



Group of A. V. Smith's prize-winning Leicesters, including champion and grand champion ewe and ram at Toronto, World's Fair, St. Louis, Chicago International and the chief stock run at Maple Lodge, Imported Winchester.

Keep More Sheep

There is great activity among sheep breeders these days, and the business of sheep raising is on a better footing than it has been for some time. Information bearing upon the industry will, therefore, be helpful. For this reason we are asking our readers for replies to the following questions, and trust there will be a liberal response:

- (1) What breed of sheep do you keep?
- (2) Have you found them profitable for mutton and wool production?
- (3) How has the lamb crop been this season? Have you lost many lambs, and what has been the cause?
- (4) Is the worrying of sheep by dogs common in your district? What means would you advise for lessening this evil?
- (5) Does it pay to wash sheep?

We shall be glad to have answers from our readers to some or all of the questions, and any further information bearing upon the sheep industry that they may care to send. A large number of replies would enable us to form accurate conclusions on several important phases of sheep breeding.

The following replies have been received to the above questions:

LAMB CROP GOOD

1. Dorset Horned.
2. I believe they are the most profitable of all breeds, especially for early lambs. They are also excellent mothers and milkers.
3. The lamb crop has been good. We can have them almost any time we wish.
4. Whoever heard tell of dogs worrying Dorset Horned sheep?
5. It does not pay to wash sheep here, but it pays well to dip them.

J. T. MAYNARD,
Chilliwack, B.C.

1. Leicesters.
2. Yes.
3. Good, but losses have been rather heavy from various causes. Two died in the month of July, looked like lightning, but I could not swear it was that.
4. Not so bad as it used to be ten or twelve years ago. I had the dogs on my sheep three times in three years. The last time they just literally cleaned out the entire flock. I had taken advice on the previous cases and found that I was at liberty to shoot the dogs. But the law also

protects the owner of the dog in that he may have a fancy price on his dog, and if I shoot him he could make me pay it and all I could take from him would be the price of the sheep. So when the old lawyer saw the box I was in, he said to me: "If I were you I'd shoot the dogs and say nothing about it." So when the dogs came the third time and cleaned out the entire flock, I took another plan the next afternoon. I got some strychnine and cutting a slice of meat out of the ham of the dead sheep, I put about the size of a pea of the strychnine into the inside of the slice of meat and I laid one of these baits on each place where I had lifted a dead sheep in the morning. I warned my near neighbors to keep in their dogs that night and next morning I had at least one of the dogs that did the damage.

I meant to take the old lawyer's advice and say nothing about it, but it proved to be too good news to keep and as at that time there were a lot of dogs running the country at large and other people must have put out baits, for a whole lot of dogs disappeared shortly after that. I have again bred myself into a good flock and have not seen a dog since.

5. I don't think so, as I always clip before the lambs come and thus get rid of all the ticks before the lambs appear. I feel sure that the lambs do so much better without any ticks on them that they far more than pay for any loss there may be from the wool for want of washing.

S. D. A. A. Stobo, Bruce Co., Ont.

Range Sheepmen Prospering

The past season has been very favorable to the interests of sheep ranchers of the South Alberta country. Following a fair winter and good lambing season, wool in the Territories reached the highest mark ever being sold on an average at above 16 cents. Notwithstanding the low price of beef, substitution for mutton has not taken place owing to the limited supply of mutton. Prices have been good. Per pound marketing has been at 2½¢, and above but a new feature of competition for range stuff has made things better for the producer. This journal has been a consistent advocate of the institution of feeding enterprises to bring appropriate returns to producers and to furnish a better article

to the critical and discriminating consumer, and this year both young and old stuff has been drawn from the range for feed lots farther east. G. E. Jaffray, representing a Port Arthur company, shipped from Lethbridge on Nov. 22, over three thousand head for the feed lots in Port Arthur. These will be available for Winnipeg and Toronto markets in March. The sheep purchased were principally lambs, which will mean a greater reduction of the supply of range mutton for local consumption than if they were sold as twos and threes. This shipment is only a beginning. The price paid was \$2.40, which is a higher price than has heretofore been paid for range lambs. P. Burns, of Calgary, however, has bought tops within the season for present slaughter.

This is the first year that lambs have been drawn from the range in any considerable numbers for immediate slaughter and means that a heavier and earlier maturing class of stuff is being raised than formerly partly due to using mutton rams and partly to better care. Lambs purchased this season for slaughter have scaled 74 pounds per head, which is rather high for range lambs—60 pounds being considered a fair average. On the whole the sheepmen have cause for rejoicing.

Early Winter Care of the Flock

With the exception of the lambing time there is no period more important than the first few weeks after the sheep are brought into the sheds for winter. A little care and attention now will be found very profitable. In Canada there are very few places where the shepherd can count upon any feed for the flock on the fields after the beginning of November. Occasionally the snow does not get too deep for the sheep to paw a way through to the grass, especially if the grass is rough. Usually I try to have a field not closely eaten off, on which the breeding ewes especially can pick up a portion of their food until the new year comes. But just there is where the danger lies for the well-doing of the flock. It is so easy to let them shift for themselves and if they do, they will just as surely shrink in flesh, and a considerable amount of good feed will be wasted to bring them to the condition in which they probably would be when the winter weather began. This can and assuredly should be avoided. They will not eat very much hay, but always a little, and if the hay be nicely cured clover they will eat more of it, and no other provision need be made for them until they are put up in strictly winter quarters. I usually feed a few roots as soon as I begin feeding hay. I think they do as much good to the flock in December as any month, even if they are able to find some food besides of old grass in the field.

A little grain would, of course, not do any harm, but is not necessary, and always adds to the expense, and the profits from the flock will be governed largely by the judicious economy of production. I mean that those which cost the least to winter are not always the most profitable. Liberal feeding pays in nearly every case, but grain is the most costly of the sheep rations, and where the amount of grain fed can be properly reduced, the cost is lowered accordingly. I never like to feel it necessary to feed any grain to the breeding flock until after January 1st, and then a very little until a short time before lambing, when it should be increased.

SHOW SHEEP

Those that are intended for showing, such as ewe lambs, rams, etc., will have