

Keep More Sheep

There is great activity among sheep breeders these days, and the business of sheep raising is on a better footing than it has been for some time. Information bearing upon the industry will, therefore, be helpful. For this reason we are asking our readers for replies to the following questions, and trust there will be a liberal response.

(1) What breed of sheep do you keep?

(2) Have you found them profitable for mutton and wool production?

(3) How has the lamb crop been this season? Have you lost many lambs, and what has been the cause?

(4) Is the worrying of sheep by dogs common in your district? What means would you advise for lessening this evil?

(5) Does it pay to wash sheep? We shall be glad to have answers from our readers to some or all of the questions, and any further information bearing upon the sheep industry that they may care to send. A large number of replies would enable us to form accurate conclusions on several important phases of sheep breeding.

The following reply has been received to the above questions:

1. Shropshires.
2. We find them very profitable for both mutton and wool production and excellent foragers.

3. The lamb crop has been fair this season, mostly all being early lambs. Mortality has been low, only a few having died, due to simply natural causes.

4. No; not a single case has been reported in this vicinity for quite a number of years. No extra precautions have been taken to prevent dogs from worrying sheep, as the number of dogs in this district is comparatively small. There is a tax of one dollar on every dog, and the township allows a bounty of five dollars on any dog killed while worrying sheep. Would advise a strict enforcement of all the laws pertaining to dogs and also that these stray dogs be shot, as it is these that create the mischief.

5. Yes, it pays us in that we get a higher price for the season's clip than we would for the unwashed wool. Think the extra labor incurred is well repaid in the higher price received for the washed wool.

M. C. HANNA,
Waterloo Co., Ont.

Fall Care of Sheep

No stock on the farm receives as little care as the sheep. No stock will do as well under neglect, and yet a little time and attention can be profitably given the flock during the late summer and early fall. There is no stock that relishes a change of pasture more than the sheep and none will respond quicker to its beneficial influence. I have often noticed how ravenously they attacked the weeds, briars and fresh herbage that grow at the roadside while removing them from one pasture to another. At this time of year the goodness for the different weeds is at its height and most farms can well be turned to good account by frequently changing from one field to another, and in this way many weeds may not only be entirely destroyed, but converted into good wool and mutton, just now the best paying products of the farm. Many weeds usually spring up in the new sowing after harvest, not only detrimental to the seedling but giving to the farm an unsightly, slovenly appearance. If a flock of sheep is turned on at the proper time they will



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make short work of rag weed, plantain, etc., and unless kept on too long will not in the least injure the seedling.

I used to think it best to put only a few sheep at a time on the stubble fields for fear they would injure the seedling. I have found it much the better way to turn on a good big flock, but leave them on but a few days. They will soon clip the blossoms from the weeds and as soon as they begin to give too much attention to the seedling they are turned off.

Another decided advantage of frequent change of pasture is that while the sheep is a ravenous and almost omnivorous feeder on all vegetation it is particularly

dainty about eating anything that has been defiled by itself. If the old pasture can have a rest of a week or two and has been washed by a good shower it will be far more palatable, the sheep will eat it with greater relish and will soon give evidence of thrift and improvement.

The careful flockmaster never lets his sheep suffer from lack of water. Because sheep will live without water they are often neglected, and during the dry weather that prevails in the fall they suffer from thirst, as their gaunt, shrunken appearance plainly indicates.

At this time of year it is not at all uncommon to hear a farmer apologize for the unthrifty appearance of his sheep by saying, "They haint had water regular and they're kind of dried up." Going into winter quarters in this condition their wintering is difficult and unsatisfactory. The sheep is particularly hard to bring up into a thrifty condition when once allowed to run down, especially on dry feed in cold weather. Their wintering costs twice what it would if they were in good thrifty condition at the beginning of winter. A little attention to their fall care is time well spent.—E. P.

Multiplying Power of Swine

The story is told of two men driving in one of the western states by the barn of a successful farmer, noticed a thrifty looking sow pig crossed the road before them. They remarked about the beauty of the little animal and the older of the two said: "You may not believe me, but I can take that very little sow and in four years from her increase buy the best eighty acres there is in this neighborhood and have enough hogs left to stock up the farm and pay a good share of the expense in their keeping."

At first thought the statement does not seem possible, but a little figuring will prove that it is not far from the truth.

We will suppose that the sow and all her female increase will farrow for the first time when they are a year old and will give birth to a litter every six months thereafter; and that each litter will average six pigs—three males and, with the mother, four females. In eighteen months she has a second litter. This brings the total up to seven sows and six males. After two years have gone this sow has her third litter and each of the three sows of her first litter also farrow. This brings our number up to forty females and thirty-nine males. In three years the sows of her first, second and third litters will farrow, and in addition nine that were born three each to the three of her first litter. This increases the number to 97 females and 96 males. Thus it goes on in proportions till the end of four years we have a total of 598 females and 597 males, hogs enough to buy a good sized farm.

Between Times

My small friend Dorothy was left to entertain an old friend of the family the other day. The old friend—you know the inane way grown ups have with children—at once began to ask questions.

"Do you like going to school?" he inquired.

"Yes," said Dorothy, "I like going to school and I like coming home. It's staying there between times that sticks me."

Tenant—I came to inform you, sir, that my cellar is full of water.

Landlord—Well, what of it? You surely did not expect a cellar full of champagne for \$10 a month, did you?