

and recovered judgment against me, and I had to pay it. The agent still has the reaper in his possession. Have I any remedy against him?—G. W. L. New Brunswick.

We cannot see that you have any remedy against the agent, who is, no doubt, holding the reaper subject to your order. If the reaper was satisfactory your proper course was to defend the action brought by the company against you for the price of same. You apparently defended this action, but the company succeeded in same and you have had to pay for the reaper. Having paid for it, you are, of course, entitled to possession of it, unless it is being detained from your possession for some other reason.

Long or Short Tails on Sheep

Why the tail is needed by sheep is one of those questions which none can answer with any degree of satisfaction. Some tail is necessary for the protection of a very sensitive part of the anatomy, the termination of the bowel, and the still more tender part of the female anatomy. But three inches of tail is ample for the complete protection of these delicate parts of the animal. The sheep does not require a tail as the horses or cattle do, for protection against flies, and further than the few inches of the docked tail will afford. Generally the undocked tail is a nuisance, and mischievous to a sheep, as it harbors filth, which attracts flies, and these are often so inveterate in their attacks on the fouled parts of the sheep as to cause the worst possible infliction on the wretched animal, which becomes typhoid and suffers most agonizing death by being literally eaten and consumed alive by slow torture due to the myriads of maggots which infest it. It is an uncommon sight to see a miserable animal eaten to the bones of the rump by fly maggots, until at last it hides itself in some secluded place and submits to the inevitable death by the slow torture inflicted on it by the thousands of maggots. Often these parasites spread far over the hind parts of the sheep, collecting in the fouled wool, and practically the sheep is devoured alive.

So, too, the long wool about the udder is the most effective cause of infection of the lambs by the worst of parasites, such as the knotty-guts worm, and every kind of tape worm which infests the sheep; thus, of course, the long tail is the active means of spreading the filth over the whole of the hinder part of the sheep, and especially of the thighs and udder, and in this way actually poisoning the lambs. On the whole, we cannot avoid the logical results of all the conditions existing in this respect, and therefore we must be forced to secure the sheep, and the lambs, by this necessary means to ensure cleanliness by which so many evils may be avoided.

Usually the lambs are docked when two weeks old or even sooner, and the time just now is pertinent to consider that if any lambs have not been docked, it should be done at some convenient time when opportunities are favorable, and not until the next crop of lambs are in hand for the same care. One person may easily dock a lamb when three weeks old by taking the animal under the left arm, with the rump forward, and with the left hand fingers slipping back the loose skin of the tail toward the rump, and with the right hand clipping the tail with a pair of pruning shears, so as to leave not over three inches; then with the right hand



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fingers apply a pinch or two of finely powdered bluestone, and draw down the skin over the end. The lambs will scarcely feel the operation after a few minutes. Generally they hurry to the ewe and take comfort by a drink of milk, and then go to play. In a flock of thousands not a lamb has suffered any discomfort by the operation done this way. The old-fashioned, complicated method of searing the wound is properly obsolete, and as a refinement of cruelty, only possible under the grossest ignorance and absence of all sparks of humanity.—Irish Farming World.

The Farmer of the Future

The Hon. James Wilson, U. S. Secretary of Agriculture, says: "The farmer of the future must be a practical scientist. The man who does not understand the science of the soil has no business on the farm; if the boy wants to be a farmer it is just as necessary that he take a course at an agricultural college as it is to the boy who wants to be a lawyer, a doctor or a preacher, to have university education."

White Markings on Horses' Legs

In a recent issue of *Farm and Home*, London, Mr. H. E. Fawcett gives the following as representing the English markets on this subject.

It is a widely prevalent opinion that white markings on the legs of horses are indicative of a want of strength and of toughness in the white-colored portion of the limb, but practical experience does not in any way bear out this theory, which appears to be based simply on surmise and tradition. It is, therefore, safe to consider that there is nothing in it, and no weight or importance need, therefore, be attached to it. If this theory that white markings are associated with want of strength or with actual weakness in the part of the leg which is colored white were based upon solid fact, one ought to find that sprains and various forms of unsoundness, such as ring-bone, sidebone, splints, and windgalls occur more frequently among horses with white markings on their legs than among horses in which these white markings are absent. As a matter of fact, this is not the case, and the different forms of unsoundness being equally common in both groups. In the case of white markings the skin at the part which is colored white is, as a rule, pink, and not of the usual dark color. It may possibly be that the pink colored skin is less hard and more delicate than dark-colored, although it cannot be said that this is so.

When the horn of a horse's hoofs is colored white it is very generally regarded as being softer than dark horn, and this is undoubtedly the case in many instances. But in the case of the colored horn being rather soft is not, as a rule, of any practical importance, and not in any way detrimental to the usefulness of a horse. From a practical point of view white markings on the legs of horses are objectionable on account of their showing stains so easily, and also because some extra trouble is involved in cleaning the legs and in removing the stains. These objections, of course, only apply in the case of horses in which appearances are of importance, such as hunters, hacks and harness horses. White on the legs is very prevalent in the Hackney breed, very extensive white markings often being met with among Hackneys. Though for so these are not objectionable in the Hackney, they are certainly a bit of a nuisance in a Hackney stallion that is used for breeding harness horses, because the markings are generally transmitted by him to his progeny. In Shire horses white markings on the legs are fashionable, and they are regarded by Shire breeders as an important and desirable characteristic of the breed. They need not occur on all four legs, but should at any rate be present in two legs, according to the present-day fashion. It is of interest to note that white markings on the legs are common in the hind legs than in the fore limbs. It is comparatively rarely found that the markings occur only in the fore legs, and not in the hind ones as well, while the reverse—i.e., white behind and no markings in front—is most common. The chestnut color in horses is more often associated with white markings than any other color. Next to chestnut they are most frequently met with in bays and browns, while they occur least frequently in black and roan horses. It is often said that white markings on the legs, when present in an sire or dam, tend to become more extensive in the foal than they are in the parents, but this is an opinion that is not supported by real facts.

Which animal is satisfied with the least amount of nourishment?

The moth. It only eats holes.