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they will not do so well—nor let them drink from a stagnant pool at any time. They are very liable to take parasites into their system, which will cause trouble. If it can be arranged to give the flock a change of pasture every two or three weeks, and not necessarily to better pasture, they will thrive and do much better. To alternate them between two fields every few weeks will answer the purpose.

From August 1 to 15 is a good time to wean the lambs. They will do better after that if separated from the ewes, and are given a nice fresh bit of clover or rape to run on, and besides it gives the ewes a chance to recuperate and gain in flesh. The ewes' udders should be watched closely for a short time after weaning, and stripped out, when necessary, until the milk has left them. If any have bad or spoiled udders they should be marked for drafting out, and careful note should be made of which are the best milkers. One of the important things that make for success is in having the ewes good milkers; other things being equal, the good milkers raise the best lambs. The lambs' as well as the ewes' tails should be trimmed neatly square across up to the stump of the tail before being turned on fresh green feed such as rape or clover, so they will not soil their wool so much behind if they become soft in their drooping, which they often do.

Culling Out

The ewe lambs from the best ewes and the best milkers should, if well developed, and promising, be marked at weaning time, and from these the selections should be made to keep in the flock, always being careful to retain those as near the ideal type as possible. They should be liberally fed to insure growth and development, but it is not necessary to feed extravagantly at all. They should not be bred until they pass one year old. If bred when lambs they are retarded in their growth and seldom make as vigorous ewes. Their lambs are often smaller, and not of so much account. The best of these shearing ewes should be selected in the fall to replace those drafted from the ewe flock for any reason. But do not cast out an old good ewe that is also a good breeder and milker for a young ewe unless her teeth have failed or for spoiled udder.

The ewes will now be used in the same way as described for the first year. Those with defective udders or which have proved unthrifty and those that are not good milkers should be drafted and fed with the wether and ewe lambs for market. Their places for this year should be filled by purchases. If the lambs are to be sold in the fall, say October, they will generally give a profit for a small feed of grain each day, yet, if the green feed be plentiful they will usually be fat and heavy enough without any grain.

Before being offered for sale they should be made as presentable as possible, by trimming their tails nicely, as well as all tags, etc., that may detract from their appearance. Some successful shepherds say it pays well to wash them carefully if they be long wools, and probably they are right; it certainly improves their appearance very much. Generally it will be found most profitable to keep the lambs over until March, feeding them well with clover, hay, roots and some grain. At that season they are suitable for export either to the United States or to Great Britain, where heavier lambs are desired. In addition to the large gain they will make in weight, they usually bring a much better price per pound. If it is desired to establish a special sheep farm or devote the whole farm to sheep raising, it will still be better for the beginner, if without sheep keeping experience, to have only a small flock at first, as already described, and the flock will usually increase as fast as the average man can prepare and accommodate his farm to the special purpose, and furnish suitable housing, yards, etc. Possibly if the farm be not suitable for any other kind of farming, that is, very rough and hilly, he may begin with a larger flock, but even under such conditions, he had better go slowly until he has had a year or two of experience. In any case, to have success with sheep raising, as with any other business, a man's close observation and individuality will play a very large part in his study of the success and advice of others which can be only an assistance and not a rule to follow without careful consideration of one's own conditions, and a free use of good judgment.

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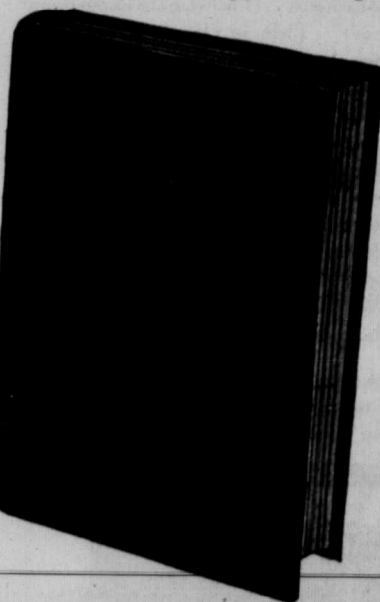
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