

31. All the feathers should be plucked off except on the tips of the wings of ducks. They should not in any case be dipped into water, and the down may be left on.

32. The entrails may be left in.

33. They should be packed about ten in a case. Birds of small size are not wanted, anything under nine pounds in geese is neglected. The most saleable size is from ten to twelve pounds.

CHICKENS AND FOWLS.

It is recommended that they be prepared in the same way as the turkeys which are to be plucked.

The killing may be done by dislocating the neck or in the following way:—A knife with a long narrow blade sharpened on both sides is best. The bird, with its legs tied together, is laid upon its back, its mouth is opened with the left hand, and the point of the blade is inserted into the slit in the roof of the mouth; a firm sharp cut is made into the brain cutting it along its entire length. The bird should be hung for a few minutes to allow the blood to drain out. Then the plucking should be done at once. The wings should be twisted under the back, and the legs also should be tucked up.

Keep More Sheep*

By Fred Hore, Valentia, Ont.

The subject of sheep-raising is one that receives comparatively little attention. It is, nevertheless, of great importance. When considering the advisability of going into any kind of business, the first question we naturally ask is: Does it pay? So the question I shall strive to answer is: Does it pay to keep sheep? I maintain that it does for four reasons—(1) Because a sheep-pen can be cheaply built; (2) because sheep can be cheaply fed; (3) because they require but little attention; (4) because they bring quick returns.

When we have decided to invest in sheep the first thing to do is select the breed we prefer. Some fancy the South-down, others the Shropshire, others the Cotswold; but give me the Leicester, because they are a very hardy sheep, of good size, and will produce a fine fleece. The lambs also will mature in time for the Xmas market, which we must cater to.

The size of the building required will depend upon the number of sheep you wish to keep. For a flock of, say from 12 to 16, a pen 15 by 24 will be sufficient, with a rack along one side or down the centre, as you may prefer. By all means, build your pen high enough to have a loft up over it, as it will save a great deal of work to have the feed always handy. If it is convenient to build by the side of or end of the barn it will save a considerable amount of lumber. One ply of lumber, if put on closely, will make the pen warm enough. By all means sheep should have a yard to run in by day, as they require plenty of exercise.

During the winter months sheep can be cheaply fed on pea-straw as their chief diet, and they will convert it into valuable manure, which will help build up the farm, a practice that is far more profitable than burning the straw or leaving it out in the field year after year to dry out in the sun. But this food alone is not sufficient, and sheep will not keep fat on pea-straw only. As variety is the spice of life, sheep will do better if they get a little cut oat sheaf, clover hay or alsike chaff occasionally. Also, they will be better with a few roots once a day. There is always a considerable amount of light grain and fine chaff on a farm which the fanning mill takes out. This can be profitably used by our little friends, especially in the spring, when they need a little extra feed. In the summer they will live where any other animal will starve, as they graze very close to the ground. We must admit that they are hard on clover. They are valuable as weed-destroyers, as they are

vigorous enemies of foxtail and other weeds of that nature.

In the first place, great care should be taken in selecting ewes for breeding purposes. Don't buy small fine-boned sheep at any price, as it will cost nearly as much to feed them as larger ones. They should be well quartered, long in the body, with heavy bone, a high and showy neck. And if Leicesters they should have a long dark nose (not black) and long thin dark ears. Then, in breeding use nothing but the best males that can be secured, as the lambs will be larger and better. You all know that no buyer wants scrubs. If you have some fine lambs they will buy them and allow you to throw in the rest for good luck.

In the fall sheep should be compelled to take shelter in wet weather if you wish to obtain the best results. Then, in the winter they must be fed twice a day and watered at least once a day. It is advisable to keep a mixture of salt and sulphur where they can always get at it, as this will supply the mineral substance necessary to prevent the wool from falling out. Of course sheep must have their bitters. So a little green balsam brush will supply this need.

But the main care is needed in the lambing season when they should be seen every few hours, and any ewes that may have twins should be put in a small pen for a while where they can get extra feed, and there will be no danger of one of the lambs getting lost. Then during the summer, especially the early part of it, they should be brought into the yard and counted every evening. This can easily be done by always keeping a trough there with salt in it, as they will always wander thither about the time the sun sinks to rest. If a lamb gets its head through a fence and you leave it there till it starves to death, it is not fair to call that bad luck. It is bad management.

Good ewes can be bought in the fall for about six dollars each. In the spring their fleece will be worth on an average at least one dollar. Then good ewes will raise on the average more than one lamb each, which will be worth about four dollars. So you see that from six dollars investment you will realize five dollars return in one year.

Now, taking into consideration the cost of building, the cost of feed and the labor required in looking after them, I would like to know what other animal will yield as good returns for the capital invested.

Every business, however, has its drawbacks. So many farmers give up keeping sheep on account of the useless dogs that are so numerous in this section. I claim that we as farmers and sheep-raisers should be protected from this one great enemy to our business.

In conclusion, I would not advise any one to give up keeping other domestic animals for sheep, because I believe the person who is going to succeed in this day of close competition is the one who has a little of everything. When one thing fails there is something else to fall back upon. "Keep more sheep."

Winter Dairying

By W. J. Casselman, Morrisburg, Ont.

In this section of the province winter dairying has been, and is being carried on profitably where certain conditions are complied with. The first thing necessary in profitable dairying is good dairy cows, for without *these* you will make a failure. To get a good herd of cows is no easy task. The best way is to raise them. Use as good a dairy bull as your money enables you to buy, and then raise the heifer calves from the best cows in the herd. In order to find out which cows are the best it will be necessary to weigh and test each cow's milk separately. This should be done at least once a month for at least two seasons.

Now if we have our good herd we must see that the cows calve at the proper season of the year when dairy products are the highest. The months of September and October is usually the best time. The cows, with proper care and feed, will milk until the middle of the next July or the first of August.

The next necessity is the proper kinds of feed. As profit is what is wanted, the corn plant should be one of

* A synopsis of an address prepared for Farmers' Institute meetings in Ontario, condensed for publication by the Superintendent.