

fleece, it gives them the greatest possible protection from exposure. Furthermore, if the fleece is not dense, it is almost impossible for the fiber to be sound—that is, free from weak spots. When a sheep has been badly chilled, or has become sick in any way, so as to cause the pores of the skin to contract, a break or shrinkage occurs in the fiber at that point. The wool on a sheep grows from a small sac in the skin, and it passes away from the skin through a small opening which may be easily contracted or expanded, according to different influences. The influences are various, and for that reason it is important that the sheep be covered with a fleece that is so dense, as not to be affected much by external conditions.

Sheep Notes.

By Shepherd.

Size is of but little advantage, unless accompanied by quality.

Heavy sheep are sometimes leggy and coarse, and not nearly as desirable as lighter sheep.

It is not the number of pounds that you put on that makes the profit; it is the flesh they are in that makes them sell well in the market.

If the raising of early lambs for market is to be undertaken at all, plan to raise good ones.

In undertaking to raise early lambs for market, the ewes must be of good, healthy stock, fair size, and in good condition. Ewes bred first week in October should have lambs last week in February. If bred first week in September, they should produce last week in January, or 21 weeks after service. The average farmer will better have his lambs come in April.

Putting a fine lot of fleeces on the market once a year is by no means incompatible with, at the same time, having a prime lot of mutton ready to help out the income.

In raising early lambs, select at the earliest possible date the kind and number of ewes needed, and purchase in good season the right kind of ram to mate with them.

The same sheep will vary from year to year in the amount of oil secretion, and they are liable to vary, not only by a change of weather, but by a change of food as well.

In weaning the lambs, they will worry less if left in the fields they are accustomed to and the ewes removed, rather than to change the pastures of the lambs.

The sheep, of whatever breed, whether we will it or not, is a general-purpose animal. It furnishes both food and raiment to wear.

Valuable lambs will always pay for the best possible feeding and attention, and it is of the utmost importance that every detail be thoughtfully understood and attended to.

As a gleaner of small crops, a saver of little wastes, the sheep is as necessary to the farm as the cow or hog.

Now is the time to arrange for lambs next spring, because you must select good strong breeding ewes to carry and feed them through fall and winter. It is none too soon to decide the kind of a ram you will use as a sire.

The principle of selection, "that it enables the breeder not only to modify the character of his flock, but to change it altogether, if desired."

A weakened constitution predisposes to disease of any kind, but there is no evidence that docking affects sheep in that way.

Clean, dry pastures, pure water, wholesome feed and intelligent, individual attention to the wants of the flock are the first requisites for successful flock management.

Sheep, grain-fed and well protected from the rigorous wintry storms, will furnish wool of much stronger fiber, making a more durable fabric than wool clipped from sheep with less care.

The Sheep Market Outlook.

With the present high prices for mutton, and the equally high prices for wool, there is one branch of the sheep industry that is not receiving its share of prosperity. We refer to the prices now being paid for pure-bred rams, and the prices at which they were sold last year. Good wool and good mutton cannot be grown without good rams, and under the present conditions breeders of registered bucks would be justified in asking much higher prices than they are now receiving for their sheep. The care and expense connected with the breeding and feeding of good rams is much greater than that necessary in producing ordinary ewes, and yet they sell for little more than price of the ewe. Sheep men who propose to purchase rams this year should be prepared to pay prices in proportion to those they are receiving for their wool and mutton. The present condition of the U. S. mutton and lamb markets can only be described as very encouraging to sheep owners, and both sheep salesmen and commission houses predict high prices for lambs, and grass-fattened sheep from the range this summer. The disposition to hold back the ewe lambs and as many of the ewe flock as possible will tend to keep down receipts, while the demand for feeding sheep will soon begin to cut into the packers' supply, which is now very limited. The recent packing-house investigations, which have seriously hurt the beef and pork products, have operated to the benefit of the mutton and lamb market.—(Shepherd's Bulletin.)

Nova Scotia's Possibilities for Sheep Husbandry.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In view of the fact that so much has been said and written about the Western Provinces as a profitable field for investment, will you allow me some space in your widely-read journal to press the claims of the Maritime Provinces, not only for those who are seeking an outlet for their surplus capital, but also for those of small means, with strong arms and clear brains, who, with a small expenditure of money, can in a very short time make for themselves comfortable homes amid all the modern conveniences that will take nearly a lifetime to come within the reach of those who invest in a prairie home in the far West. I do not intend in this letter to touch upon all the opportunities and possibilities that are available in those provinces by the sea, but I would like to impress your readers with the splendid advantages that are here for those who are interested in sheep-raising—advantages that are not excelled in any part of the world. The climate presents neither extreme of heat or cold. The winters, though somewhat long, owing to our peninsular position, are never very cold. There are no blizzards or cyclones; the summers are delightful; the hills and valleys afford pasturage so good that at two months old lambs will dress from 40 to 50 lbs. of the very best quality of mutton; flocks have not to wander for miles in search of water, for there are living springs and running water in nearly every pasture, certainly at least on every farm. There are no long hauls and excessive railway rates to get our lambs to market, for a good market is all around us, a market that is a long way short of being supplied.

The sheep industry has steadily improved during the

participated, and while the men who attended would, no doubt, like to see the number of sheep multiply, it is not for the sake of keeping up the prices, but rather the reverse. The sheep industry in Nova Scotia is standing on its own legs, and for the reason named, viz., increased demand, short supply, and the supply will likely be short for years to come, and it is up to the farmers who are raising sheep to raise more sheep, and better sheep. There is great room for improvement. Nature has done much for us; the Government is doing much. We have a country free from the diseases that affect the flocks in other places. Scab and stomach worms are unknown. We can raise the feed in abundance that makes the best quality of mutton at the lowest cost. Clover, when given any kind of a chance, does finely where conditions are right. Two and a half to three tons to the acre may be obtained. In turnips we can beat the world—at least, that part of the world known as America. Oats, vetches and rape do well, and in feeds what more do we want? All these are within the reach of the average farmer. It is not to be inferred, from anything written in this letter, that we believe that sheep-raising could be gone into on anything like the large scale they do on the great Western plains, but we certainly do think there should be a flock of 40 or 50 breeding ewes on every farm in the Maritime Provinces, where it is possible to keep sheep at all; that, with the ordinary care and attention exercised in the other affairs of farm life, such a flock would pay a higher dividend than any other live stock, and with less work to the owner. We hear a good deal nowadays of the scarcity of farm help. Does not the sheep industry solve that problem to some extent, and can we not, with the lighter work and increased profits, keep our boys on the farm, and induce

those who have already left to return, until every vacant farm will be occupied by a happy, contented people, engaged in a lucrative business? Now, as we have tried to show, we have the climate, the hills and valleys, the best of water, we can raise the best sheep fodder, and the markets are practically unlimited; let us now choose the breed, or breeds, best suited to our environments and success will follow.

Other things being equal, the Blackfaced, or Down breeds, seem to furnish the best combination of wool and mutton. Of these, the Shropshire easily leads in point of numbers and in popularity. The Oxford are a good second, and are preferred in some quarters for their larger size, but these qualities are offset by the earlier-maturing qualities of the Shropshire. The Hampshires are comparatively a new breed here, and when

the pasture is abundant and winter fodder plentiful, give very good returns. The Southdown and Cheviots also have their admirers, and do exceedingly well, and a half-bred Southdown lamb is in great favor with the butcher. Leicesters and Lincolns among the long-wools have been tried, with the advantage in favor of the latter; although, in fact, neither are in great demand as breeders. This is probably owing to the fact that woollen dealers discriminate as much as two cents per pound in favor of medium or Down wool, and also that they are more liable to catch colds during stormy weather than the thick-wooled breeds. As far as breeds are concerned, however, all do fairly well, but on rough, hilly land, where sheep have to rustle, the lighter-weight breeds should be chosen, such as Shropshire, Southdown and Cheviot; while on the richer pastures of the valleys, the Oxfords, Hampshires and Lincolns would, possibly, give better returns, but as this is a matter of choice, the breeder could not make a very great mistake in choosing what he liked best. Having trespassed already so much space, without exhausting the subject, I will come again if this proves of any interest to your readers.

ANDREW McPHERSON.

Flies, heat and short commons reduce flesh more easily and quickly than good feed and liberal care can possibly restore it. Every year thousands of tons of meat, put on animal frames at heavy expenditure of feed and time, are thus sacrificed in this country by mismanagement. The feeder who does not provide plenty of pure water, shade, fly protection and green feed when pastures are short, has no right to expect to make money out of stock.



Holdenby Daisy (48222).

Shire mare, owned by Messrs. John Chambers & Sons, Holdenby, Northampton, England. Foal by Northgate Prince (15762).