

DOMINION DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

LIVE STOCK BRANCH.

JOHN BRIGHT,
Commissioner.

H. S. ARKELL,
Asst. Commissioner.

SHEEP AND GOAT DIVISION.

THE MANAGEMENT OF SMALL FLOCKS SERIES.

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CARE OF THE EWE AND LAMB.

BY

T. REG. ARKELL.

Lambing time is by no means a fixed period. It depends largely upon the purpose for which the shepherd is raising his sheep. The breeder of pure-bred sheep who sells his ram lambs as flock-headers in the fall requires them dropped fairly early, at least some time in March or the beginning of April. The average flock holder who raises sheep for mutton purposes only need not have his lambs come until the succeeding month unless he is catering to a special market. In fact, if adequate facilities cannot be provided for earing for the lambs during the cold winter weather, it were better not to have them before April or such time as to permit placing them, when two or three weeks old, upon pasture. Where the winters are long and severe, most shepherds find they can obtain greater growth from lambs dropped during March or even the first of April than in January or February, inasmuch as the early lambs, being kept on dry feed for a long period, may become stunted or dwarfed. However, where a plentiful supply of milk and an abundance of succulent feed are supplied stunting, to a great degree, can be avoided. The practice which, it is to be regretted, all too many farmers follow, of having their lambs dropped "any old time" in summer, should be condemned. Young lambs will not thrive so well during the hot weather and, besides, will not attain sufficient growth to be sold for a reasonably high price in the fall. Such farmers comprehend the class with whom sheep raising does not pay and who are continuously disparaging the remunerativeness of the industry. The unprofitable feature in this, as in most instances of like nature, is created entirely by improper management. Every sheep-raiser, to attain success, should endeavour to have his lambs arrive in good season so that he can dispose of them upon the early market when the best prices prevail.

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