

question. At the Wisconsin Experiment Station they made experiments directly on this problem. In one trial the ewes were fed alike, receiving grain in all instances, and their lambs were divided into two lots of fourteen in each; and one lot was fed a grain mixture of cornmeal, bran, and oil meal, and the other lot had to rely on the milk of their dams. Both lots had a similar pasturage. The grain was charged to the ewes and to the lambs that received it, at market prices, and it was found that the cost of the grain eaten by the lambs in the lot that had grain amounted to \$3.16 in the ten weeks before weaning. Including the cost of the grain that the ewes of both lots ate, we find that it cost \$2.53 more for the grain-fed lot than it did for those that had no grain. During the ten weeks the lambs that had grain gained 432.25 lbs., and the fourteen that had no grain (only the milk of the ewes and pasture) gained 395.75 lbs., or a difference of 36.5 lbs. A local butcher priced the lambs at the conclusion of the experiment, and those that had grain were valued at $\frac{3}{4}$ c. per lb. more than those that had no grain. At the prices that lambs were then selling at, the grain-fed lot were worth a total of \$7.63 more than the others. As it cost in grain but \$2.53 to produce this difference in value of \$7.63, it seems evident that it paid to feed this grain when the lambs are marketed at weaning time. In another trial with the same number of ewes and lambs the conditions were made different, in so far as the ewes in all instances had only pasture. In this trial the grain-fed lambs in ten weeks gained 450.51 lbs., while the fourteen that had no grain gained 395.75; a difference to the credit of the grain-fed lambs of 54.75 lbs. At the same market valuation as in the other instance, the grain-fed lambs returned a difference of \$9.06 more than the lambs that had no grain. The 488.75 lbs. of grain that these lambs consumed account for this difference in the value, and the grain only cost \$3.50, so that the balance is again much in favor of grain feeding the lambs. These figures make clear the fact that it pays to feed young lambs all the grain that they will eat, whether they are in the sheds or running with their dams on good pasture.

Feeding Early Lambs for Market.

Constant Reader: What is the best method of forcing lambs for the butcher that are dropped in March and April?

As a means toward this end the ewes should be fed so as to induce a free flow of milk. At such a time the ewes have not been put on pasture, and, consequently, some succulent food should be

a part of their ration. Turnips or mangels, or, if these are not available, corn silage, should be fed as liberally as possible as soon as the ewes have lambed. Then, with this, while the ewes are yet in the sheds, bran should be given with a free hand. A ewe, suckling twins, will eat from two to three pounds of bran, depending on the way that she is milking and making economical use of it. When the ewes first go to pasture the grain should be continued until the grass becomes somewhat matured. As soon as that time arrives it will be best to withhold the grain from the ewes and feed as much as possible directly to the lambs. When the lambs are about two weeks old they will usually begin to eat grain at the trough with their mothers; and then, when they have done this for a few days, they should have an apartment fixed for them in which they may be fed by themselves. This apartment is easily made by taking two narrow strips and nailing them about three feet apart across a corner of the shed. Upright strips of light material are nailed to these far enough apart to permit the lambs to go through, but yet keep out the ewes. The lambs will soon learn to frequent this apartment, and they will readily eat grain to their liking. In the field, when the sheep are turned to pasture, a similar plan may be resorted to by using the same construction at places where the sheep are in the habit of congregating, about the water-trough or in the shade. The most fattening ration that may be fed to young lambs is likely cracked corn, but the difficulty is to get them to relish it. It has been found in experiments in this direction that crushed corn will return the most economical gain, but it is hard to maintain the appetites of the lambs on it. Next to this will rank cracked peas. But the best of all rations will be found to be a mixture of ground peas and corn, which may be fed to such lambs in as large quantities as they will eat. The lambs are very fond of peas, and it seems to balance the corn part of the ration. Next to either of these foods for feeding lambs before weaning the Wisconsin Experiment Station places oats and bran. At that station eighteen lambs were fed, in different lots, rations of oats, cornmeal, and bran, and the most satisfactory result, considering only the cost of the grain, was obtained from the cornmeal before and after weaning, while the oats ranked next. It is the common supposition in feeding young lambs that the grain should be ground as fine as possible for them. It will be found that lambs will prefer cracked peas to ground peas, and cracked corn to cornmeal, and they seemingly make better use of whole oats than they do of those that are ground fine.