

National Sheep Records Now Assured

An Important Conference at Buffalo

For years Canadian sheep breeders and more particularly those in Ontario, have registered their sheep in records kept in the United States. The associations controlling these records have, however, been international in character, with a large Canadian representation on the boards of management, and the recording arrangements have been satisfactory in every respect. They have facilitated trade and enabled Canadian breeders to develop a large market in the United States for their sheep. So important has this trade become that many breeders cater nearly altogether to that market, where they are always assured of a ready demand at good prices. It is estimated that between \$8,000 and \$10,000 is paid into these American record offices annually by Canadians for the registration of sheep. A trade of this character is of the greatest importance to the country and should be encouraged and not hampered in any way.

The nationalizing of the Canadian live stock records at Ottawa has, however, brought with it a demand from sheepmen, more particularly in the West and in Quebec, for Canadian national sheep records, as well as those for other stock. But a scheme for national records not including the sheep interests of all Canada would be unsatisfactory, and an injury rather than a benefit to the industry. The various sheep breeders' associations of the Dominion were appealed to a year ago and resolutions were passed favoring national Canadian records. Since that time various conferences have been held between representatives of the Canadian and American associations, with a view to coming to some amicable understanding on the matter. From the first the American representatives evinced a desire to fall in with any arrangement that might be satisfactory, and consequently the arriving at a basis of agreement that would give Canada national records and at the same time enable Canadian sheep breeders to still record in American records without extra cost was made easier than it otherwise would be. A satisfactory basis has now been reached and the way is open for the establishment of national sheep records at Ottawa at an early date.

SHROPSHIRE MEN FIRST

The Shropshire breeders are the first to fall into line. On March 17th a conference of those whose names are given below, representing committees of the National Record Board of Canada and the American Shropshire Registry Association, met at Buffalo and signed an agreement by which Canadian records for this breed of sheep will be established forthwith.

It is expected that this same agreement will meet with the approval of the other associations interested. The conference was therefore a most important one and marks the beginning of a forward movement that will mean much to the future of sheep breeding in Canada. The agreement arrived at provides a very satisfactory basis to work on and should enable strong national records to be built up in Canada without in any way hindering the recording in American records by Canadian breeders and the continuance of their lucrative trade in purebred sheep with the United States. In explanation of the agreement reached, and which is given below, together with a facsimile reproduction of the signatures attached to it, we might add that the registration fees of the American Shropshire Registry Association are 50 cents for members and \$1.00 for non-members, excepting in the case of imported sheep, when non-members are charged \$2.00.

AGREEMENT

Agreement between the National Record Board of Canada, and the American Shropshire Registry Association. Conference held in the Illinois Hotel, Buffalo, on the 17th day of March, 1906:

1. All pedigrees received by the Canadian office shall be transmitted to the registry office of the American Association for registration.

2. The owners of the Canadian sheep registered under this agreement in the United States records shall be members of the American Association where said record is made, or shall pay the additional fee charged for registration to non-members.

3. All pedigrees transferred from the Canadian office to the American Association shall be fully prepared for the printers before transmission.

4. For each pedigree transmitted from the Canadian office for publication in the American records, there shall be paid to the American Registry office 30 cents per pedigree for all certificates issued to members of the association and for certificates issued to non-members 80 cents shall be so paid.

5. Registration numbers for Canadian certificates shall be allotted by the American secretary (en block at one time); when these are used an additional block of numbers shall be furnished.

6. A representative approved of by the American secretaries shall be placed in the Canadian office, who shall be authorized by power of attorney to sign the certificates of registration; such officer to be paid by the Canadian authorities.

Signed on behalf of the above named bodies by:

Early Care of Lambs

Every sheep grower can classify himself with respect to whether he is among those who believe in a well sustained growth and early maturity of lamb stock or whether he is anxious to expend as little care as possible regardless of what his stock turns out to be. If he belongs to the latter class his ewes will likely be in indifferent condition at lambing. Some that should have been culled in the fall will have wintered poorly and will be unfit to bring forth hearty lambs and support them generously. The lambs will have a slender hold of life. Singles may be alright, but in cases of twins one of them at least is likely to be weak and unable to look after itself. If the ewe is short of milk, which is likely to be the case, the difficulties will be all the greater from having to use cows' milk. The milk from a lately calved cow is best, but there is no substitute for the first milk of the ewe, which acts as a useful aperient. After the lamb comes the indifferent shepherd will not make the necessary supplement to the diet of the ewe by which the flow of milk will be stimulated, the condition of the ewe sustained, and the lamb brought forward rapidly. Neither will he provide supplementary food for the lamb when required.

The careful shepherd will have his bunch of ewes looking uniformly sturdy and if an old "biddy" is kept on account of her good breeding qualities she will be able to suit her years and lack of teeth, and will bring forth bigger-boned and stronger framed lambs the longer she lives, though they may not round out and fill as symmetrically as those from the younger matrons. The ewes will have all had food to stimulate milk secretion before lambing and there will be no shortness of lamb nourishment. The lambs will be likely to come strong.

Lambs that come long before the spring grass should have supplementary food. At about four weeks old the digestive organism of the lamb is ready to use concentrated food. Finely ground oats or corn and bran make a good mixture, though the proportion of corn should be small. Oats are perhaps preferable. Some breeders crowd the lambs into a small space adjoining a creek in order to force lambs into their separate feeding trough, but this is not usually necessary, as lambs show a ready disposition to find their own food. Lambs fed in this way when young can always be fed grain safely and profitably afterwards, even after three or four months on grass, as the capacity of the digestive machinery is made by what it acts on. Lambs fed in this way will not go off feed or be slow in starting if fed grain after weaning time. Early lambs, as a rule, are the best sellers, that is, they catch a good market, they are the biggest and best constituted, and meet the autumn and winter weather of next season without failing, and so are most profitable from the run the butcher's or breeder's standpoint.

J. Mc.

Worth Twice the Money

Enclosed find \$1.00 for two years' subscription to THE FARMING WORLD from March 1st, 1906, to March 1st, 1908.

I would not be without it for twice the money.—Thos. J. Murphy, Kent Co., N.B.

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