



Sheep for the Markets.

The sheep for the home market of to-day should not be too large, neither should it be too small. One-year-olds at 120 pounds, if good and prim and tidy, will sell well. At a somewhat younger age they will probably sell all the better, if they run from 100 pounds to 120 pounds. The British market will probably call for a heavier lamb, but even there the very large over-grown lamb is not in request. Owing to this change in the demands of the market, the mutton lamb need not of necessity be dropped too early; that is to say, the lamb that is to be sold the following winter. If lambs are dropped in April or the first half of May, they can be made to attain the necessary weights without special pushing. If they are to be marketed at Christmas time, they will want better feeding.

Once upon a time beef, pork, and mutton could not be made too large. The age for such production is among the things that were. We cannot any more grow such meat at a profit, because there is no demand for it, and there is no demand for it because the public taste has changed; and it has changed for the better. We cannot modify the public taste, but we can grow such products as it wants. And this we must do if we are going to make a success of our work.

Pastures for Sheep.

Don't forget to sow some pasture for the sheep. The fall rains may come, and pasture may be plentiful; but they may not come, and then it will be scarce. Vetches grow nicely with us, and they make an excellent sheep food, but it should be remembered that it would not be the best thing to sow them alone for pasture. The sheep would tramp them too much. It would be much better to sow them along with oats or barley to hold them up. Sheep are extremely fond of them. When grown as indicated, and when the sheep are turned in on them while both the tares and the allied crops are but a few inches high, they furnish fine food for the sheep, and they will grow up a second time, and thus furnish a lot of pasture.

But rape is the great reliance for fall pasture. After what has been said about it during recent

years, our farmers must surely know how to grow it; but, lest some should not, it may be mentioned that with us it will usually be found better to sow it in drills, as turnips are sown, and to cultivate it as turnips are cultivated, except that the rape does not require to be thinned. When thus grown, about two pounds of rape seed per acre should suffice. It may also be sown broadcast, but as much seed again is then wanted. The usual time for sowing is in June. The rape will be ready by the time the tares are all eaten.

Castrating and Docking Lambs.

The first of June is the season beyond which castration should not be delayed, nor should it be delayed so long if the lambs have been dropped early. Of course, if the local dealer is going to pick up the lambs in early summer, there is no great necessity for either docking the lambs or castrating them. But it is entirely different if the lambs are to be carried on until Christmas, or even for a longer period. It is a poor business feeding ram lambs. They do not grow so well as wethers. They do not fatten so easily. They do not make such good meat, and they do not bring so good a price. Since the butchers of New York revolted against the ram lamb business, and cut down the price, more attention has been given to castration. Those men did a kindness to lamb growers when they took that step. But they did not take it soon enough; however, its influence will be greatly beneficial in the future.

The want of docking is simply inexcusable, as it may be so easily done when the lambs are young. It is not a gratifying sight, especially in the autumn, when the sheep are on soft pasture, to witness them come home to the yards like those of "Little Bopeep"; that is to say, with all their tails behind them.

The Pet Lamb.

Many a home has a pet lamb this year as in other years, and many a pet lamb brings comfort to the little folks who feed it, we are apt to suppose. Give the little folks lots of milk for the