

sonal supervision and great care over the ewes at this time.

About the commencement of the season for lambing, when such occurs before the pastures are opened, we divide our shed into three compartments. These divisions are moveable. In the first are the ewes in lamb. When a ewe begins to show that the pains of labour are coming upon her, we gently drive her into the second compartment, which is small. In this, unmolested by the other ewes, she lams; and her attention not being distracted by the presence of other sheep, she devotes all her maternal instincts to the proper cleansing and suckling of her lamb. As soon as the lamb has found the full strength of his limbs, both it and the mother are driven into the last compartment.

By moving the divisions, as the number of lambs is increased, we gradually enlarge the last mentioned compartment, in which are gradually gathering the ewes and lambs, at the expense of the first compartment, which decreases as the ewes are removed from it, while the centre compartment is always kept about the same size—that is, sufficiently large to afford room for two or three ewes to bring forth their young without molesting one another. When the whole have lambed the divisions are completely removed, and the new flock has again the run of the whole shed.

It is easy to tell when the pains of labour are about to set in. The more immediate symptoms are—the ewe separates from her companions, becomes restless, constantly shifting her position, lying down one minute, and then again rising, as if to assume a more comfortable attitude, pawing the ground, and bleating as if calling to a lamb. When these symptoms appear, there should not intervene many hours ere the immediate symptom of lambing; the dropping of the water bag from the vagina, heralds the approach of her lamb.

It is very important that she be separated from the rest of the flock, and for these reasons: When sheep are disturbed by the entrance of their feeder, they usually crowd into a corner, and jostle the ewe and its young lamb; the lamb is likely to be run over by the flock, and if the ewe is thus separated from her lamb, she will often not return to it for some time, and may even take to another lamb to the neglect of her own.

Again, if the young lamb be dropped amongst the flock, in its efforts to rise, it is apt to become smeared with the dung upon the floor, and the ewe may in consequence refuse to lick it dry. The ewe refusing to lick her lamb dry, and not finding it to give it suck for some time, may often prove fatal in severe weather.

It is very seldom that mechanical aid is required by the ewe in lambing. Indeed, we believe that many lambs, and ewes too, are yearly lost by a too hasty interference upon

the part of the attendant. Nature requires time to perform all her operations, and the ewe, if left to herself, will exert all her force to part with her fetus. Directly mechanical assistance is rendered, her attention is taken off its proper object, and she is apt in her struggles with the attendant to injure both the lamb and herself.

When, however, a false presentation of the fetus (a thing of rare occurrence) takes place, the shepherd, first oiling his thumb and finger well, may gently return the fetus to the vagina, and carefully adjust its limbs to a proper presentation, i.e., the fore-feet appearing first with the nose between them.

Sometimes, from weakness, the ewe is unable to expel the lamb. In this case she may be assisted. The pulling of the attendant should, however, be very gentle, and only then rendered as auxiliary aid to the throes of the dam. The clearing (placenta) should be removed from the fold immediately.

The same principle of slow interference should be observed with the weakly lamb; when tumbling about it is attempting to rise. A lamb that manages to suck without aid will never forget its self-taught lesson, while one that has to be made to suck will be a long time ere it will attempt it without being helped. If, however, the lamb should appear thoroughly exhausted while the ewe refuses to lick it, aid should be rendered. If possible, never throw a ewe down, but teach the lamb to suck in a natural position, that is, with his nose pointed upwards. If made to suck the prostrate ewe, the lamb will for a long time after be unable to find the teat in its natural position.

If a ewe has no milk, the lamb must be fed by hand. Milk from a fresh cow is the best, and if this be heated and mixed with a little water and some molasses, it will possess as nearly as possible the purgative qualities of the mother's milk. This milk should be fed by making the lamb suck at a sponge placed in the neck of the bottle containing it, and should never be poured down its throat by means of a sponge or open bottle.

We have not space in this article to enter further into a consideration of ewes which lose their lambs, or the methods by which they may be taught to bring up foster lambs, but hope to dwell upon these points in our next.

The Waste and Folly of Cold Barns.

And what showing would the cost of winter feed of his animals make on the account-book, if the farmer keeps one? He would find that a large portion of his feed had become dissipated in the frozen air of the north winds; that a good portion of hay or corn had gone to melt ice or snow and evaporate cold rain-water, and that what was left after these things had been done had barely sufficed to keep life in his beasts. For in this case philosophy or science, or book-knowledge, call it what you will, is thoroughly corroborated by practice.

If two beasts are fed alike, except that one is kept well stabled, and the other out of doors exposed to the cold, the one thus exposed will consume just double the amount that the other will, and will be in a worse condition beside. Every man who keeps a cow knows this to some extent, though he may not know the exact figures. Here we give them—they are the result of a careful experiment made by a trustworthy feeder: viz: Two lots of sheep (of five each) were selected, of equal weights and conditions. One lot was kept out of doors and unsheltered, the other kept in a close pen. The lot under shelter ate 1,912 pounds of turnips against 886 pounds eaten by the other lot. The gain in weight was 23 pounds per head in the first lot, and 28 pounds per head in the second. The profit can be figured out by any man who knows what turnips and mutton are worth. Had not the feeding been abundant, some of the exposed sheep would have died. And yet sheep will stand more exposure than calves or heifers, or even full grown cattle. Notwithstanding all this, every winter's day one may see young calves humped up and stiffened with cold, shaking in the keen breeze, and their owners knowing at the same time that a year's growth is frozen out of them. This comes of not figuring up profit and loss.—*American Agriculturist*.

Keeping Fattening Hogs Warm.

Cold weather is fairly upon us, and hogs are now being fattened. Above all things next to economically prepared and applied food, keep your hogs warm. Never mind what some people say about a fattening hog being "warm enough," even if exposed to rain and snow. He certainly may bear the exposure, as the large quantity of food he consumes makes him very much warmer than if fed on summer food and poor slops; but, you may depend on it, the quantity of food consumed is almost in direct ratio—other things being equal—to the warmth in which the hog lives. An excellent exemplification and practical proof of this theory exists in the way experience has shown how distillery cattle fat best and fastest; and the invariable rule is to have free ventilation upwards, to allow of the exhalations passing off, but all air otherwise is totally excluded—that is, as much so as an ordinary frame building will do. The cattle would not fat half as fast as they now do if it were differently arranged. I have often been in the cattle byres, and, except in warm weather, the above is always the treatment. We all know the hog is a more luxurious animal than a bullock, and no one ever saw a bullock making himself a bed, whereas few men exist who have not seen hogs in cold weather carrying straw in their mouths to keep themselves warm in their beds. From experience gained after many years' trial, I have come to the conclusion that one quarter of the food can be saved by preparing it properly, and a second quarter can be saved by a warm house and a good bed. G.