

Winter Work that Lessens Spring Rush

J. R. Philip, Grey Co., Ont.

OWING to the scarcity of labor, it is wise for us farmers to get everything done during the winter months that is possible. Get a year's supply of fuel, especially if wood is used. It is a good plan to split the wood ready for the stove, and pile inside. The boys do not as a rule, care for splitting wood for the noon hour meal with the temperature up at about 100 degrees Fah.

Get as much of the manure into the field as possible. Some object to this practice, claiming that they lose a large amount of the fertilizer. We should not be too quick to arrive at conclusions. It has been proved by experimenters that the sooner manure is on the ground the more profitable it is. Some may say, "That is the very reverse of my experience."

For instance, they may take two pieces of equal fertility, treated to a given number of loads of manure, one treated in the winter, the other the following summer. The one receiving a summer coat gives much the better results. Possibly so; but there are several things which should be considered before we jump at conclusions of this kind.

WHERE CALCULATIONS MAY BE OFF

(1) Was there any allowance made for the ice and snow; the voids in the load caused by chunks frozen in irregular shapes. Possibly if left until it was thawed out and tramped it would only make half a load.

(2) Do we ever consider the loss we sustain by allowing manure to lie in a pile in the yard? It has been proved by different experimenters that it will

lose one-half of its fertilizing qualities in six months. Then we only have half as much as if taken out at made.

Balancing the one with the other we are only applying one-quarter as much manure in the winter as six months later. How could we expect as good results? There are certainly fields that it is not wise to manure in winter, but as a rule we can get the bulk out in winter profitably. We have known cases in a wet season when it was impossible for some farmers to get their manure out so as to get the benefit that season.

It is not wise to leave cleaning seed until it is needed. Now there is a greater quantity than there will be in a couple of months. The light oats, if any, can be fed to the idle horses. This is one thing they are not particular enough about. Let us look over the reports from those who have been taking a deep interest in this important question and we will not be satisfied with cleaning our seed once, or perhaps twice. We should read more and become more acquainted with facts before we are satisfied to settle down to any theory.

Secondly, our time is not so valuable now as in seeding time, when we should get the seed in the ground as quickly after the soil is in fit condition, as possible, and at a time when there is a lot to look after around the stables. Young stock arriving daily demand a certain amount of attention. Have a system, and keep up to it. There is no time a thing is so easily done as at the right time.



Notes for the Shepherd

Sheep Notes

Make all changes gradually. You won't gain anything by crossing breeds.

Sheep like upland pasture. They need dry footing.

Wet or muddy yards are breeders of foot diseases.

What's the good of a salt box if you don't keep salt in it?

Give your boy a lamb, and he will soon get interested in sheep.

Remember that the lamb crops depends upon the care of the ewes.

Give your sheep good feed and care and they won't need condition powders.

Don't buy a new ram unless you are sure he is better than your old one.

The farmer who tries to raise lambs without roots and clover makes a mistake.

The lamb makes the sheep, and good care or lack of it produces a valuable animal or a scrub.

Don't stack straw where the sheep can get at it. They will fill their throats with chaff, which will injure the value of the wool.

See that the water trough, spring or run furnishes plenty of pure, fresh water. Don't make your sheep drink green, slimy water.

Keep an eye out for a good ram, if you need one this year. Don't wait until the breeding season is on, or you might not get just what you want.

It isn't always safe to buy a "show ram" he is probably fitted up for the occasion. You will get better results

from one that is well bred and in good thriving condition. Good breeding and individuality are the things that count with a ram.

A beginner should not go into sheep, but grow into sheep; that is, start with a few, and breed up to a flock by keeping the female increase.—The Farmer.

Danger in Feeding Salt

There is considerable danger in feeding salt to ewes just before lambing time. Many cases have been traced directly to the use of salt during this period.

Sheep have salt and plenty of it, but this is one time during the life cycle when it should be withheld. Not only have bad results been noticed from the feeding of salt, but when sheep have been fed a liberal supply of beets or turnips, abortion has been more prevalent than otherwise.

This is attributed to the fact that there is more salt in these feeds than in others.

In the same way similar results have followed from allowing ewes in lamb to run on an alkali soil. See to it that your ewes do not get too much salt just before lambing.—Iowa Homestead.

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