

# Livestock

## Give Foals a Chance

It is not reasonable to expect that a foal running with the dam while at work in the field will have an opportunity for best development. The energy required in following the mother together with fighting flies should be utilized for the growing of bone and muscle. When the mares are at work the most satisfactory plan is to let two or more foals stay together in a big stall. Some of the most successful prize winners in the foal classes are from mares that have done their share of the farm work. When the mares are well fed it is advisable to allow the foal to suck quite late in the fall. If a mare is kept in good condition she will continue to give milk quite late; even though there is not much of it, the little helps the foal wonderfully. There is nothing so good for the foal as mother's milk. It is important that the foals should receive a liberal allowance of grain. One of the most successful breeders of draft colts in the United States, estimates that according to definite figures obtained over a period of several years, he gets a return of \$1.00 a bushel for all the oats they eat, and furthermore, in no other class of farm animals will a dollar used in feed bring any bigger returns. The secret of producing good draft colts that will command a premium when fully grown is to first use breeding stock of the proper blood lines, plenty of size with quality, then by judicious feeding give them every opportunity to develop.

## Fall Work with Sheep

Fall is breeding time, and as the condition of the ewes and ram at this time has a very decided effect on the character of the lamb crop both as regards number and strength, so is it a time at which the foundations for the next year's success or failure are laid. A thin, unthrifty breeding flock means that the lambs will be few and weak; an over-fat, sluggish flock will bring the same result.

The lambs should be weaned about two months before the ewes are to be bred again. The lambs should be provided with separate pasture. Some heavy milking ewes need to be milked out by hand two or three times to prevent udder injury. Never allow the lamb to suck again after once being separated, as the milk is dangerous to him when it has not been drawn regularly.

Flushing is a term applied to giving the ewes some extra feed just before breeding time. If they are gaining in condition and are exceptionally thrifty at this time, they are more likely to conceive at the first service and to produce more and stronger lambs. Usually, on the Western farm, there is abundance of sheep feed at this time on the stubble fields. In cases where lack of fencing, late threshing or other causes make it impossible to allow the ewes a plentiful run of stubble fields, some supplementary pasture should be provided. In any case, some succulent

pasture such as rape or clover after-math will be very beneficial, as soft, succulent feed of this kind is more effective in flushing the ewes than the dry pickings of the stubble. Grain feeding is not usually necessary, but in case of pasture shortage should be resorted to rather than let the ewes run down in condition.

## The Ram

The ram should be kept separate from the ewes from about September 1 until breeding time. He should be well fed during this time so that he starts the breeding season in good condition. He should not be loaded with too much fat so as to be sluggish, but should be in good thrifty, moderately fat condition. A little grain feeding at this time in addition to pasture is advisable. A mixture of half bran and half whole oats, is very suitable for this purpose.

The best way to breed a flock of ewes is to keep the ram separate and allow him with the flock only for an hour or so each day during which time he is watched and allowed to breed each sheep only once and a record kept of each mating. However, with labor conditions as they are in the West this is practically never possible and the ram must run with the flock. A mature ram may be allowed to run with 30 to 35 ewes, or a well developed lamb with 20 to 25.

It is a good idea to paint the brisket of the ram with some coloring matter that will mark the ewe at each service. If the color is changed each three weeks, one can easily see how many ewes are returning.

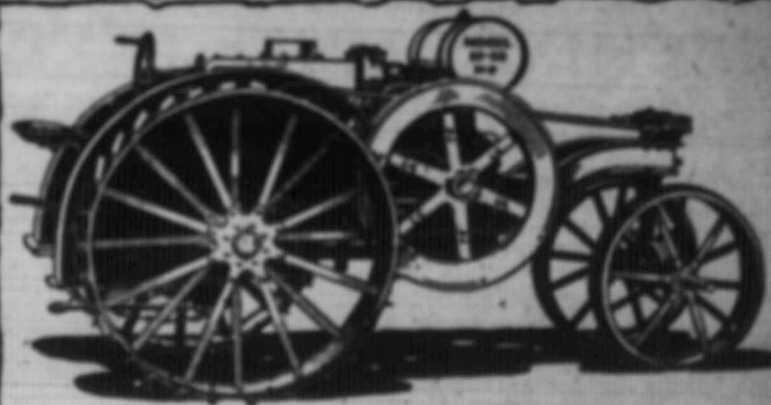
The date at which ewes should be bred depends on the conditions under which they are to lamb in the spring. A ewe will lamb about five days short of five months from the date of breeding. Turning the ram loose about November 1 will thus bring the lamb crop in during the last few days of March and the month of April. This is a satisfactory time on the average farm where shelter can be provided in case of lambs coming in bad weather. Normally, only shed shelter is necessary at this time. Where sheep must lamb in the open, breeding should not begin until December 1.

While not quite so essential as spring dipping, a dipping in the fall is very beneficial to a flock. They may have only a few ticks on them but if these are allowed to multiply undisturbed, they will be very numerous and cause much discomfort to the sheep before the spring dipping time arrives. A good reliable prepared dip is the best to use; the sheep should be thoroughly immersed in the solution.—W. C. McKillican, Superintendent Brandon Experimental Farm.

## Heifer Recovers from Blackleg?

Q.—A yearling calf got lame on the front leg and it swelled up as high as the shoulder. I thought that the calf had blackleg. She did not want to eat or drink. However, I encouraged her to eat and after eight days the calf commenced to recover.

Kindly let me know if the trouble was



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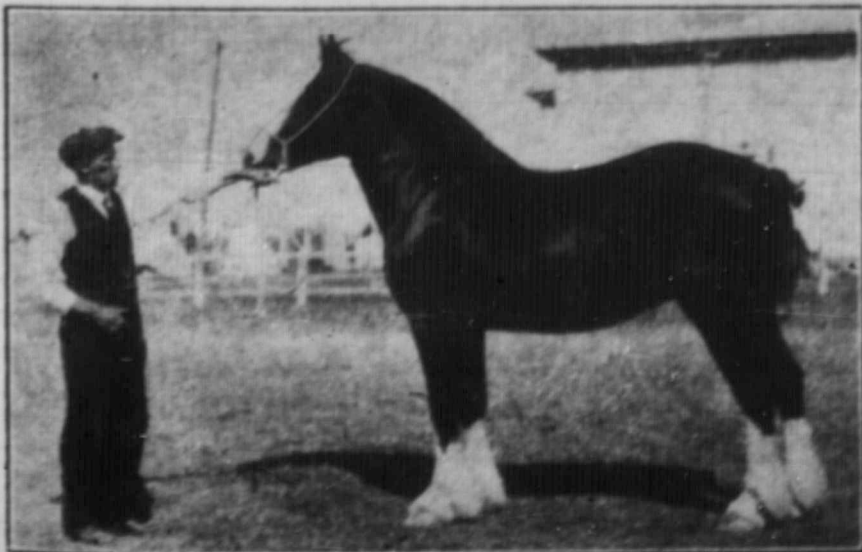
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