

INTERESTING AGRICULTURAL FEATURES FOR OUR COUNTRY READERS

STOCK
SHEEP TROUBLES

How to Treat for Ticks, Lice and Scab.

That some treatment of the flock for ticks and vermin should be regularly practiced, is conceded by most sheep breeders. It has been found profitable to dip at least once a year, and in most cases twice. Where there is no sign of vermin in the flock, it is always well to treat the sheep as a means of prevention. Ticks, lice and other parasites are quite common in many flocks, and few, indeed, are the flocks that are entirely free from the former. Scab also crops up from time to time. It is safe to say that the loss in mutation and wool caused by the ravages of this disease, and the various other sheep parasites, is many times greater than the cost of dipping. It is also safe to state that if every sheep-owner in the country would treat his sheep thoroughly at proper, regular intervals with some good dip, such troubles as scab, ticks and lice would soon be unknown.

Sheep-breeders cannot afford to spend their valuable time in preparing homemade dips. The proper way to treat the flock can be produced at small cost, because they are manufactured in large quantities. These dips, also, are the outcome of considerable study and work, and used according to directions, are safe and effective, as well as economical.

Directly after shearing of the ewes is a good time to dip the lambs, because at this time most of the ticks will be found on them. A little later, the entire flock, ewes and lambs, should be dipped. It was formerly believed that fall dipping was injurious, but this belief has been superseded, and now all the best sheepmen practice dipping before their charges go into winter quarters. Because no signs of scab or other vermin are to be seen, they should not be dipped, as the pests may develop during the winter, causing much loss of wool, and also keeping the

sheep long in flesh. It is, therefore, of greatest importance that dipping be done just previous to the cold weather.

Two methods of treating the sheep have been and are common among sheepmen, dipping (actual immersing in a vat), and pouring, which can be done by the use of an old tea or coffee pot. The latter method is more economical of material, but will require more time to accomplish the work than the former. To do it properly requires three men, one to hold the sheep in a day. A quart of solution is enough for each sheep, if carefully applied, and it will run more freely on the skin if applied warm.

A flock of twenty-five sheep is, however, large enough to warrant the preparation of a small dipping vat. The vat, like the dip itself, can often be bought cheaper than it can be made, although a plant trough can be easily constructed. Sheep can be handled much faster this way than by the pouring method. It only requires that they remain in the dip about two minutes, after which they are placed in the dripping vat, which should be placed with a water-tight bottom slanting to a drain back to the tank. This conservation of the drippings is a great saving on material, and the vat, if properly constructed, is not allowed to get out and distribute the dip on grass or other forage upon which they are feeding, or trouble may be caused by the sheep stepping on it and getting it out of the vat. Where shallow vats are used, say, about two and a half feet deep, it is necessary to dip the lamb and pour it over them; but in the deeper vat, about five and a half feet deep, no dipping is necessary, as the animal's fleece becomes saturated with the liquid. The larger sheep vats are used to dip large flocks are kept. Warm days should be selected for the operation, and a bright sun

is a great help in drying the sheep after the soaking.

If, after the dipping has been completed, new individuals are brought into the flock, it is always advisable to dip them or treat them by pouring before placing them with the other sheep. If this is not done, they may infect the entire flock with vermin or disease, and thus cause much trouble and loss by undoing the work of dipping the flock in the beginning. Too much care cannot be practiced in keeping the flock free from disease and insect pests, and dipping is the surest and easiest method of insuring success in this particular. Farmers' Advocate.

HORTICULTURE
STORING CELERY

Trenching, Housing and Pitting Are Three Best Methods.

Celery storing is an occupation which is rather uncertain. Much depends on the condition of the celery at the time of storing, and the weather during the winter. Good healthy celery stored about the middle of October or to the first of November should keep to the middle of April, and some of the best celery is stored in this way. There are three ways of storing celery, which according to my experience, have worked out satisfactorily, namely, trenching, housing and pitting.

To keep celery in trenches, the outside leaves should be pulled off, the tops trimmed lightly and the celery packed firmly in the trenches, one spade wide and deep, and the tops of the celery should be well fertilized. The richer the ground the better the rhubarb. Four or five inches of manure worked in will not be excessive. This plan will, of course, grow on planting celery in the trenches, but as a rule the one thing lacking in most cases is abundant food material. A friable loam will give the best results. For early rhubarb, a southern slope is advisable, and the plants every five years at least the plant should be divided, otherwise the crown

Housing, or packing, celery in houses made for the purpose, is the most common method. The celery house should be built about fifteen feet wide, with a gable roof high enough to put in a top bench. This makes it comfortable to work in. Top doors or air holes should be placed not further than eight feet apart. A door is necessary at each end so that a current of air can be allowed to pass through when necessary to dry up moisture. Trim the plants the same as for trenching and pack firmly in stand, standing the stalks on end, two or three rows have been packed. It would be well to bank up a little dirt to the stalks, cutting square down with the spade so as not to take up too much room. Repack once or twice during the winter.

Pitting is the easiest and latest method of storing celery. It can be done on the ground where the crop is grown. No trimming is necessary. Piles are made by placing two rows, butt to butt, with the leaves turned out. The pile should not be longer than about eight feet and about three feet high.

Cover the top of the pile with a little dirt until the weather becomes severe, then cover completely with dirt and afterwards with a little straw. Allow frost to get down to the celery before the last covering. It is better, if this method is adopted, to grow the celery far enough apart, so that it can be ploughed up at any time during the fall, winter or spring, as long as the weather will permit or until about the middle of November or the first of December—Canadian Horticulturist.

FLANTING RHUBARB
Ground for rhubarb should be worked deeply and made rich by the use of manure. The richer the ground the better the rhubarb. Four or five inches of manure worked in will not be excessive. This plan will, of course, grow on planting celery in the trenches, but as a rule the one thing lacking in most cases is abundant food material. A friable loam will give the best results. For early rhubarb, a southern slope is advisable, and the plants every five years at least the plant should be divided, otherwise the crown

gets dense and many small stalks will be formed. The old plant may be lifted and split up with a spade, leaving two to three eyes to a piece. Care should be taken not to break the roots of these pieces any more than possible.

Seedling plants may be planted, but as a rule these are very variable; and if you have a good strain I would advise division of the roots. Seed of the desired variety may be sown in rows three feet apart early in spring, and thinned to six inches apart, and if the ground is rich these will make fair plants for the next spring planting or good plants for the following spring. The plant may be set in the fall or early spring. We set the plants in rows four feet apart and four feet apart in the rows. It is a good plan to mulch the plantation with 3 to 4 inches of good rotted manure in the fall, which is worked in the following spring. Grass should not be allowed to grow, and shallow cultivation should be continued right up to fall, keeping the surface ground loose and friable.—Prof. W. S. Blair.

FALL SPRAYING AND PRUNING

A number of requests for information in regard to fall spraying and fall pruning reached the editor of the Pennsylvania Farmer, recently. The following reply to one of the letters received will be of interest to owners of orchards everywhere. In reply to your letter asking if you must spray this fall for scale insects, I beg to say that it is not necessary to spray in the fall, but if your trees are much infested, it is better to spray both fall and spring. If my trees were not badly infested, I should spray only in the spring when the buds are swelling. I consider this the best time of the year to spray, and of course, the boiled lime-sulphur wash, either commercial or homemade, is my choice of material.

In regard to fall pruning I can say that this is as good as spring pruning, the pruning being done at any time when the leaves are off. If you will prune your trees this fall, you can then spray them at any time during the fall, winter or spring, and have good results in killing the scale. Thoroughness of spraying is

necessary, and it will be easier for you to do a complete job after the trees are pruned than before. Also, pruning helps to put vigor into that part of the tree which remains.

POULTRY
BARRED ROCKS

Make a Record at Ontario Agricultural College.

Not so very long ago, a 200-egg hen was considered a wonder, and up to the present time there are very few flocks whose owner can boast of many birds, no matter what the breed which have produced this high number of eggs in one year. In a pen at the Ontario Agricultural College of about one hundred Barred Rocks, bred to lay, there are six hens, which, as far as is known, hold the world's record. These six hens have laid, during their first year, an average of two hundred and sixty eggs each—the highest number to be laid by one hen being two hundred and eighty-two. This shows what is possible with good care, feed, housing and breeding. In the house which contains these birds there are seven hens which laid less than one hundred and seventy eggs during the first year, but there are hens which laid over two hundred eggs. Prof. Graham has been breeding these up for a number of years, and has succeeded in establishing a strain of heavy layers. There is no reason why any poultry-breeder cannot, by the careful use of traps, secure a strain which are the best and which the poorest layers in his flock. Having found this out, the breeder thing to do is to discard from the breeding pens the unprofitable hens. In breeding, always use male birds from a laying strain. It works out much like the keeping of milk records and the record of performance in up-to-date dairies. These hens are ordinary-looking individuals, and possess no outward mark of their extreme heavy production, other than having a healthy appearance and giving indications

of being good rustlers. They show good constitution, but their plumage is light in color, and, as a show proposition, they would be nil. Just here, it might be interesting to compare some of the records made by a pen-bred to produce show show birds, and kept under conditions similar to those under which the layers made the record. The highest number laid by a hen from the exhibition pen was 189, and the lowest was 13, with an average of 122. The highest number laid by one hen in the bred-to-lay pen, as before stated, was 282, and the lowest 128, with an average of 180. The bred-to-lay pen out-distanced the exhibition pen by 42 per cent in egg production. Surely this is enough to induce poultrymen to endeavor to increase the value of their hens by promoting a strain of layers. These hens were housed in the new type of open-front house, and received good care, but no special effort was made to increase the number of eggs produced by one pen over that of the other. It is simply an indication of what can be done by breeding. The average egg-production of the hens in the country is between 90 and 100 eggs. Fresh eggs are in great demand on our markets throughout the greater part of the year. Let every farmer and poultryman take the trouble to breed his hens with a view to heavy production, and with great care as to our best dairymen mate their heavy milkers, and the income from the poultry industry would be nearly doubled. What Prof. Graham has done should serve as an incentive and spur our poultrymen on to greater things. No flock is so good that it cannot be improved. A hen that does not lay a profitable number of eggs the first year should not be kept for breeding. Most hens lay more eggs in the pullet year than ever again, although occasionally one is known to do better in the second year, one the collector has laid 190 the first year, and 230 the second. This is an exception, however, and, as a general rule, the pullet, provided she is an early-hatched one, will best her record. Put a little system and judgment into your poultry-breeding, and don't expect good results where the breeding is not carefully looked after.

SOLID FACTS

W. L. FOLL

LOYALTY WAVE

Rev. Mr. Brewer Gives His Impressions of Conference

CHURCH UNION

Pleading of English Delegates Created Feeling Akin to That Which Swept Canada Politically—Says Travelling Evangelists Do More Harm Than Good—The Higher Criticism.

Tribute to Dr. Sprague

Rev. Mr. Brewer sketched the history of the conferences. Four had been held at intervals of ten years, two at London, one at Washington and the last at Toronto. English delegates had expressed doubts that a small city like Toronto could accommodate the conference, but the English delegates had stamped the conference against merging into the larger body, but that when hard facts came to prevail the vote would be in favor of union.

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