

some difficulty in this, especially if the ewes have had the run of turnips or rape, for by December they will be indoors, and sheep are nearly sure to fail after coming off such feed. If possible, they should have a few turnips and a pint of oats each per day along with their hay, but if being fed straw they should have more oats. There is more money in growing oats for this purpose than in wheat growing. For the rest of the winter sheep will do very well if they get all the good hay they will eat. A few roots are good, but if early lambs are expected they are better kept till then. If straw is to be depended on for bulky food, they will do equally as well as on hay if fed on a sufficient ration of grain; if grown for the purpose, oats is the most profitable crop to grow; if it has to be bought, bran will probably give the best results for the least money. A teaspoonful of sulphur for each sheep, given in bran or chop once a week for three weeks, I have found puts the blood in good order, and is a great preventative of ticks.

An old sheep man in Ontario used to say, "If you want your lambs to jump up as soon as they are born, feed the ewes a few beans during the winter, and if you have not beans feed peas." Looking for the cause of this, we find that beans are the most nitrogenous grain we have, followed pretty closely by peas; but as neither of these foods are plentiful in Manitoba, we must look for a substitute. This will be found in oil cake, which contains a greater percentage of digestible albuminoids than beans, but if we want a substitute that may be easily grown on the farm we must fall back on oats, but it will require nearly twice the weight of oats than of peas to accomplish the same results.

As to buildings, I think it rather a mistaken idea many people have, that any sort of a shed will do for sheep. I would prefer to keep them comparatively warm, and not subject them to the intense cold which we get occasionally during the winter; but, if possible, have buildings in which the temperature would be slightly below freezing. They would repay in the extra thrift of the sheep, and cause a considerable saving of feed. Such a building would save much trouble, and also many a lamb where the lambs came early. Sheep require plenty of exercise, so they should have plenty of yard room, but should have something warmer than a yard to spend the night in.

Good feed racks are indispensable with sheep, as they will waste more fodder than any other farm animal, if allowed; therefore their racks should be so constructed that they cannot get their feed under their feet, and also that either hay or grain can be fed in them.

The best time for lambs to come will depend on circumstances. If the flock is large and time can be given to them during lambing, May is the best time, but if, as is the case with most farmers, there is a lot of work to do at that time, lambing had better be over before seeding begins, though it will require extra feed to keep the lambs growing well till the grass comes. I have not found that it pays to make a practice of raising early lambs for the butchers, for though they will give a good price for an early lamb when very small, the same lamb coming later would bring as much in the fall, owing to it being so much larger.

During lambing sheep require constant watching, young ewes with their first lambs especially needing to be looked after; but much of the success of this time will depend on the feed and care which has been given them through the winter.

Practical Notes on Wintering Sheep.

BY SIDNEY UPPER, TWO RIVERS, MAN.

In order to winter ewes successfully, it is necessary to have them in good condition before coming into winter quarters; and to accomplish this, it is well to wean the lambs early, say not later than from the first to the last of September, according to age of lambs. I believe that an animal in good condition in the fall is half wintered.

As the sheep go into winter quarters, see to it that the sheds are roomy and well ventilated. Have wide doors, as sheep are very apt to crowd and jam in narrow doorways. Do not let them run in yard with other animals, and keep the rams away from them, as they get rough with the ewes during the winter.

Now, as to feeding in winter when the ground is covered with snow, thrifty ewes will do nicely on oat straw, with hay once or twice a day, as circumstances will admit; but about a month before lambing time they require better feed; say oat sheaves, carrots, turnips or hay cut fine and made damp, to which add a little bran and chopped grain, oats or barley. By so doing they will have plenty of milk, and their lambs will be in a position to grow and thrive.

The Selection and Care of Breeding Ewes in Manitoba.

BY CHARLES WRIGHT, HOLLAND.

On bringing the breeding ewes into winter quarters, one of the first things necessary will be to look the flock over carefully, and pick out any of those that appear weakly through old age or any other cause. These should be yarded by themselves, as they will require extra care and feed. If left with the stronger flock, they will be pushed aside and not get their share of feed. When a large flock is kept, young ewes coming two years old, should enjoy a separate pen. Ewe lambs should be treated in like manner.

In the early part of winter I would let the stronger flock out on fine days, as they will be all the better for the exercise, and will pick up a good part of their living.

Begin by feeding good, sound, fine prairie hay

once a day, with a pint of oats for each sheep at noon, fed in troughs. At five o'clock give a feed of oats and peas, or barley and peas, cut just as the pods have filled. Remember that sheep like variety, and it is better to give them as much mixed hay every day as one has prepared for them, than to keep to one kind for a week or so and then change to another. Do not make the mistake of thinking anything good enough for the sheep, as they pay a better dividend than any other farm stock. One good lamb will bring as much or more money than two poor ones; besides, there is never any difficulty in disposing of good lamb or mutton. Aim to keep your ewes in a good, thrifty condition, and do not have them scratching all the wool off their backs because they are covered with ticks.

Let the ewes have as much pure water as they will drink (and you will find it not a little.) Also keep salt in their sheds; they will eat some, though they do not seem to care as much for it in Manitoba as they do in Ontario.

Have your racks constructed end on to the hay yard, so that when feeding one can carry the hay right into the rack without throwing it down amongst the sheep. This will save a lot of worry at feeding time, and help to keep the seeds and dirt out of the ewes' wool, or one can have two yards and a good wide entrance gate between. Then the grain and hay can be put into the troughs without the feeder being carried off his feet.

The sheds can be built of any material that is most convenient. See that they are free from draughts, and leave the lower doors open for the sheep to run in and out at will. On fine nights, even in the coldest weather, some prefer to sleep outside.

About six weeks before lambing time begin feeding mangolds or beets, if you have them. If not, potatoes will be better than nothing. If the ewes have been treated as they should, it will not be necessary, but rather an evil, to increase the grain supply, as a fat ewe will have more difficulty in parturition than one in a good, thrifty condition.

Never let the sheep run with other animals during the winter, as this is a more frequent cause of abortion than any other. Watch the ewes every day, as some may be ailing and require a little extra feed and care. If oil-cake can be obtained cheaply, it would be as well to have some on hand. If the ewes are not used to it, the ground will be the best.

Canadian Cattle Breeders' Association.

A meeting of the cattle breeders was held on Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 14th, in the Victoria Rink, Guelph, for the purpose of forming a cattle breeders' association. There was a good representative meeting of breeders. Mr. J. C. Snell, Edmonton, Ont., was chosen chairman. He explained the object of the meeting, and said that at a meeting of the Shorthorn Executive it was thought wise to organize a Canadian Cattle Breeders' Association, so as to exert a greater influence, and obtain, if possible, a grant from the Government to further the interests of all pure-bred breeds of cattle.

Mr. R. Gibson, Delaware, moved, seconded by Mr. Hodson, that such an association be formed, and after a number of those present had expressed their opinion, it was unanimously carried.

A committee was then appointed to draw up a constitution, composed of men representing the different breeds. The men selected were:—H. Wade, Toronto; T. Guy, Oshawa; A. Rawlings, Forest; R. Gibson, Delaware; D. McCrae, Guelph; J. C. Snell, Edmonton; D. E. Smith, Brampton. A constitution was drawn up by the committee, and will be submitted at the annual meeting for ratification. It is intended to hold this meeting in February.

The election of officers took place, and resulted as follows:—President, Hon. T. Ballantyne, St. Marys; Vice-President, Mr. R. Gibson, Delaware; Secretary, Mr. D. E. Smith, Brampton; Treasurer, Mr. H. Wade, Toronto.

At the annual meeting committees will be appointed and definite steps taken to make this a very useful association. The object of this association shall be to promote the general interests of the breeders of cattle, and farmers generally.

It is desirable that every breed of cattle shall be represented at this association, and every cattle breeder's association is requested to send two delegates to the meeting. Due notice will be sent to the secretaries of the associations, and where no associations are yet formed notice will be sent to the principal representatives of the breed.

How the "Advocate" is Appreciated.

Editor of FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

Dear Sir, I think it (the ADVOCATE) in every way worthy, in fact the magazine praises itself. It has so many good points. In the first place, it is printed on good, strong paper, with clear type; the whole family can read; then we lend it to a neighbor that has none; they read them, and they come home as good as new. We have the whole year's numbers to refer to on rainy days or spare moments; we always find something interesting and instructive. The dairy department is of great value, there are so many small dairies making butter in this country. If they would study well the advice given in your magazine, there would not be so much third-class butter made, that merchants sometimes call wagon grease, (I am afraid it is only too true). I like, too, the useful hints given in regard to the different breeds of hogs, and the pretty stories written for the children. In fact my words would fail to express all its good and useful hints for the farming community, if they would read and profit by it. Yours truly,

JOHN D. GARNETT, Minniska, Man.

Chatty Letter from the States.

Farmers and feeders are disposed to think that "hogs are hogs" just now, while the buyers who have so reluctantly followed prices upward insist that much of the stock they are forced to take cannot properly be called hogs—rather offscourings of the big pens.

The middle of December found a good many changes in prices for live stock and farm products, on the Chicago market the closing year, compared with December, 1891:—

| ARTICLES. | 1892. | 1891. |
|--------------|---------|---------|
| Fancy beefs | \$ 7 00 | \$ 7 00 |
| Choice " | 5 50 | 6 00 |
| Fair " | 4 00 | 4 25 |
| Inferior " | 3 00 | 3 25 |
| Choice cows | 3 00 | 3 00 |
| Canning " | 2 00 | 1 60 |
| Store cattle | 22 65 | 140 30 |
| Heavy hogs | 6 75 | 4 15 |
| Mixed " | 6 40 | 4 00 |
| Light " | 6 35 | 3 35 |
| Prime sheep | 5 00 | 5 25 |
| Superior " | 3 50 | 3 25 |
| Lambs | 5 75 | 5 60 |
| Cash corn | 43 1 | 46 |
| " Wheat | 72 | 96 |
| " Pork | 16 10 | 11 05 |
| Lard | 8 45 | 6 15 |

As pretty a sight as the writer has witnessed in many a day was a lot of thirty-eight superb three-year-old Angus steers, averaging 1,816 lbs. They were bred and fed by one man, and sold in the open market to the Eastman Co. for Liverpool at \$7 per cwt., when "good" cattle were selling at \$5 or less.

In lieu of the fat stock show, which had to be postponed, a subscription was raised and prizes awarded on many of the cattle that would have been at the show, and which were too fat or too old to carry over until next year. The number shown was only 52, and the Shorthorns and Angus rather had the best of it. First premiums were awarded as follows:—

Shorthorns—Steer, 2 and under 3 years—J. H. Potts & Son, Jacksonville. Steer, 1 and under 2 years, and also steer under 1 year—M. E. Jones, Williamsville, Ind.

In the Hereford class—Steer, 2 and under 3 years—W. S. Van Natta, Fowler, Ind. Steer, 1 and under 2 years—First premium, H. J. Fluck, Goodenow, Ill. Steer, under 1 year—First premium, W. S. Van Natta.

Devons—Steer, 2 and under 3 years, and steer 1 and under 2 years—John Hudson, Moweaqua, Ill. No competition.

Aberdeen-Angus—Steer, 2 and under 3 years—First premium, W. S. Niles, Wyoming, Iowa. Steer, 1 and under 2 years—First premium, George Geary, Winterset, Iowa. Steer, under 1 year—First premium, George Geary.

Grades and cross-bred steers—Steer, 2 and under 3 years—First premium, Atkins & Andrews, West Point, Ind. Steer, 1 and under 2 years—First premium, W. S. Van Natta, Fowler, Ind. Steer, under 1 year—First premium, W. S. Van Natta. Steer, 2 and under 3 years—Premium, J. H. Potts & Son, Jacksonville, Ill. Steer, 1 and under 2 years—H. J. Fluck, Goodenow, Ill. Steer, under 1 year—M. E. Jones, Williamsville, Ill.

Sweepstakes, Shorthorns—Premium, J. H. Potts & Son, Jacksonville, Ill.

Sweepstakes, Herefords—Premium, W. S. Van Natta, Fowler, Ind.

Sweepstakes, Devons—Premium, John Hudson, Moweaqua, Ill.

Sweepstakes, Aberdeen-Angus—Premium, W. S. Niles, Wyoming, Iowa.

Sweepstakes, Grades and Crosses—Premium, Atkin & Andrews, West Point, Ind.

Grand Sweepstakes—J. H. Potts & Son, Jacksonville, Ill.

Owing to the Columbian Exposition next year, no regular fat stock show will be held next winter by the Illinois State Board of Agriculture, though there may be a Christmas cattle show worked up by the promoters of the recent so-called show.

The hog market has lately been a great surprise to the packers and to producers also. Prices are at least \$1 per 100 lbs. higher than anybody thought they would be by this time.

Indications are that, owing to the better grass in Texas and the somewhat relieved ranges, the number of cattle to be put into the Indian territory the next season will be smaller than usual, and much smaller than last year. The low prices lately paid for some Texas cattle are expected to make the purchasers lots of money next year.

Everybody seems to feel confident of higher cattle prices next summer, on account of the increased number of visitors in the country. Such expectations are not always realized.

Wallace Bros., Millers, of Woodbridge, have just received from Mr. James Sharp, of Armstrong's Lake, York Colony, a carload of this year's wheat, containing 663 bushels, which graded No. 2 hard and sold at eighty-one cents per bushel, while the best Ontario wheat at the same mill was only worth about sixty-one or six-two cents per bushel, thus showing a difference of twenty cents in favor of the Northwest wheat. This ought to be a sufficient margin to cover freight, so that the Northwest wheat is put almost on a level with that of Ontario.