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WHEN WRITING TO ADVERTISERS
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My Experience with Sheep in Saskatchewan

By Wallace A. Thomson, Pense, Sask.



Shropshire Rams that have Improved the Flock.

AFTER keeping a flock of sheep for four years on a Saskatchewan farm, I find the result so satisfactory that it is my desire to place these results in the hands of other farmers, in hope that they may be the means of increasing the interest along this line in the province.

In October, 1914, I purchased 80 ewes of ordinary range breeding, from two to five years of age. They cost at that time \$4.25 each, amounting to \$340. Sixty dollars was paid for a good Suffolk ram, making a total investment of \$400.

The following spring they raised 100 lambs. The 40 wether lambs were killed and dressed later in the summer and sold directly to the retail merchants in Regina at 19 cents a pound, or about \$8.50 each, allowing \$1.25 for the pelts, amounting in all to about \$340. The 60 ewe lambs were kept with the regular flock and about 30 of the original ewes were sold in the fall for \$200. The wool clip from the ewes this year was about 600 pounds, which at 32 cents per pound amounted to nearly \$200.

In 1916 the 50 ewes raised 60 lambs. Forty wether lambs were sold in the same manner as in the previous year for 22 cents per pound, bringing in all about \$400, and the remaining 20 ewe lambs were carried on with the regular flock. About ten more of the original ewes were sold during the summer for \$80. The 850 pounds of wool given by the flock this year sold for 51 cents per pound, bringing about \$430. The flock carried over this next winter consisted of 30 of the original flock, 60 yearling ewes and 20 ewe lambs. The Suffolk ram was sold this summer for \$60, and two Shropshire rams were purchased for \$130.

In the spring of 1917 the 90 breeding ewes should have raised about 125 lambs, but a mistake was made by turning both rams with the flock at the same time. The result was that the rams spent most of the time fighting. A number of the ewes were not bred at all, while the remainder in most cases raised single lambs. The number of lambs raised this spring was only 65. The 25 wether lambs were sold for 24 cents per pound, bringing about \$250. The 30 remaining original ewes were sold for \$250. The wool this year at 67 cents a pound brought \$550.

The flock carried over the winter 1917-18 consisted of 60 two-shear ewes, 20 shearlings and 40 ewe lambs. In the spring the 80 breeding ewes raised 120 lambs, which are all on hand at the present time. Although the returns are not yet received for the 1,000 pounds of wool given by the flock this year, it is expected to bring about 70 cents per pound, which will amount to \$700. The flock at present consists of 120 ewes and 120 lambs, worth approximately \$4,000.

Summing up, the total receipts for the four years are around \$3,400, while the flock has increased in value by

\$3,600, so that the total receipts are about \$7,000. Besides all this, they have utilized all the grain scattered around the fields in harvest time and have been a great help toward keeping down the weeds.

The expense of keeping this flock has been small, although it is possible that better results might have been obtained had they received a little better care. The first two winters were mild, with a light snowfall, and they lived entirely on straw and what grain they could find in the stacks and on the stubble, with only a rough shelter of baled straw. But the third winter was severe—the snow was too deep for them to get over the fields, and their shelter drifted full of snow, causing the death of five or six ewes. This made it necessary to build a permanent sheep shed at the cost of \$325 in the middle of the winter, and they were fed inside until spring on oat straw with some prairie hay and a few oat sheaves. Each summer they have pastured on about 70 acres of prairie land and a few acres of rape sown to fatten the lambs, causing very little trouble or expense, except for a month at lambing time, a few days while they



Some of the Ewes and Lambs in Thomson's Flock.

were being sheared, and a half day now and again to market the lambs. They spend the nights near the buildings to avoid being disturbed by stray dogs and coyotes.

Last winter was also severe, making it necessary to feed them inside most of the time from Christmas until spring. They were fed on oat straw, with a few oat sheaves and a quantity of alfalfa hay, which cost \$200.

During these four years I have lost five sheep by coyotes and about 15 by dogs, and I have noticed that while a coyote will simply kill a lamb and carry it away, a dog will invariably torment the whole flock for several hours if he is not noticed, and will in the same time kill probably three or four. So my experience is that dogs are by far the worst enemy.

I castrate every ram lamb when two weeks old, and find that this practise brings by far the best results.

Horses Lack Vitality

Q.—My horses have difficulty in eating their feed. Upon examining them I found the roof of their mouths next to the front teeth was growing down so that it extended past their teeth. I applied salt to the affected parts without any apparent benefit. Kindly advise probable trouble, cause and cure.

A.—My work horses seem to have lost their vitality. They are in good condition and not overworked, but appear to lack the life they formerly had. Would it be advisable to use a stock food to tone them up? If so, what kind would you advise?

—C.F.J., Standard, Alta.

A.—The presence of an inflamed and sensitive ridge projecting down below the level of the upper front teeth constitutes the condition known as "Lampro." The pressure of coarse food on the tender surface may sometimes cause sufficient discomfort to prevent the animal feeding properly. This inflamed and swollen condition of the gums is almost invariably the result of tooth-aching and is rarely met with in adult animals. The proper treatment is to scarify (make two or three small incisions) the inflamed tissues with the point of a sharp knife which will relieve the congestion and soreness. Care must be exercised to make the incisions in front of the third bar of the hard palate so as not to wound the palatine artery and thereby cause annoying if not serious bleeding. The animal should then be fed on soft feed for a few days. The fact that the gums project below the level of the teeth is no evidence of an abnormal condition, providing the tissues are not red and inflamed, and pressure with the thumb fails to produce pain. What is commonly referred to as "Lampro" is more frequently an imaginary disease than an actual trouble in horses' mouths.

2.—If your horses are receiving a sufficient amount of sound, wholesome and nourishing food, they should not lack vitality unless suffering from disease. We would suggest that you examine the food carefully for evidence of mustiness or lack of quality. You should also make sure that the water supply is pure. If water and food prove to be clean and wholesome you might give the following alternative and tonic powder with benefit:—
Glauber's Salt 2 lbs.
Saltpetre 1 lb.
Powdered Nux Vomica 1 lb.
Powdered Sulphate of Iron 1 lb.
Powdered Gentian Root 1 lb.
Mix and give a tablespoonful each evening in soft food.

Immature Worms in Hogs

Q.—We killed a pig recently. It was in good condition but upon cutting it open we found on the liver and also on the glands in the body and intestines small blisters. Kindly tell us through your paper what was the cause of these blisters.—A Reader, Handel, Sask.

A.—The small blisters or cysts on the bowels indicate the presence of a parasite known as the *Cysticercus tenuicollis*, which is the larval stage of a tapeworm in the hog. Hogs taking in the larva develop tapeworm, segments of which are in turn swallowed by young pigs and cause the cysts referred to.

This disease is not communicable to man and rarely produces serious results in the animals affected. It is possible, however, that the condition may be confused with tuberculosis which affects a considerable percentage of the hogs on this continent.

A positive diagnosis could only be made after a careful personal examination.

Cows Fail to Breed

Q.—My cows were all bred early last spring but they have continued to come in heat regularly every six and nine weeks since, after being rebred. Kindly state



Turning Grass into Mutton and Wool on the Farm of Wallace Thomson, Pense, Sask.



Frank Collett's

probable reason for remedy.—R. B. Elmer

A.—The fact that the bull is at fault have suffered from a contagious abortion which followed that have become contagious abortion as a sequel to the disease of the ovaries which natural liberation heat period. In a catarrhal condition indicated by an which prevents copulation on the heat period does nine weeks, that and abort after w in heat. Abortion in the period of gestation. If you are not from contagion of your cows have affected with the have been the mother from one to the very fat sometimes.

If the cows present the genital organs, dence to believe that infected with contagious would suggest try first making sure been in contact with. Among other causes the presence of smutty or musty diuretic drinking. If, on examination evidence of disease, we would suggest a veterinarian.

Bulls that have suffering from disease should have the antiseptic solution of Carbolic Acid or 1,000 Permanganate each service.

Notes from

A very satisfactory made up of a mixture of thousands headed. Experimental Farm last summer. About to this crop after and the amount obtained from it. Sheep pasture, the Gibson, suggests the fall or late along and providing same fall and crop has been past the land could be the mixture mentioned. "I consider a 7,000 or 8,000 pounds and possesses the form showing good is what is wanted Shorthorn." The of Mr. Gibson with tion of the dual-recently. It is evident has the right constitutes that type further borne on the herd maintains Indian Head. All of 25 cows and ing heifers. The oped from Scotch good milkers, and bulls together with the milking qu things, one of the useful herds of Canada has been possible to increase