

## SHEEP AND SWINE.

### EARLY LAMBS.

The Massachusetts Ploughman says: To those who understand the business, and have buildings arranged for it, early lambs are profitable; but to those who do not understand the business or do not have good quarters for the sheep, it is anything but profitable.

To have early lambs do well they must not be exposed to the cold winds, nor must they be kept in such confined quarters that the air is not good. Sheep are animals that do not take kindly to close confinement; they need the pure air and sunshine for health, and should always have quarters provided them where they can go out in the open air whenever the weather is fair; but during cold weather the yard should be protected from the cold winds. When the weather is not fair they should have plenty of room under cover; for a sheep in cold weather should not be exposed to either rain or snow, especially if they have lambs. Having provided good healthy quarters for the sheep, ample provision should be made for the lambs. They should be kept under cover where there are no sudden changes of temperature, until they are old enough to withstand the cold. The keeper can easily judge when his time comes. Some lambs may be stronger than others and may be given the liberty of the yard younger, but no lambs are so strong that it is safe to let them run out in very cold weather without being continually looked after, for to have early lambs do well they must not be permitted to get chilled; in fact, they must be kept in a comfortable condition all the time, or they will stop growing.

Sheep that have lambs in January or February should be fed in a manner to keep them in the best of health and also in good flesh; for to have the lambs grow fast they must have plenty of good healthy milk in large quantities, which is only obtained by having healthy well-kept mothers. Good sweet hay must be the principal reliance for keeping the sheep, but grain in moderate quantities may be used to advantage; how much to each sheep must be varied according to the quality of the hay, and the condition and peculiarity of each sheep. In fact, the profitable raising of early lambs cannot be done by any rules, but only by an intelligent keeper, who, by experience, is master of his business.

### LINCOLN SHEEP.

The Lincoln sheep are comparatively a rare breed in the United States. They are the largest breed known, under exceptional circumstances dressing up to ninety pounds per quarter. At two years old they are recorded to have dressed one hundred and sixty pounds. They require good care and plenty of succulent food. They have been introduced in some sections of the West and into Canada, and are reported as being well liked, but further time is needed to fully establish their complete adaptability to our Western climate. Other long woolled sheep, as the Cotswold and the larger of the Downs, are giving good satisfaction, and there seems no good reason why these will not, on our flush pastures with some succulent food in winter, do exceedingly well.

In England fourteen pounds of wool has been sheared as a first clip from a lot of thirty yearling wethers, the same averaging one hundred and forty pounds each, live weight, at fourteen months old. They have been known in the United States since 1835, and their long, lustrous fleeces, measuring nine inches in length, are the perfection of combing wool.

The Lincolns, originally, were large, coarse, and with ragged, oily fleeces and hard feeders. The improved Lincolns were made by judicious crosses of Leicester rams, careful selection and good feeding, and in England their wool has now a separate class at the fairs.

### COOKED VS. RAW FOOD FOR PIG FEEDING.

Prof. Brown, of the Ontario Agricultural College, offers the following opinion on a much disputed point: The present practice with the greater number, in any country, I believe, is to prepare food for pigs either by steeping, steaming, or boiling, under the belief that cooking in any shape is better than giving in the raw state. I am not at present prepared to say definitely what other kinds of food may do raw or cooked, with pigs or other domesticated animals, or how the other animals would thrive with peas or corn, raw or boiled; but I now assert on the strongest possible grounds—by evidence indisputable, again and again proved by actual trials, in various temperatures, with a variety of the same animals, variously conducted—that for fast and cheap production of pork, raw peas are fifty per cent. better than cooked peas or Indian corn in any shape.

### THE DOWN BREEDS OF SHEEP.

To make a poor pun, one may truthfully say the "Down" breeds of sheep are on the top now. There are many more Merinos in this country than of all the middle-wool breeds combined, and there is much interest in them. The long-wool breeds have their decided partisans; but the various breeds called "Downs" are apparently most rapidly rising in favour. We are glad to have so enthusiastic praise of the Southdowns, in recent numbers, by breeders of these, perhaps one of the most perfect-formed of all breeds; but it must not be understood that the Southdown has the field to itself. The Oxford Downs are being strongly pushed as combining most of the merits of the long-wool sheep with the good quality of the Southdowns. In England the Hampshire Down has been called the "coming sheep," and certainly the record the breed has made in the South of England, especially in the way of producing lambs reaching enormous weights early in the season, is marvellous. It can be retorted, however, that whatever may be the "coming sheep," Shropshire sheep have, in England and Scotland, already "come," and promise to stay. This breed is now the most widely popular sheep in England and Scotland. Lacking perhaps the beauty and remarkable finish of the Southdown, and probably not equalling it in fineness of mutton; reared, usually, in a more northern climate, it does not quite equal the Hampshire in great weights for lambs early in the season, and does not reach the size of the Oxford Downs. It has, however, good size; is hardy, unusually prolific, and gives a good fleece of good wool, while its mutton is nearly of the highest quality, so near that there is found little or no difference in price between it and that for the mutton of the

best of the black-legged breeds. For considerable sections of the country we believe that some of these Down breeds have adaption superior to that of any other class of sheep.

### PROSPECTIVE DEMAND FOR WOOL AND MUTTON.

Will there ever be less wool or mutton wanted per capita than now? No. Is the wool and mutton product keeping pace with increase of population? It is probable that it is not. Will sheep and wool therefore be less remunerative in the years to come than now? Certainly not. As the inhabitants of a country increase, meat prices increase, because meat is in thickly settled countries always one of the most costly articles of food. As prices increase, the masses seek the cheaper kinds. Mutton is one of the cheapest. Hence, as population increases, it must be in other countries adapted to sheep as in England, that the popular taste will incline that way. It is so in all the thickly-settled districts of Europe; it is becoming more and more so from decade to decade in the United States. The use of wool will certainly not decline. It is becoming more and more sought year by year. Hence those who earliest pay attention to those breeds of sheep adapted to their localities, in connection with other stock, will earliest reap the full reward of their endeavours. —*Breeder's Gazette, Chicago.*

### SHEEP ON SMALL FARMS.

Within the last few years increased attention is being paid to sheep, as mixed farming is more and more found to be profitable. The time has undoubtedly come when every farmer should turn his attention more and more to sheep. But a new generation has sprung up. They wish to know how to manage sheep in connection with other stock. They wish to know what breeds and crosses are adapted to special localities and markets. This we hope to show in a general way, not, however, so much where sheep are the leading interest on the farm, as for that great class of farmers to whom a thickly settled country has caused a more and more diversified agriculture to become profitable.

THE old hogs will fatten faster confined in a pen, but they will stand feeding longer if allowed to range. Feeding whole grain is always attended with a loss of from one-fourth to one-third, as it is not masticated sufficiently to digest. Cooking saves this loss; grain may be cooked whole and when cooked and mixed with potatoes, apples, pumpkins or other lighter foods it is in the best form to be fed. The grinding (one-tenth) is saved and it can all be turned into growth. It is more palatable than soaking. When fed raw, corn should be in the ear, and if unhusked the pigs will eat it slower and chew it better. This is what is wanted in fattening animals to put food in the condition so that it will all be absorbed in the stomach, or there is a loss. Give the hogs plenty of bedding so as to make lots of manure.

"How nicely the corn pops," said a young man who, with his sweetheart, sat before the fire. "Yes," she responded demurely, "it's got over being green."