

its rump, begin by cutting off all tags, which should be laid aside, shear the neck and shoulders, then lay the animal on its side and when the upper half is sheared turn it over and take the wool off the other.

The general principle to be observed in all methods is to cut the wool as close as possible without injuring the sheep, for if the skin should be cut it sometimes takes a long while to heal, particularly if flies get at it. If an accident should occur the wound must be completely covered with tar to prevent these insects from depositing their eggs in it.

When rolling the fleece, carefully pick off all dirt, spread it out on a clean floor with the outer ends of the wool up. Fold the skirts of the wool in towards the centre, not very deeply at each end but more so at the sides, so that they lap well; then roll the fleece from end to end, making a short cylindrical bundle of wool. A fine hem or linen twine should then be tied firmly around the roll at a short distance from each end and the fleece is ready for market.

### Care of Sheep

Sheep perhaps more than any other animal on the farm require fresh air and plenty of exercise, and should be turned out as early as possible. Being light they may be let out to pick around fences of plowed fields, lanes and byways even if the ground is not very dry. If turned out before the grass gets much start, the change from dry to green feed is more gradual. It is better to give them a chance to go out and in at will for a few days. When kept housed too long and suddenly turned on the fresh, soft grass they are sure to scour; this, with the sudden extra flow of milk, may work havoc with the young lambs. I prefer having the lambs all come before grazing the grass.

Lambs do not require as much milk for the first week or two as they will later, hence the advantage of being weaned a little earlier, so that when the flow of milk increases they will be able to take it all and avoid trouble with the udders. Sheep are better to be shorn some little time before being turned out in that way; they get used to the want of the coat while still in the house and don't feel the effects of wind and storm so much. The machine makes the best job of shearing. There is another small matter that should not be overlooked; that is, paring the feet, as there is likely to be quite too much hoof. If this is not done before the ground gets hard they will break often too far up and cause lameness. Lambs should be docked and castrated when about two weeks old. For docking a sawed block of wood standing on end, a large butcher knife with a stick one and a half inches in diameter, about 12 inches long, to strike the knife with is a good outfit. Cut rather short and square, keeping the skin well up, so the bare bone is not seen below the skin after the operation. See that the flock is well provided with salt, and, last but not least, don't fail to dip the lambs about ten days after the sheep have been shorn. Make no mistake about the dip, being strong enough to kill the last tick; in fact, they should be dipped a second time to make doubly sure. Sheep require very little attention during the summer months. They should, however, be seen frequently to be sure that all is right, perhaps a little tagging or some very trifling thing may save a lot of after trouble.

JNO. JACKSON.

### Washing Sheep

The practice of washing sheep, which was once the almost universal rule, has of late years been largely abandoned,

and for very good reason. In a climate such as ours the custom was of doubtful utility and under some circumstances decidedly injurious.

From the economic standpoint the best guide as to the expediency of washing will be the tendency of the wool trade—whether washed or unwashed wool finds the greater favor or brings relatively the higher price. As

the matter stands at present, it is generally considered that any depreciation in the price per pound for unwashed wool is fully made up by the greater weight of the fleece and that the cleaning of the wool should be left to the manufacturer, who has appliances which enable him to do the work in a more satisfactory manner than it can be done on the farm.

## Losses in Winter and Spring Litters

### The Cause and the Remedy

#### Is There a New Disease in Young Pigs?

Last issue we published several letters dealing with the losses in winter and spring litters. A number more have been received. These, in the main, agree with those already published as to the cause of these losses and how they may be prevented. Though none of our correspondents have mentioned it, reliable reports from other sources seem to indicate that many young pigs are affected by some new trouble not well known. The outward indications are a cough. The young pigs are attacked with it when quite small and usually die before they are a couple of weeks old. This trouble, we know, is serious enough in some sections and should be investigated. It has not yet symptoms of cholera or other well known contagious diseases of swine, but it seems to be more of a bronchial or throat trouble and may be caused by the excessive ammonia which generates in closed pens that are not kept clean and well ventilated. Many farmers follow the practice of keeping their hogs all winter in bank barn stables in styes fenced off from the cattle. This is a bad practice and injurious to the health of the animal. A hog will stand less confinement than any other animal on the farm. We would be pleased to hear from parties who have had young pigs affected by this cough.

The following are some extracts from recent letters; lack of space prevents publishing them in full:

"As far as I can learn this is the worst season in the history of this country. Fully half of the young pigs in this neighborhood are dead. Some of them came dead and others die when about three weeks of age."

JAMES BLAIR.

Laarak County.

"I think the loss is small in this section. Close housing, poor ventilation and bad management are the cause of most of the losses in young pigs. A

short time before farrowing, I give the sow wood ashes with the charcoal in, and also salt and sulphur, and continue to give the litter after farrowing, but more particularly the sulphur."

D. H. RUSSELL.

York County.

"I have not heard of any losses in this neighborhood this spring from weakness of pigs or sows, but I have heard of losses from other sources, such as lack of protection for young pigs and young sows refusing to nurse their young. In one case an attempt was made to raise the litter by hand, but it was unsuccessful. I would like to hear from some one who has been successful in raising young pigs by hand and the methods used."

"There is a good supply of hogs in this section, as farmers were very successful last fall with their litters."

J. C. SPARROW.

Carleton County.

"The crop of young pigs in this section is a little above the average, both in numbers and quality. There has been considerable mortality, but I believe the percentage is less than in former years. In every case where a farmer has supplied his sows with a variety of food, such as roots, skim milk, etc., and has given them plenty of exercise, he has had good results. There is no such thing as good and bad luck in hog raising. The production of ~~hogs~~ hogs on our dairy farms is a profitable business."

W. H. McNISH.

Leeds County.

#### Prof. Grisdale's Views

In my opinion a large part of the losses of young pigs in winter and spring litters may be attributed to methods of wintering. Generally speaking, sows are confined in too close quarters in winter and frequently fed on too heating a ration. An ideal ration would be one of an aperient or slightly laxative character, such as bran and roots.

## THE Sovereign Bank of Canada

Notice is hereby given that a dividend of one and one-half per cent. (1 1/2 p.c.) for the current quarter, being at the rate of six per cent. (6 p.c.) per annum on the capital stock of this bank, has been declared, and that the same will be payable at the head office and at the branches on and after Thursday, the 16th day of May next.

The transfer books will be closed from the 1st to the 16th May, both days inclusive.

By order of the Board.

D. M. STEWART,  
General Manager.

Toronto, 30th March, 1907.

78 Branches Throughout Canada.

If in addition amount of milk given the pig good airy qu of doors, ex the best resu ideal conditio be as follows

Give the pig bedded, in w have a large run, the seed distance from food should c lbs. of bran pe (mangels) and der these conc are likely to shape and lea litters and ar well after the

Central Exper

#### Feeds Clover

Brood sows door exercise t suit. They s shelter from th go at will. T airy, clean an better than a g be filled in m than the groun vent dampness. outside and n food, such as c on such foods mangels or at soft food. I best way to win them largely o hay. This sh shell cured, t cutting box an As much chop if fed chop alon to mix with th feed silks or m come out in t good litters th on grain feed, b of keep by at convenient, to at or lucerne wou When it com rowing in cold of necessity ha damp or stuffy, plenty of fresh pig requires lig as a plant. A should be fed lil ing food and th taught to eat having a creep with small litter account of losir should be fed s so as to check t want of pigs en is often the cau tious loss.

Wentworth Cour

#### Breec

Having been breeders to state cial causes of t winter and spring It is largely du one or both par cinct exercises, in breeding and, in t vice. To avoid the parents well food, part of wh roots, good wat them a dry sleepin and plenty of ex If before farrow inclined to move induced to do so, else a few days