

Where a Milker Replaces a Man

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crops grown are grown to feed the cattle. Twelve to 15 acres of corn are grown every year to supply ensilage for the herd. A few oats are grown for horse feed, but most of the grain area is devoted to such mixed grain: as oats and barley for grinding for cattle feed.

Twenty-six to 30 calves are registered each year on Bonny Brae farm and last year 20 were put on for breeding stock. This adds of the business brings in substantial monetary returns, but the main source of income on the farm is from the cream which is shipped to Montreal. Mr. Mode will soon have good assistance from his two boys. They are only seven and eight years of age respectively yet, but they are already deeply interested in breeding work and know every cow and calf on the farm intimately.

Two cars are kept on the farm. A Ford has been run for four years with an outlay for repairs of 40 cents. This was spent for two patches for the tires and for a new fan belt. The tires on three of the wheels have never been touched yet, either the inner or outer. The outer tire is worn out, but they are using the spare. This car is used for delivering cream and for driving during bad weather. A new car which has only been in use this year, a Reo, is their pleasure car. It also has run this year without the need of any repairs.

In speaking of the cars and the milking machine, Mrs. Mode summed up her feelings in this way: "If I were to be told that we had to give up either the cars or the milker, I would say, take the cars, but leave the milker."

SHEEP AND SWINE

Buildings for Sheep

THE high prices being realized for wool and mutton make sheep look good to the farmer. Many farmers are, therefore, adding a small flock to their stock. To farmers just setting into sheep the problem of housing presents itself. What sort of shelter is necessary for sheep? Will a suitable shelter be expensive? These are the questions asked by the new or the prospective sheep owner.

As a general rule the beginner should give his attention first to the quality of the sheep and afterwards to the barn. Almost any kind of barn will do for a sheep shelter, provided it is waterproof, roomy, well drained and well ventilated. Sheep will stand very cold temperatures, provided the air is dry and drafts are prevented. In estimating the size of building required for sheep, at least 18 square feet should be allowed for each ewe, exclusive of the space for pens, passages or racks.

One of the first considerations in the shelter for sheep is ventilation without drafts. These animals are naturally provided against the cold, but in a damp shed or in one where they are exposed to drafts, sheep will catch cold readily, and sickness will leave its effect not only in a smaller lamb crop in the spring, but also in the decreased quality of the wool. If possible provision should be made to allow the sunshine into the sheep barn.

The sheep shelter should be provided with a lamb creep. This may be made by fencing off part of the barn in such a way that the older sheep cannot get underneath the fence while the lambs can. By such a system the lambs will be able to get extra grain and so keep up their growth. Arrangements should also be made for separating sick ewes, or those with very young lambs, from the rest of the flock. If a few fence gates are

lifted off in the fall they will serve a useful purpose in the sheep barn during the winter.

The sheep barn should be provided with plenty of feeding racks. It is important that seeds and chaff be kept out of the wool in the highest prices are to be realized, and the best time to start in the production of clean wool is when you are building the feed racks. "V"-shaped racks are the most popular for feeding sheep. If they have a tight bottom they can also be used for feeding grain and roots. With the addition of a number of feed racks and several fence gates, almost any barn space can be fixed up into a suitable shelter for a small flock of sheep.

Sheep Raising Prospects

THE good prices for wool and mutton have certainly given the humble sheep a new status among farm beasts. Things are going to hold good for sheep right along. In normal times beef usually leads in our country. Top prices for good beef are usually better than top for either pork or mutton. But mutton has run away from beef in price. The reason for this is not that of greater availability of mutton for either local or foreign feeding, but

is directly due to the profits arising from production of mutton and wool combined. Fifteen or sixteen dollars invested in a good grade ewe will bring all this money back in ten months from the wool and lamb combined. This is fast and likewise sure. The absolute shortage of meat and the awful wastage of clothing combined intensify the wins on sheep investments.

In any case it is hard to see how the men who have sheep or those buying in just now can go wrong. Meat and wool are two of the scarcest essential commodities in the world. Wool is a commodity in a class by itself for shelter and endurance. Mutton is a quickly and cheaply produced substitute for heavier meats, and its low cost of production is in its favor for domestic use. This use is likely to increase. One of the prominent officials of the Food Conservation Commission forecasts the forbidding of the home consumption of beef within a few months. If this happens the best cuts of mutton will go to the local price of bacon now—about fifty cents a pound.

Every farmer should keep all his ewes, and might breed the biggest of his ewe lambs if he is keeping grades. They will need a little extra care to keep them growing and full fleeced.

Wether lambs should be carried over at least until Easter. Town men should be encouraged to buy surplus ewes, such as the thin ones that go to the packing plants sometimes, and put them out on shares. There will be good prices for lamb, mutton and wool next year.

Next to swine, sheep make the best kind of contribution to the farm living by furnishing a supply of whole some fresh meat in conveniently small carcasses. It is very cheaply produced. It is always possible to pick out of a flock a fat dry ewe or thick lamb that is just right for killing without any special feeding. A 90-pound lamb will dress fully 40 pounds, and it is doubtful if the cost of production of the lamb can be figured above a dollar and a half. Cured meat is too much used on the farm, and the sheep is the best animal to vary the meat diet, especially in summer time.

There are other advantages of sheep keeping. It requires small capital outlay for foundation stock or buildings, and makes a light demand on labor in its care, winter or summer. It is the best kind of stock through which to encourage an interest in live stock in children as it is inexpensive and easily cared for.—J. McCall, Alberta.



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