, lustrous, and strong fibre. The flock will be kept

healthy and vigorous and, consequently, profitable.

Buying and Feeding Cattle for the British Market.

By Simpson Rennie, Milliken, Ont.

One of the most important objects to keep in view in discussing this subject is the selection of the right class of cattle for feeding purposes.

No one could expect first-class results under any conditions unless the right class of cattle is selected. Year by year I find it more difficult to procure suitable cattle for feeding. This may be accounted for by the introduction of the dairy breeds, which are unsuitable for feeding, especially for export to Britain.

I find the Shorthorn, Angus, Hereford, and many of their crosses make excellent feeders. Some years ago there was no difficulty in buying all the feeders required from the farmers near by; but since the introduction of the dairy breeds scarcely one can now be found. This necessitates our going to such markets as Toronto, and even there it requires careful selection, on account of the great numbers of inferior animals which are bred, raised, and find their way to that market.

It should be the aim of the feeder to buy nice, fleshy, straight, thrifty, young cattle weighing ten or eleven hundred pounds, and the younger the better, provided they have the weight.

I usually have the cattle finished in five and a half months. They are put in the stable by the 1st of December, or a few days before, if the weather is rough, and finished by the middle of May. I never tried feeding loose. I have them all in pairs, and it is very important to be very gentle with them when they are first being tied up, and not to excite them in any way, for an excitable animal is usually a poor feeder. In order to destroy the lice, almost as soon as the cattle are tied up the long hair should be shorn from their tails, along the top of their backs, necks, and heads; then with an old cloth apply black oil, made from crude petroleum to which has been added one half pint of spirits of turpentine to a gallon of oil. If you neglect attending to this until some time after the cattle have been stalled, the heat in a warm place will cause the lice to spread, not only over all the cattle, but also on the partitions of the stable, and thus become a source of annoyance for years to come.

GOOD CARE IS VERY IMPORTANT.

Do not allow children or dogs to run through the stable making a noise. Do not prod the cattle's heels with the fork when shaking up the bedding. I find by keeping cattle quiet in the stable that less food is required to make the same gain. Cattle should never be turned out in cold weather to drink ice-cold water. They do better