

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

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THE DOMINION.

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to waste females which might have proved useful as breeders by slaughtering them so soon. On examination, however, it will be found that there is nothing in this objection; the females fattened are not quite like breeding animals, and there are usually reasons known to breeders which induce them to regard it as more profitable to feed these heifers than to breed from them. It was not only in the live stock classes, but also in the carcass competition, that Aberdeen-Angus cattle scored. First prize there was won by a steer named Ameer, the property of Mr. Fletcher, of Rosehaugh. This was a fine carcass, and the practical lessons to be learned from it could not be ignored. Naturally breeders of Aberdeen-Angus cattle are overjoyed at the result, and as a beef breed the polled blacks are easily first. The reserve champion of Smithfield was also bred in Scotland. This was the black steer, Faultless, bred by Mr. John Ross, Meikle Tarrel, Ross-shire; property of Mr. Learner, Norwich; got by the fine Cruickshank Shorthorn bull, Ringleader, out of a cow whose sire was an A. A. bull, Carol, and his grandam an unpedigreed Shorthorn. Faultless is a magnificent ox, his worst defect being too great length of leg. As has not infrequently happened in the past, the Hereford breed almost furnished the champion, and there is something very captivating in the form of these noble white face cattle. Their manifest falling off in the hind quarters, where the most valuable beef is found, tells against them when it comes to final ties. Shorthorns are not as strong this season as they have sometimes been in past years, but this can hardly be wondered at. The breed is so much in demand for crossing purposes that nothing short of a complete cessation in the foreign demand would probably send enough males into the market as steers. Nearly all the breed champions at London were females. The Shorthorn champion was Lord Rosebery's Proud Madam, which won both at Birmingham and at London. She was bred in Aberdeenshire, at Barthol Chapel. The A. A. champion was, of course, Minx of Glamis, the champion of the show and the best fat animal of the season. The Galloway champion was Mr. Wm. Parkin-Moore's heifer, Liberta, as good an animal of her kind as any of her sister champions, but lacking their weight. The champions of both the Red Polled and the Sussex breeds were also heifers, so that a large proportion of the supreme honors went to the ladies. The sections in which championships were secured by the females were those for cross-breeds, Highlanders, Devons, Herefords, and Welsh. The Highlander was a really magnificent animal, and his success was as well deserved as it was popular. He was bred by Mr. I. R. Campbell, Shinness, Lairg, and was owned by the Earl of Durham. It will be observed that the sections or breeds in which the steers are beaten are those of which the bulls are very much in demand for cross-

ing purposes. Of the Shorthorn and Aberdeen-Angus one need not speak; everyone knows that they are the crossing bulls of the country. Galloways are also much in demand for crossing onto Ayrshires and also Shorthorns; in the latter case for the production of what are probably the most useful feeding cattle in this country—Blue-grays.

In the carcass competition emphasis was laid on the different standard now in vogue for fat cattle. The rage is all for lean meat, and the best butcher's carcass in the show was that of a Welsh runt, which, as a butcher described it, did not carry as much fat "as would grease a skewer." Butchers affirm that what they now want are carcasses $\frac{3}{4}$ lean and $\frac{1}{4}$ fat; whereas what they most commonly get are carcasses $\frac{1}{2}$ lean and $\frac{1}{2}$ fat. As a matter of fact show cattle are being fed past profit, and a similar remark may be made about sheep. A show was held at Ayr at which the butchers had the chief say in the judging, and they very plainly indicated what they wanted—light-weights and lean meat. The best mutton carcass at London was that of a Cheviot wether from Clynelish in Sutherlandshire. This was beautiful mutton and no kind of foreign mutton can ever oust it from the market.

There is, however, a growing feeling in this country that less is to be gained from the marketing of foreign meat than was at one time supposed. The quality of some of the beef from the United States is excellent, and unless the home producer can go more than one better he is pretty certain to get left. Nothing can touch the home bred and fed black polled bullock, but, unfortunately, the consumer will not give as much more per pound for his beef as the butcher has to give for the bullock per cwt. alive when compared with the foreign bullock. This creates a difficulty which tells in favor of the foreigner. Still, if the home producer will send out the very best and nothing else, he will still be able to cry,—
"SCOTLAND YET."

Wintering Sheep.

(Continued from page 6.)

QUESTIONS.

- 1.—Do you believe in keeping lambs, shearlings, and older sheep separate? If so, what are the advantages?
- 2.—Do you consider it well to confine sheep to pens all the time, or at nights, or do you allow them access to the yards and pens all the time?
- 3.—What is the character of your coarse fodder for sheep? (a) To what extent do you use pea straw? (b) To what extent do you feed hay? (c) How do you feed each or both, cut or uncut, in racks, troughs, or on the floor?
- 4.—What is your experience with feeding roots or ensilage to young sheep and to breeding ewes?
- 5.—To what extent do you recommend feeding grain to young or breeding sheep, not fitting for show?
- 6.—How much importance do you attach to keeping the pens cleaned out down to the floor?
- 7.—What do you recommend with regard to watering?

Give the Lambs a Good Start.

- 1.—Yes, I believe and practice keeping the lambs in separate pens from shearlings and older sheep, for this reason: Shearlings and older sheep crowd away the lambs from the feeding troughs and racks and the lambs do not get a fair share of the feed, and the first winter being a very important period in the life of the sheep, it is important that they should not be stunted or set back. Another reason is that I think it pays well to feed the lambs some grain the first winter, and if not kept separate the older sheep would get nearly the whole of it.
- 2.—Allow them access to the pens and yards at all times, except during severe storms; at such times close them in the pens.
- 3.—(a) If I have it, feed pea straw twice in the day. (b) Feed hay once a day until the lambing season, then feed twice usually. (c) Feed pea straw sometimes cut, at other times uncut. Always feed hay uncut. Always feed the hay or pea straw in troughs or racks.
- 4.—Have not yet fed ensilage to sheep, but feed roots liberally to lambs and other sheep, except breeding ewes. My plan is to feed roots morning and night and grain at noon; rations being about one and one-half quarts of roots (pulped, sliced or whole) to breeding ewes and two quarts to other sheep; grain (if oats, which I think are best), pint to a quart to each sheep; in lbs., would be about two pounds oats and three to four pounds roots each ration.
- 5.—Answered in No. 4. Think it pays well to feed lambs grain all winter, and breeding ewes should get some from the beginning of February until the lambing season.
- 6.—Think it injurious to sheep to allow the litter or bedding to accumulate until in sufficient quantities to heat. So long as the bedding is dry and no fermentation going on, do not think it necessary to keep bedding cleaned away.
- 7.—Sheep should have access to water at all times, particularly breeding ewes, except when fed large quantities of roots.

Think the above questions cover the ground pretty fully as to ordinary care of the flock during the winter season, except salting. The flock should be salted regularly at least once a week, or what is better, keep salt before them in boxes at all times. Another very important matter: The shepherd should examine his flock closely when going into winter quarters, and if infested with parasites, such as ticks and lice, see that the usual remedies are applied for their extermination. If this is not done a good deal of feed will be as good as lost and the owner may possibly lose some of the flock.

Bruce Co., Ont.

JAS. TOLTON.

Hints for Lambing Time.

- 1.—We think that lambs should be kept separate from older sheep, as they do not get a chance while feeding with older and stronger sheep. Shearlings need not necessarily be kept separate, as they will generally feed and take good care of themselves until after lambing, when they will require good care and extra feed.
- 2.—No, it is well to confine them in pens at night, but allow them all the exercise they will take in daytime.
- 3.—Pea straw, clover hay and corn fodder, cut. (a) Feed pea straw twice daily to breeding ewes and once to young sheep. (b) Hay not fed for breeding ewes until after the lambing season has commenced; to young stock once daily when it is to be had. (c) We have the best satisfaction from cutting both, as the waste is not nearly so great; in racks, with good troughs.
- 4.—We find that young sheep can be grown very cheaply, principally on roots. We feed all they can eat, but only a very few to breeding ewes. Have fed no ensilage to sheep.
- 5.—About one pint of oats for young stock and one-half pint for breeding ewes along with a little bran when not fitting for show.
- 6.—We attach a great deal of importance to keeping the pens cleaned so as not to cause dampness or any foul smell, which is detrimental to the health of the sheep. Would also recommend plenty of pure air, although drafts should be avoided.
- 7.—Breeding ewes should have a plentiful supply of fresh water; also young sheep where turnips or other roots are not fed, but where they can be fed freely they will drink very little. To those who have early lambs it will be necessary to have good, warm pens so as not to chill the young lambs. Do not feed too heavy for one week after lambing, as it may cause garget, the lambs not being able to take all the milk furnished. When they are two weeks old, a part of the pen should be divided so as to allow the lambs to eat by themselves. A little dampened bran and oats will be very acceptable to the young things. Care should be taken to keep them growing until able to turn out on grass, as a stunted lamb never amounts to much. The ewes should be well fed and a fresh supply of water provided daily, also salt should be regularly supplied.

A. TELFER & SONS.

Brant Co., Ont.

How to Manage Sheep for Profit.

- 1.—Yes, especially the lambs. They require better feeding to keep them growing till matured. This cultivates a tendency to early maturity in the flock. It evens up the lots, giving each sheep a better chance of sharing equally in the feed.
- 2.—I don't think sheep should be confined to pens. They should be allowed to go out and in yard at will. Doors should be wide for the breeding ewes, to prevent possibility of injury from crowding. This often is the cause of abortion.
- 3.—Good pea straw cut a little on the green side for early winter feed (say up to 1st March) is excellent. I have found fodder corn with some fairly matured ears run through a cutting box, cut into half-inch lengths, a first-class feed. After about the first of March, depending some on when the ewes are due to drop their lambs, I know of nothing to surpass early cut, well-cured clover hay. Prefer blue grass to timothy hay; prefer rack and trough combined.
- 4.—Have never fed ensilage. Young sheep may be liberally fed on roots at any time with best results. A small allowance may be fed to breeding ewes through the winter, which should be increased after the lambs are dropped to all they will eat up clean and no more.
- 5.—Young sheep should be fed just enough grain to keep them growing, and should be such as to produce bone and muscle rather than fat, such as oats, bran, and oil cake (nutted is best). Breeding sheep, when the coarse feed is good quality and having a few roots, require but little grain until after the lambs are dropped, when they may be liberally fed on a similar mixture to the above.
- 6.—It is very important that pens should be cleaned out as often as is necessary to prevent the ammonia from escaping, which depends on amount of bedding, etc., used. In most cases twice during the winter is sufficient.
- 7.—Sheep require, perhaps, the least water of any kind of stock, but what they do want should be regularly supplied of the purest and very best quality (not a lick at a snowbank). If fed very liberally of roots they need less water. By a close observation of the above suggestions there is no reason why any man should not make a flock of sheep one of the most profitable investments on the farm. Sheep have touched bottom and are sure to rise.

JOHN JACKSON.

Wentworth Co., Ont.

Cut Feed, Grain, and Water for Sheep.

- 1.—I would not think of keeping lambs and older sheep together, as the older sheep will crowd the lambs from the feed troughs, keeping them from getting their proper share of feed. Lambs should be fed with the object of getting size by feeding liberally of such food as will produce muscle and bone rather than fat. Sheep from one to four years old will do well enough together, but we prefer to feed in small lots, and shearlings will appear to much better advantage if kept separate from older sheep.
- 2.—Sheep require plenty of exercise at all times