

ment that early breeding results in loss of young ewes at time of lambing. Nor have we found that immature ewes give birth to weak lambs. Our results do indicate that when young ewes are bred to lamb when twelve months old, they will make slightly less gain in weight during pregnancy than if allowed to run open, though this difference of 2.48 pounds is not sufficient to condemn early breeding providing the difference has been due to lack of fat development rather than growth of frame. This cannot be definitely stated until both the bred and open ewes have reached their mature form. In this test, even though the bred ewes sheared the heaviest fleeces, we would not want to say that this was due to the fact that they were pregnant, but rather credit the difference to individuality.

In presenting the results of this experiment it is too early to give any definite conclusions. That can be done only after the ewes in question have fully matured. They will all be bred this fall, weighed at that time, and re-weighed after lambing next spring, so that the effect of early lambing can be definitely determined. Up to the present time early breeding has not proved unsatisfactory, though it should be kept in mind that the young ewe lambs used in this test were well grown at the time of breeding, and fed a little whole oats with their roughage during pregnancy.

Offsetting Sharp Declines in Autumn Lamb Markets.

By H. S. ARKELL, LIVE STOCK COMMISSIONER.

We can go back twenty years into market history and practically without exception we will find that the main lamb crop and the heaviest percentage unfinished lambs are marketed during the period between September 1 and November 1; during that time, prices are at the lowest levels of the year. Further investigation of price movements and the curve of receipts shows that from November up to the commencement of the next fall run, the market for lambs and the quality of the offerings is at its best levels, and receipts at their low points.

The causes of sharply declining fall markets are obvious; we market over 50 per cent of our annual lamb crop between September 1 and November 1 and approximately 75 per cent. of the annual crop during the last four months of the year. In an effort to gain the benefit of the usually high August price we market with more regard to quantity than to quality, and we do not castrate our ram lambs. During the period from January 1 until the commencement of the next fall run we are short on supplies but fairly long on finish. No market can take care of three parts of a year's lamb supply in four months and show a high average of prices, especially if the offerings are largely unfinished.

Commencing with August of the present year prices on lambs moved sharply upward and toward September 1, heavy marketings of lambs of all sorts and conditions came out as a result. The effect was no different than during the same period of the previous nineteen years; prices dropped sharply.

When lambs are ready they should be marketed it is true, but over half of our lambs are not ready at this period of the year and it is the heavy increase in the receipts that send prices to sharp and unprofitably low levels. This is the case even though during the fall months we make practically eighty per cent. of our annual exports of live lambs.

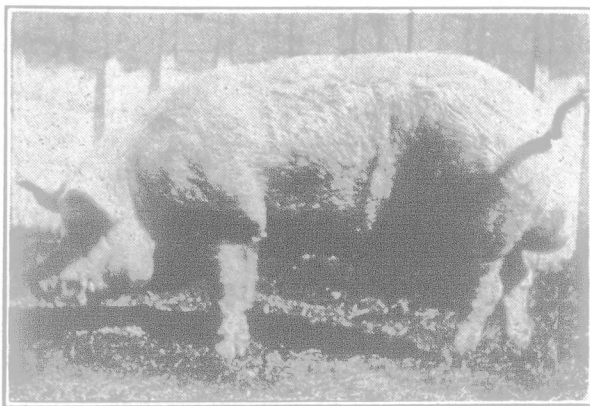
Lambs that are ill-bred and unthrifty should not be held for any length of time; they are as a rule unprofitable feeders. The thrifty well doing lambs should not, however, be sacrificed by being offered on a declining or a low market. During twenty years the high prices of each year have invariably been paid during December and January, especially on quality stock. The year of 1920-21 promises to be no exception to the rule. We can utilize feed to good effect by bringing about a more even distribution of supplies, and, therefore, a higher level of prices on a more dependable market.

Junior Farmer's Live Stock Judging Contest at Ottawa.

There were 135 entries in all for the Junior Farmer's Live Stock Judging Competition, which is held annually at the Central Canada Exhibition. This compares with 85 in 1919 and 124 in 1918. The number of entries was distributed among the various classes of live stock as follows: Heavy horses, 27; beef cattle, 21; dairy cattle, 50; sheep, 11; swine, 26. The number of competitors in sheep judging was less in sheep judging than in any other year. The following are the awards, with the name and address of the prize-winner, his county and total score. The possible score in each case was 200, and the judges were Messrs. R. S. Hamer, A. R. Ness, W. J. Bell, E. S. Archibald, A. A. McMillan, G. W. Muir, G. B. Rothwell and J. E. Brethour.

Beef Cattle: 1, Joseph Hughes, Balderson, (Lanark) 182; 2, J. Loyd Tait, Newington, (Stormont), 180; 3, D. E. Croskery, Kinburn, (Carleton), 178; 4, Ralph Wallace, Prescott, (Grenville), 176; 5, R. Bruce Ness, Howick, Que., (Quebec), 175; 6, Sheffield Graham, Almonte, (Lanark), 173; 7, John M. Chapman, Almonte, (Lanark), 171; 8, C. L. Ferguson, Spencerville, (Grenville), 170; 9, A. M. Ewart, Perth, (Lanark), 168. **Heavy Horses:** 1, Melvin Burke, Lachute, (Quebec), 178; 2, Harold E. Wilson, Merrickville, (Grenville), 168; 3, John S. Wilson, Merrickville, (Grenville), 162; 4, Lawrence Gordon, Lachute, (Quebec), 161; 5, Gordon Diog, Lachute, (Quebec), 155; 6, Wilbert Davidson, Kemptville, (Grenville), 152; 7, Mackie Henderson,

Athens, (Leeds), 147; 8, Walter H. Sparks, Carp, (Carleton), 144; 9, Harvey Burnie, Spencerville, (Grenville), 142. **DAIRY CATTLE:** 1, Harold E. Wilson, 178; 2, Gordon Diog, 176; 3, Joseph Tennant, Almonte, (Lanark), 172; 4, Douglas A. Ness, Howick (Quebec), 168; 5, Lawrence Gordon, 165; 6, C. J. Greene, Athens, (Leeds), 156; 7, A. Goodin, Spencerville, (Grenville), 154; 8, Ralph Wallace, 152; 9, Mackie Henderson, 150. **SHEEP:** 1, E. Armstrong, Kinburn, (Carleton), 165; 2, Herb. Cuthbertson, Perth, (Lanark), 162; 3, Garret Poapst, Northfield Stn., (Stormont), 148; 4, Roy E. Keays, Almonte, (Lanark), 147; 5, A. M. Ewart, 136; 6, C. C. Tennant, Almonte, (Lanark), 114; 7, Merritt Campbell, Finch, (Stormont), 111; 8, Lloyd Poapst, Northfield, (Stormont), 108; 9, Wilbert Davidson, Kemptville, (Grenville), 106. **SWINE:** 1, C. C. Tennant, 173; 2, Geo. Byers, Cardinal, (Grenville), 162; 3, Trevor R. Beckett, Kemptville, (Grenville), 147; 4, Wesley Eamen,



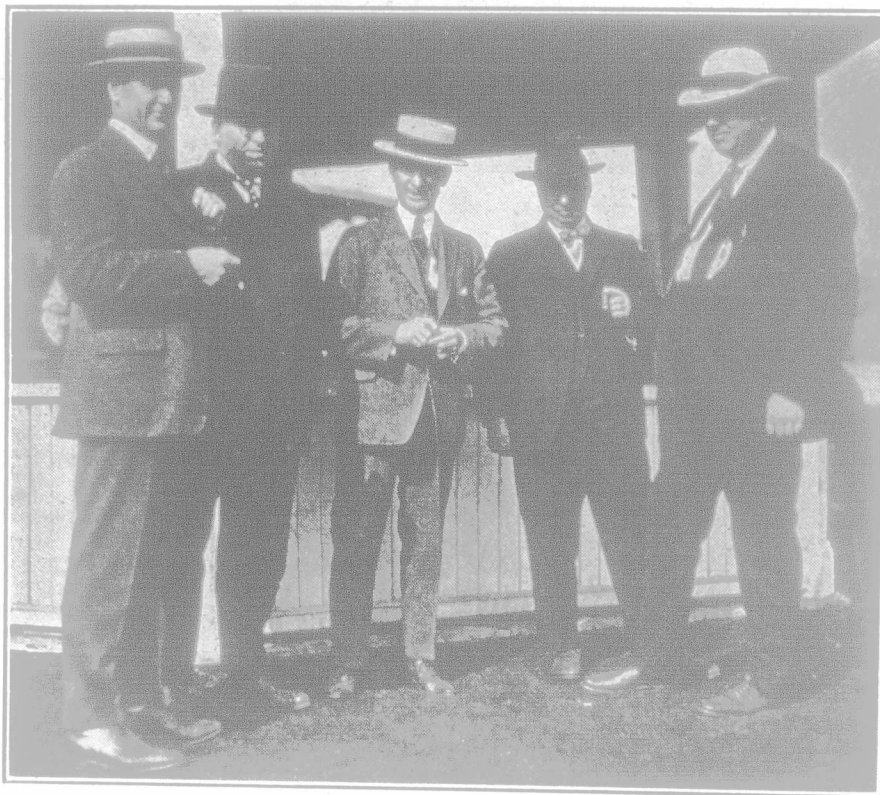
First Prize Yorkshire Boar, Two Years and Over at Ottawa.

For the Kemptville Agricultural School, Kemptville, Ont.

Northfield Stn., (Stormont), 144; 5, R. Bruce Ness, 140; 6, Lloyd Poapst, 134; 7, Harry Lee, Kemptville, (Grenville), 128; 8, Victor Kellough, Almonte, (Lanark), 127; 9, Merritt Campbell, 125.

Live Stock Markets.

A review of the live stock markets, sent out by the Markets Intelligence Division of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, for the past month indicates that in a comparatively heavy offering of cattle there was but a small percentage of choice grades. Compared with a year ago, receipts were low. There was an increase in the export movement of live cattle as compared with the previous months, but exports were 50 per cent. lower than during the same month in 1919.



Prominent Agriculturalists at the C. N. E.

C. F. Bailey, Secretary Royal Show; Hon. Dr. A. Cambell, Minister of Agriculture, Newfoundland; Hon. Manning Doherty, Minister of Agriculture, Ontario; Hon. F. C. Biggs, Minister of Public Works, Ontario; Wm. A. Dryden, President Royal Show.

The general satisfaction in the way the Canadian wool crop is moving should offset any unwise liquidation of sheep. The fall months see a large number of lambs marketed, and the market is maintained on the basis of good quality. Receipts of hogs were far below normal, and in the West there were scarcely enough hogs received daily to make a market. The report indicates that any weakness that may be found in the hog markets is not due to a surplus supply of pigs in the country, and states that "as time progresses it becomes more and more certain that there is a shortage of hogs in the Province of Ontario, and a famine in this regard in the Western Provinces. When conditions on the British market become more favorable for export trade it is believed that there will not be nearly enough hogs to

supply the trade, and as a result high prices will rule." In the Toronto yards, 15,500 hogs were received in August, as compared with 26,800 received during the same month last year. Many of those marketed were under weight, owing, no doubt, to the scarcity and high price of feed.

Demonstrating to Dad.

Some men become so "set" in their ways that little short of an earthquake would move them. Because things were done in such a way when they were boys they think it is the only way to do it now. Unfortunately, indeed, is the young man, whose aims and ideals are to establish a choice herd of pure-bred stock, but who cannot convince his father of the advisability of paying extra money for a choice individual. Most young men are content to start with one or two good breeding females and gradually work into a herd. However, most fathers are from Missouri and if shown that better bred stock, different systems of farming, etc., pays in dollars and cents they yield grudgingly at first, but later become enthusiastic and back their sons in their endeavor to keep abreast of the times and adopt twentieth century methods. Some boys require the restraining hand of father to prevent them from going headlong into a scheme before first considering the foundation upon which it is built. Many of our good herds of to-day have been handed down from father to son, but some are the direct results of the boy's effort.

Tom Jones, an Ontario boy, was brought up on a well-kept farm, but being one of several boys the labor saving machinery did not appear on the farm until it had proven its efficiency as a money-maker on the neighboring farms. One by one the boys started farming for themselves until Tom was the only boy left on the old homestead. Tom and his father got on well together and kept the work well in hand, but whenever the question of better live stock was mentioned the subject was quickly changed by the father. The brindle cows gave a fair quantity of milk, and the calves could be disposed of when two years old although the price was not as good as that received by neighbors for stockers of the same age but better bred. Tom usually attended one of the large exhibitions in the fall and always went to the local fair. The live stock and farm products offered more attraction for him than did the midway. A keen delight was taken in watching the different classes of cattle judged, but always there was that longing to have stock of similar quality to show. When he visited the local fair one year and saw boys of his own age leading out steers and heifers in a special class he determined that he would be an exhibitor some day. But how he did not yet know. Father would not hear of the purchasing of even a calf to fit and Tom knew that the calves from the mating of the brindle cows with a grade sire were none too promising as a show proposition. Two miles up the road lived a neighbor

who had recently purchased a topnotcher of a bull at a very high figure, at least the neighbors said it was. Tom visited the farm occasionally and greatly admired the new herd sire. Finally the neighbor consented to use this bull on one of the cows from the grade herd although he made it clear that too much money was invested to practice indiscriminate breeding. The intention was to use him on his own herd only. Tom's father was somewhat against him taking the cow to the neighbor's herd sire, but yielded and grudgingly handed over the service fee of ten dollars. Tom picked what he thought was the best cow in the herd to breed to the registered sire. During the following months a study was made of feeding calves, looking after cows, etc., and the information gathered was practiced on the stock on hand. Tom wondered what kind of a calf the grade cow would drop. He knew full well that if it was no better than the other calves his arguments for use of a better sire would be in vain. Then, too, a well-built, breedy-looking calf was wanted for the competition

at the local fair. In due time a fine heifer calf was dropped and it really exceeded Tom's expectations. He viewed it critically as days and weeks passed and found that its straight lines, spread of rib and depth of body with that breedy head was good to look upon. The father, silent at first, was frequently found looking at the calf, inwardly admiring its beauty, but loathe to admit that the use of better blood was entirely responsible. The calf grew big and fat under Tom's care.

Another year had almost past and the fairs were again being held. Tom entered the calf and although there was considerable competition secured the blue ribbon. He would like to have carried away the red, but he saw that his competitor held a superior youngster. The father became convinced that good blood in the herd