



Sheep Notes

The most sought for breeds of sheep are those combining mutton and wool productions in the highest degree.

Sheep sorrel grows most abundantly in thin or worn out meadows. Breaking the meadow and raising corn or some other cultivated crop will usually subdue the weed. The land should be enriched with barnyard manure before re-seeding to grass, and an effort should be made to secure a thick stand. O meadows or pastures that cannot be plowed, top dressing with manure and sowing additional grass seed will be beneficial. The addition of lime to the soil is also said to aid in thickening the grass and crowding out the sorrel.—Andrew Boss, University Farm, Et. Paul, Minn.

Winter Protection of Young Apple Trees

Precautions must be taken to prevent injury from mice, rabbits, etc. Many failures in apple growing here and elsewhere are caused by these pests and a large annual toll in the form of dead trees is annually exacted by them. As far as possible crops harboring and attracting such pests should be avoided and the accumulation of litter, trash, weeds, long grass, etc., which furnish suitable winter quarters for these animals, prevented. Mice work under the snow and damage from them may be prevented by tramping the snow solid round the tree after the first few snowfalls. This method of protecting is however some what dependent on the weather. The cheapest and safest protection is secured by wrapping the trunks in cylinder fashion with paper, wood veneer or some such material. Good strong building paper, as light as possible in color gives good satisfaction. This may be placed round the trees in the fall, not tightly, but leaving an inch or so of space between the inside of the paper and the bark of the tree. The soil should then be mounded up around the bottom of the paper to a height of six inches or so. Veneer tree protectors, made of thin material one-eighth inch thick, 12 inches high, 12 inches wide, and costing about 1/2 cent each will last two and three years and afford good protection. The paper or veneer as the case may be should be removed in the spring about the middle of April.

Sun Scald

This form of damage is very common in some localities, so common, in fact, that a tree which escapes it is a rarity. The greater part of the damage occurs in late winter, or during the warm spring days when the snow is going off. During the warm afternoons the sun, reflected from the snow against the south-west side of the tree trunks, becomes very warm. The trunks are thoroughly warmed on that side. They are thawed out, and the bark becomes soft, sappy and pliable. Then, when the sun goes down and the temperature falls again to zero, the bark is again frozen tight. The next day the same thing happens, and so day after day the young bark freezes and thaws, and by this means is torn to shreds. When spring arrives the bark is killed and broken open. Then various kind of fungi get in and the damage which begins by freezing and thawing ends with spread of canker and other troubles all round the trunk of the tree. The

An Important Item

Available plant food upon a dairy farm is an important item. It means a much larger production of various farm crops and a consequent increased value of the farm. In older farmed sections where land has been unwisely robbed of its fertility the purchase of concentrated feed is often made with a view to its value in restoring the land.—Maritime Farmer

Dairy Thoughts

The droppings from the cattle will benefit the pasture more if they are spread or broken with a spike tooth harrow. This prevents the grass from being killed out and weeds coming in where the droppings have lain. The most important business of the dairyman is to increase the amount of manurial substances and apply them where they will do the most good to the growing crops. He is no wise public benefactor who keeps two cows to do the work of one.

A poor milker is one of the surest ways of diminishing the milk flow. Too many dairymen are conducting their business as a side issue when they should be making it the leading feature of their farming.

The new cow has an individuality of her own and the feeder should become acquainted with her as soon as possible after she is brought into the herd. Go your limit on a good bull. If your cows are deficient in the flow of milk, buy a sire that will make up the quality. If their milk is deficient in butter fat, breed from a sire whose tendency is to build up along that line.

Feed records are just as essential as milk records. It is the profits we want rather than the phenomenal milk yields that are made by feeding large quantities of expensive concentrates.

Proper feeding determines the amount of gain in the dairy business. Milk records and feed records make knowledge definite. If we are to make a success of the dairy business we must put thought behind and into our everyday work. A cow will never do her best unless she has perfect confidence in you.

The modern dairy cow must be handled with understanding and her owner must have a knowledge of her wants and make every effort to supply them.

Holding Back the Milk

Pateley Bridge, a noted English writer on dairy subjects writes as follows on this subject in the Farm and Home, an English agricultural Journal: "Cows will sometimes refuse their milk to strangers, and a rough milker will often upset a herd. The remedy in these cases is to get rid of the offending milker, for among dairy cows gentleness and kindness should always rule. If a cow evinces a dislike for one milker or a preference for another, it is best to humor her and hand her over to the care of the favored individual entirely. The superiority of women as milkers is generally admitted by all experienced cowkeepers, and the obstinate retainer of her milk will often prove tractable with a woman while obstinately refusing to a man. Unfortunately female milkers are scarce, and year by year become more difficult to obtain.

"A common remedy is to attempt to distract the attention of the cow from her milking by providing some tempting food. The question of feeding at milking time is a debatable one, and we are familiar with the arguments against it, but nothing makes cows so much at home in the milking shed or brings them home to it so cheerfully as what the Yorkshire man calls a 'bit of licking.' As a general rule, the relationship between cow and milker is good in dairies where feeding at milking time is an institution. In some cases with a strange cow patience wins, and if the milker sticks to his stool and keeps rubbing the udder and stroking the teats, he will tire out the most willful of cows. In other cases it

best preventives of sun scald are low heads and veneer and paper cylinder protectors. High headed trees, which are of doubtful value anywhere are altogether undesirable in places where sun scald is bad. The protectors of paper or wood veneer recommended above for mice and rabbits will also give practical immunity from sun scald. This trouble is a very serious one. It is not uncommon to find entire young orchards ruined by it. In sections where this trouble is prevalent great pains should be taken to protect young orchards from it. For the benefit of the fruit growers, the Fruit Growers' Association has secured, about 3,000 veneers and will fill orders for them at cost price. Apply to: The Secretary, N. B. Fruit Growers' Association, Fredericton.

Farmers and Poultry

Some idea of the market for poultry products and the pressing need for developing the poultry industry in the western province may be gained from the following figures in a recent address to the Edmonton Poultry Association. Mr. A. S. Ducloux, president of the Alberta Produce Association, stated that the city of Edmonton imported annually 75 carloads of eggs, of a total value of \$250,000 and ten carloads of poultry valued at \$66,000. There are 450 thirty dozen cases in a car which gives 1,025,000 dozens, or 12,150,000 eggs in the 75 carloads.

Why should those eggs have to be brought into a city like Edmonton from outside the province. Is it that the country around the city is not suited to poultry raising? We do not think so. The reason for it seems to be that in the rush of settling these new lands the hen has been looked upon as somewhat insignificant, and where she has been kept the treatment she received was not conducive to the production of eggs. The time must come, however, when even in the mighty west, the importance of poultry keeping will be considered by the farmer. That time cannot come too quickly. It is not a thing to be proud of or to boast about that a country like Canada, with all her acres, and all her feed, has to be an importer of eggs.

It is for the farmer to correct this state of affairs. The land is available there is more grain wasted on the average farm than would keep a flock of hens in feed, and all farmers or members of their household, can find the time to attend to a few hens.

Poultry Notes

Indian Runners are good foragers and light eaters.

Have some way of telling the old eggs and keep them sold.

Ducks are never troubled with lice; neither do they have cholera or croup.

Duck raising is one of the most profitable branches of the poultry business.

It costs no more to feed a hen that lays 150 eggs a year than one that lays 60.

Good house, good feed, good tools and cleanliness are four essentials of poultry keeping.

Poultry should be kept off feed 24 hours before being killed and dressed for market.

The poultry like fresh straw now and then just as well as the cow likes to be well bedded.

A hen is not lazy by nature and will surprise you in what she can do if given the right chance.

For market purposes the Pekin duck is best. For eggs the Indian Runner takes the lead.

A poultryman that is too careless to keep the hen house free from vermin does not deserve to succeed.

If whitewash is strained it can be applied in the hen house with a force pump which will drive it into the cracks and crevices.

The Indian Runners grow very rapidly and begin laying early. They lay a large white egg. These eggs have a very fine flavor.

Poultry raising is what you make it. Lots of people make it drudgery by the attitude of mind rather than the amount of work they do.

Watch that the ducks have suitable attention and regular feed. A few well cared for pay better than too many that the slighted.

Give the ducklings plenty of air and stuff them with feed. Sprinkle sand over their feed as this will be a sure way of them getting as much as they need.

A hen that is, constantly fighting the other hens should be disposed of, for even if she lays well herself, which is unlikely, she will cut down the production of the rest, by constantly nagging them.

A varied ration, including corn, wheat and oats and beef scraps and green food, will produce eggs in winter if the stock is in the right condition.

It never pays to keep weak or sick hens in the flock and the sooner they are disposed of the less danger there will be that their diseases will be communicated to the rest of the fowls.

Among the cockerels you will find some that are more vigorous and that grow faster than the others and those should be kept for breeding next Spring. The others should be disposed of as early as possible.

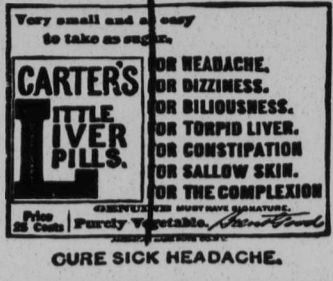
If you do not like your breed change as soon as you can, for you will never be successful with a breed you do not like. Do plenty of good thinking before you make the change as it is expensive not only in money expended but in the experience you have already gained with the breed you have. Give the flock you have a square deal and be sure that the fault lies with them and not that you just want a change.

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DEMONSTRATION COWS

Are your dairy cows making good profits? It is necessary to find out, for at the famous National Dairy Show held in Chicago the last week in October, the authorities had gathered nine demonstration cows to prove for one thing how easy it is to lose good money feeding poor cows. All feed was weighed, all the milk was weighed and tested, the results of each day were placarded in bold figures above each cow. These two furnish the extremes for one day. A 7 year old grade Jersey consuming 21 cents worth of feed produced only 13 cents worth of fat. This means that she incurred a loss of 8 cents for that day, that the feed cost of one pound of fat was 52 cents, that the feed cost of 100 lbs. of milk was \$2.53, and that for every dollar's worth of feed given to her she yielded only 62 cents worth of product.

Close to her was a 7 year old grade Guernsey that on the same day consumed only 26 cents worth of feed, but notice what she did with it. She produced two and a quarter pounds of fat worth 79 cents showing therefrom a profit of 53 cents. Her pound of fat cost under 11 cents to produce, while other dollar's worth of feed gave three dollars' worth of product. It has been demonstrated to Canadian farmers over and over again that similar conditions exist in each province. Just as soon as the keeping of dairy records becomes general the profits from feeding cows may be expected to increase rapidly.

The Dairy Division, Ottawa, gladly supplies feed record forms and a herd record book; apply for them to-day, and make sure, by systematic records, that each cow in your herd makes a good profit on her year's work.

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HOME BUTTERMAKING

Market reports invariably quote creamery butter higher than dairy butter which is the designation given to that which is made on the farm. It is unfortunate that circumstances at times make it impracticable for dairy farmers to patronize a creamery. When this can be done not only are the profits as a rule, increased, but much hard work is taken away from the overburdened members of the family.

There is no good reason why butter made in the home dairy should not be as fine as that made in a creamery where cream produced under all manner of conditions has to be made up. All that is necessary is the carrying out of a well established system in feeding the cows, caring for the milk and cream and the churning and putting up of the butter. In order to teach the proper method of carrying out these various operations there has been prepared, under the direction of the Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner at Ottawa, a bulletin entitled "Buttermaking on the Farm," written by Mr. Geo. H. Barr, Chief of the Dairy Division.

This work, which may be secured free from the Publications Branch of the Department of Agriculture, explains the common defects of dairy butter as well as the conditions that are necessary to produce fine flavoured cream. It deals with churning, washing, salting, working and packing butter, and considers the modern necessary utensils and their care. These are shown in clear illustrations.

This bulletin, which is No. 17 of the Dairy and Cold Storage series, concludes with the following recommendations: "Keep good cows, feed them liberally, keep them comfortable and clean when in the stable, skim a rich cream and keep it cool, churn at a temperature that will give a flaky granule in the butter; use clean pure water for washing butter; not more than three degrees colder or warmer than the buttermilk. Put the butter up in neat, clean, attractive packages, and keep everything in and about the dairy clean and attractive."

Early maturity is just as advantageous to the producer of sheep as to any other stock in the world.

The largest potato grown in Wyoming this year weighs four and three-quarter pounds and was raised by Edgar Vance near Encampment. Vance's big spud is the finest entered in the first Wyoming potato show, which is being conducted there by the State Board of Immigration. The big potato is one of an exhibit of six which weigh eleven pounds, twelve ounces. Second prize in the weight division was won by W. S. Pinkerton, of Danville, with one potato weighing four and one-half pounds and six weighing eleven pounds and one-half ounces.

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Advertisement for NA-DRU-CO Tasteless Preparation of Cod Liver Oil. Includes illustration of a man carrying a large fish on his back. Text: Prevents Sickness, Restores Health. NATIONAL DRUG AND CHEMICAL CO. OF CANADA, LIMITED.

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