

## About Sheep and Swine

### Preparing Wool for Market.

The price of wool may be lowered or increased by the condition it is in when marketed. The condition of the wool at marketing should be uniform throughout. If it is washed on the sheep's back see to it that the sheep are washed so the wool will be clean, and do not let them run until the wool contains much grease and dirt as it held before the sheep were washed. Tags should not be tied up in the inside of fleeces, but sold separately. If wool is to be shorn unwashed, the same care ought to be taken to keep the fleeces free from tags and use all diligence in keeping all foreign substances from the fleeces.

The question of tying the fleeces is also to be carefully considered. Use twine which will not damage the wool. Never use binder twine, as the fibres of sisal refuse to take color, and in sorting wool these sisal fibres cost the manufacturer much trouble and annoyance. Coarse, loose twine of any kind should not be used. Use a small linen or hemp twine, putting one string around each way of the bundle. In tying spread the fleece out on a clean floor with the outer ends of the wool up. Fold the skirts of the fleece in towards the centre only a trifle at each end, but considerable on the sides, so that the sides lap well, and roll the fleece from end to end, making a short cylindrical roll of wool. When rolled this way a small hemp or linen twine run around the roll a little distance from each end will do. Some fleeces are tied with a roll of wool, a plan that is not to be recommended as it does not leave the fleece in good condition and binds it too closely in some places; besides it leaves the fleece in the best possible condition to get torn. Keep out the tags, put all the wool and nothing else into the roll and tie up as described above, and you will get all for your wool which the market will allow.

### Raising Lambs.

At lambing time, especially in cold weather, close attention is very necessary; see that each lamb is on its feet and partaking of a square meal before it becomes chilled.

It is well to clip the wool from the ewe's udder so that the lamb does not exhaust itself pulling at a wool tag, and perhaps swallow some wool which may cause death. Put the ewe in a small pen while lambing, and for a few days after. For profit the early lamb must move along rapidly from birth to market, that is, keep them doing their best every day. First look to the ewe, from her the lamb gets the important part of his food, feed the ewe generously of protein feeds to be turned readily into milk, milk being rich in protein is just what the lamb needs to make muscle, nerve and blood, to grow his frame and build up his young tissue. Feed in flat bottom troughs as they are apt to bolt their food if fed from V-shaped troughs. The ewe should be fed a light grain ration the first day or two after lambing, then increase the ration until you reach as large a quantity as the ewe will consume, the object being to force these animals for milk production same as the dry cow. Ewes dropping two lambs, and not having sufficient milk for both, can be assisted by giving the lambs an occasional meal of cow's milk, from a bottle or self-feeder, a more

profitable way to market milk than by selling it at some creamery.

When the young lambs show a disposition to eat hay or grain a lamb creep should be provided for them, where they can go and eat grain at will and where the old sheep cannot molest them. The lambs should be encouraged to eat grain as soon as possible, have a flat bottom trough the whole length of lamb creep, with a board placed about six inches above the side of the trough to prevent the lambs from getting their feet into it, as lambs are very dainty about their food. Clean the trough before each feed. I feed lambs bran, oats, coarse corn meal and linseed. Give them what they will eat up clean two or three times a day. A frequent change of grain is found judicious; if any feed is left over clean it out and give to the ewes. Lambs that are made perfectly happy and contented, and fed in this manner, should grow rapidly and be quite profitable to their owner.

### The "Mutton-Loving Dog"

Speaking on sheep farming, at a meeting in Minnesota, where he has been for the past few months, addressing farmers' institute meetings, Mr. Andrew Elliott, of Galt, Ont., or the Hon. Andrew Elliott, as he is called to the south of the line, said: "The draw-backs against the business can be summed up in one word, 'Dogs.' Here, as well as in Canada, we have the dog, the common ordinary mutton-loving dog. (Applause.) In this State there are three classes that are favored with special protective legislation; the dog, the hunter and the saloon man. The dog can range over your farm with impunity as no other domestic animal can. The hunter with a gun, shooting and mangling everything in sight, has protection from trespass that the man without the gun has not. The saloon man in his business of drawing in the raw material to his mill in the shape of the boys of the land, is also protected in his purchased right against the public. Why is it? Because behind all those there are votes, and we are all politicians first and then patriots afterward. (Cheers.) In too many cases the vote of the dog owner is purchasable from the very poverty of the owner. A man who has a hard job to make two ends meet keeps a dog, and if he is receiving charity, he is apt to keep two or three. Keep sheep, they give two crops per year, wool and mutton—what the dogs don't get."

### Feeding and Management of the Boar.

There are few animals about the average farm which receive less consideration than the boar, and yet he should receive more attention than the average male animal in order to obtain the best results. Among the most common mistakes, we find over-feeding, keeping in small, filthy quarters, where exercise is impossible, or allowing to range about the farm in a half-starved condition. While the over-fat boar does not make a satisfactory sire, the half-starved boar cannot transmit vigor and constitution to his progeny to the same degree that he would if properly managed. To get the best results, the boar should be in fair flesh, but should be allowed sufficient exercise to keep him in a hardy, vigorous condition.

The age at which a young boar may be first used, depends largely upon his development. Some young boars

may be used to a few sows when not more than seven months old without apparent injury. As a rule, it is safer not to use a boar before he is eight months old, and to use him as sparingly as possible until he is a year old. No hard and fast rule can be laid down, and the owner must use his own judgment in the matter.

The quarters of the boar should be roomy, clean and well ventilated, and he should have an outdoor lot in which to take exercise. Some boars are very active, and will take plenty of exercise in a comparatively limited space. Others are lazy, and inclined to become too fat. With such boars it will be found beneficial to force them to gather a good part of their living from pasture. In fact, any boar will do better if he has a pasture lot with plenty of shade available during the summer.

The food for the boar should be varied, nutritious and moderately bulky. Succulent foods, such as roots in winter, and green food of some kind in summer, should always be fed with his meal ration. Succulent foods are necessary to keep him in good health. Finely ground oats are very suitable for the main part of his meal ration. An equal weight of middlings or middlings and bran, added to the oats, make a good combination. Small portions of other kinds of meal may be added if desired. Second crop clover or alfalfa hay, cut up finely, steeped in water, and mixed with the meal, makes a good mixture to give variety to the ration. He should be fed only what he will eat up clean; and if he is inclined to become fat and lazy, the amount of food should be reduced.

The boar should not be permitted to serve a sow more than once, and should not be allowed to run with sows to which he is to be bred. These practices tend to exhaust him, and are likely to result in small, weak litters if persisted in. The aim should be to save the boar from all unnecessary service, especially during the heaviest parts of the season.—From "Swine," by Prof. G. E. Day.

### Some New Ideas on Breeding.

The working out of systematic methods of breeding and disseminating various field crops at the Minnesota Experiment Station have attracted widest attention throughout the Northwest and in scientific circles abroad. It has remained for Prof. W. M. Hays, assistant secretary of agriculture, formerly professor of agriculture at the University of Minnesota, to put in book form the latest ideas in breeding animals and plants; drawing on the thought of leading authorities on these subjects and embodying his own extensive experience.

Comprehensive plans of work are described showing how improvement may be made in varieties of wheat, oats, flax, corn, and other field crops. Chapters on breeding of cattle for specific milk or beef production, on breeding horses for speed or draft purposes, on breeding swine for lean meat, give practical value to the book. Suggestions are made also on the formation of co-operative associations for animal breeding operations. It is a book of nearly 200 pages, published and for sale by the Farm Studies Review, St. Anthony Park, Minnesota.

### From the Beginning

We have been taking your paper ever since it started, and do not feel like doing without it.

H. R. MOONEY,  
Meganic Co., Que.