

Early Lambs Pay Best.

It is becoming quite common now for the butchers in many of the large cities to go even an hundred miles by rail in quest of early lambs for that market. The price they pay the farmer is quite remunerative. It is a mistaken notion that lambs do not do well if dropped in cold weather. Lambs dropped on the first of February will grow more before the first of April than those dropped on the first of April will grow before the first of June. In order to grow the best ones, good, thrifty ewes of the mutton grades which have been mated with a thoroughbred Cotswold ram will be the best. The latter should have been put in with the flock about the first of October.

Much will depend upon the feed during the winter. As a rule, especially in this branch of sheep husbandry, the better the feed the better the lambs. Full feeding should be commenced early in the winter. Give in addition to good hay, corn, oatmeal and a little bran, and if possible, a daily feed of mangolds or rutabagas. A pint of oats and one of bran should be fed to each ewe previous to and after lambing, until turned out to pasture, and still longer unless the pasture should be very good. Winter rye, sown in the corn fields in August, would serve much of the time in the winter as a substitute for root crops.

Lambs from a flock managed in this way will be ready for market early in May and June, and will command high prices. They should then be sold, as they will bring comparatively more than at any other time. Many shepherds fatten the ewes as soon as the lambs are disposed of, sell them and buy again by the last of September. In buying more ewes it is important that those be purchased that have not been served by an inferior ram. We recommend this branch of business on the ground that we have never known any large market to be overstocked with early lambs. One thing in this line of farming must not be forgotten, and that is that there must be an ample supply of good shedding, dry bedding, dry yards and sunny exposures.

Raising Colts.

There is a crude notion prevailing that hardships make young stock hardy. A colt that is weaned in the fall, as is commonly the case, should not be allowed to become poor in the first winter. It is true that it will often improve so rapidly in spring that its wretched condition in the winter will seem really to have been an advantage to it, but this is a grave mistake. If the same condition were imposed during the whole period of growth the effect would be very perceptible. Although the summer may in some degree remove the effect of winter, no animal so treated ever becomes what it might have been in size, symmetry of form and usefulness, by generous treatment. There is profit in breeding nice carriage and draft horses. As a general rule it costs no more to raise a good colt than a poor one, while the former will bring two or three times as much as the latter. A dark stable is a poor place to keep a colt.

The Nettle a Useful Plant.

Some interesting experiments have recently been made in Germany with the common nettle, which bids fair to make that modest weed an article of considerable importance. They consisted in working it in the same manner as hemp, and the fibres obtained were as fine as silk, while they yielded nothing to hemp fibres as regards durability. A considerable area has now been planted with nettles in that locality.

Remedy for Smut in Grain.

Dissolve from one to two pounds of blue vitriol in water to every ten bushels of wheat, and pour it on the floor, where it can be stirred back and forth for twenty-four hours, until the grain is swelled to one-third more than its natural size and is colored throughout. It will require about one bucketful of water to every hundred pounds. If not wet enough the first time, add more water, until it is wet enough to heat and sweat. We think the above plan better than to soak it in vessels, and is certainly easier to handle in every way. Wherever the above instruction is carried out properly, we will guarantee no smut to be produced from the seed, although we have no doubt there are various causes for its appearance in small quantities.—*Colorado Farmer.*

Diarrhoea in Lambs.

Diarrhoea in lambs is a very common disease, and great numbers perish on account of it. The causes are mainly colds, but sometimes the food induces the disease. Dysentery is apt to take place in a few days after birth if the milk of the ewe is too strong and copious. When attacked, the lamb becomes languid, stands with bent back, or lies down frequently. The excrement is thin, whitish or greenish, and afterwards watery, and finally bloody. If no attention is given to the case the lamb dies, usually in from three to five days. The cure is not easy, and the majority of those attacked die of the disease; hence the attempt to prevent it as much as possible is of special importance. All injurious influences must be avoided, the sheep kept in warm places and given dry food and drinks mixed with flour. When the disease makes its appearance in a fold it is a wise plan to change the food. The following remedies are recommended:—Opium, 10 to 20 grains; rhubarb, one-eighth ounce, mixed with flour and water, given in one dose, two or three times a day.

Unevenness of Wool.

Oregon's wool crop is one of the leading products of the state, and it is rising every year to a position of higher importance. Not only is there a steady increase of the wool product, but a much greater degree of interest is being taken in the selection of varieties of sheep and proper care of them, as to obtain profitable results. Farmers are acting on a knowledge that a great deal depends on these things. They know that when sheep have been allowed to run down at some time during the growth of the fleece the acute and practiced eye of the wool buyer is able to detect the fact. A writer who is an authority on wool says that, as a matter of fact, there is nothing which renders wool so useless for certain kinds of manufacture as unevenness or break in continuity of the thickness of fibre; and there is no defect more common and nothing that year by year touches the sheep-grower more severely on that tender part of his anatomy—the pocket. However good the wool in all other respects, the keen eye of the buyer singles out the defective wool, and down goes the price of it. And it is not mere fancy that regulates the prices, for the uneven wool will break at the weak places during the first process of manufacture. Some persons suppose that this unevenness of fleece is hereditary in certain animals, and perhaps unevenness might be made hereditary by generations of ill-usage and neglect. But as the wool of an entire flock is found to be uneven one year, and not so in another, it shows that the management has more to do with it than descent. If sheep are allowed to get into bad condition, are neglected, under-fed or not sheltered properly, the pores will contract, and the wool that issues will be of very fine fibre. As soon as the animal recovers a vigorous condition the pores again open, and a longer and stronger fibre grows. The wool is thus weaker in one place than in places at each side of it, and breaks at the weak places on the slightest strain. Nothing induces unevenness more easily and surely than want of water. It is a common notion that sheep can do without water or very little. If supplied with roots daily they do not want much water; but it is well, and humane too, that water should be always within their reach. Not only is it important that the fibres should be even, but the fleeces throughout should be even as regards length, softness, density and firmness.—

Requisites for Tree Roses.

The tree dealers over the country are holding out strong inducements to purchasers to plant what they term "tree roses," or, as they are called in the nurseries, "standards." Now I think I speak within bounds when I assert that not more than one-tenth of all these plants in the hands of inexperienced persons will live. Not that under proper culture they are difficult to manage, but there are certain rules which are imperative to make them successful in the United States, although in England they grow as thriftily as the ordinary dwarfs. Our hot summer sun on the long naked stems causes an unhealthy state in the tops just when we desire to see rich dark green foliage and an abundance of perfect flowers. To obviate this those in charge of the horticultural grounds at the Centennial last year wrapped these stems in moss, which was kept damp by frequent syringing, hence

the luxuriant growth and beautiful bloom that followed this course of treatment. The surface of the soil around tree roses must be thoroughly mulched, and in addition to the soil being rich an occasional watering with weak liquid manure should be given them. An excellent plan is to grow them in large pots both winter and summer, and during the summer the pots to be sunk in the soil and mulched over the tops. During winter they must be removed to a cool cellar, when they will be in good condition for next season. In England these standards are used for forcing to produce buds for bouquets, &c., and by some gardeners are preferred to the ordinary plants. When standing in a vinery they succeed well, and really do admirably beneath the partial shade afforded by the vines overhead. In conclusion, I may say they are really charming adornments, but precarious to manage properly.—*Josiah Hoopes.*

Eggs as Food.

I think eggs, considering the nutriment they contain compared with beef, at least four times cheaper. To cook a pound of pork requires considerable wood and time. To cook a pound of eggs, little of either. The English vegetarians eat no flesh. They are on the average long lived, much longer than other people; they used eggs moderately. The way to cook an egg, according to my notion, is to put it into water of a temperature of 180 degrees and let it stand five minutes. The inside or yolk will be hard and the white of the egg will not be hard, but flocculent like curd, and easy of digestion. A little skill will teach anyone how to do this. The eggs are then delicious. The only dressing needed on an egg is a little good butter—at least I think so. Pepper and salt are only demanded by a morbid taste. Fried eggs, I think, are about nothing. A fresh egg dropped in water about 180° F. and allowed to remain four or five minutes, so as to cook through, and then laid on a nice piece of brown bread that has been been toasted and dipped into hot water, is good enough for a king. Custards made from eggs are both nutritious and wholesome. For the feeble they are better than beefsteak and may be used freely.

American Horses for England.

It is less than five years since Admiral Rous, Lord Roseberry and other horse-lovers and horse-breeders of England, expressed apprehensions regarding the scarcity of horseflesh in Great Britain should any unusual exigency arise. The agitation of the subject and the statistical representations that were made caused an awakening to a certain extent, and breeding and importation became standard topics of discussion among the old and young frequenters of the turf and conservators of national interests. Whether the number of available horses was materially increased thereby does not appear, but the signs that England is now making energetic efforts to strengthen this weak spot in her service have extended even to this country. The account published of what a Brighton dealer had done and proposed to do in the exportation of horses indicates the opening of a profitable industry in this country. The experiment of shipping horses to England has been successfully made already, and the only thing to do now is to act upon the knowledge that we have, and make the most of our opportunities. The United States can furnish horses to almost any extent, and horses, too, of blood and bottom sufficient to satisfy even the most fastidious and critical Briton. No horses can be urged against Muscovite battalions with finer effect than those of America, while in the event of retreat—of course remote—they will be found equally serviceable. There are agents of the British Government in the west buying cavalry horses, and the farmers may find it advantageous to go into the raising of this kind of stock more extensively.—*Michigan Farmer.*

Precautions against insects of all kinds should be adopted early in the season, because when they are allowed to be developed to maturity they propagate eggs in such abundance that it is almost impossible to keep them under. The destruction of one early moth is a far better preventive than killing a hundred caterpillars.

Potatoes require a good deal of potash, and farmers cannot make a mistake in applying to the land on which they are grown either ashes or commercial fertilizers that contain a large percentage of potash. It comes cheapest in muriate of potash, being 50 per cent of actual potash.