

first-rate breeding stock to be procured at a reasonable cost by a man who is a good judge; for by taking time and trouble in the selection, and by setting about it quietly, say in July, he would have three months before tupping time to accomplish his object at a reasonable cost. It is actually necessary for tup breeders to select their flocks with the utmost discrimination and judgment, as no trade in the world requires more care and attention; for if the points in the tups are in any way deficient, it will soon tell on the produce, or if the blood is not pure, the alloy will be quickly developed. The great point of having a tup-breeding flock pure, and with high-toned blood, is that, although at shewing time the shearling tups are not equal in point of symmetry and handling, the worst looking sheep, from being equally well bred, will get as good stock as the most symmetrical. The writer once heard an eminent breeder remark, in reference to a short-horned bull, that if he was as crooked as the letter S he would breed from him, knowing his blood to be pure.

On a tup-breeding farm, the whole rent and profit of the farmer should be drawn from his sheep; but without first-rate management, and proper attention on the part of both master and shepherd, it will not answer. The size of the farm—the quality of the land—the number of breeding ewes to be kept—the probable produce and prices which such breeding stock will realise—the rent of the farm, and probable profit to be derived from a given number of ewes—shewing as near as possible the expenditure and income: these are all necessary calculations to make.

A farm of about 200 acres of good substantial turnip and grass land, at say £2 per acre, would be of convenient size for our purpose. It should be a good, deep, dry, sharp, loam, with an open bottom, and, if possible, a southern exposure—the land gently sloping, and a good climate. On such land the farmer would not be dependent on his grain crops. Supposing it to be farmed under the ten-shift course of husbandry, there should be ten fields of 20 acres each. Under this course of management, the greater part of the farm would be in grass, or 140 acres, which would be 20 acres new grass for the tup hoggs, and 120 acres, of from one to six year old grass, for the ewes and gimmers. The fallow break of 20 acres would be, say 18 acres in turnips, 1 in potatoes, and 1 of tares for horses. Calculating the ewe stock at 140, they should produce 180 lambs, allowing 40 to have twins. The stock to be wintered would therefore be 320; and as the turnips on such good land, and under such management, should be a full crop, twelve acres will supply the hoggs, five the ewes, and one for three cows, which should be the whole cattle stock on the farm, with one pair of horses, and an odd one. One ploughman and two lads could do all the work, except what is regularly done by women and daily workers. The expense of working the farm would consequently not be great; and if the land be well laid down with perennial rye-grass, clovers, and other seeds, it will be fully sufficient to keep the stock. Should there be any surplus grass, it can be eaten by bought-in stock when required.

Allowing twenty for deaths and other casualties, eighty shearling tups and eighty cast ewes and gimmers should be annually sold. The produce of such a flock should stand about thus:—

INCOME.

80 Shearling tups, at £5 each.....	£400	0	0
80 Cast ewes and gimmers, at £2.....	160	0	0
300 Fleeces of wool, at 6s.....	90	0	0
	<u>£650</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

EXPENDITURE.

Rent.....	£400	0	0
Purchase of high bred tups yearly.....	£20	0	0
Sell one bought the previous year.....	8	0	0
	<u>12</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Shepherd's wages, besides his allowance of corn, sheep, and cow.....	10	0	0
Nets and other incidental expenses attending the sheep, say.....	28	0	0
	<u>450</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Profit on sheep, after paying rent, &c.....	£200	0	0