

be, on the land from May to December, they will not only give the usual profit of lamb and wool, but the produce of the farm will be at least doubled.

The ram, I need hardly say, should be in first-rate condition when put to the ewes. Rape is what we generally use in England to bring the ewes into season, and I doubt any other plant having so great an effect; but if you have it not, three weeks good feeding before coition will do much good. Two things you want: plenty of twins, and rapid lambing, that is, that the whole flock should drop their lambs as nearly together as possible—it keeps the shepherd less time deprived of his night's rest, besides giving all the young ones an equal chance, and an equal look, which when drawn up for

The number of ewes put to a ram depends upon circumstances.

One that I hired of Jonas Webb, of Babraham, served 110 ewes, which produced 185 lambs! He was a 2 year old, and the ewes were young, healthy, and in prime condition. But, as a general rule, a lamb-ram, will serve 30 to 40 ewes, and a shearling 80. The Hampshire breeders prefer lamb-rams, but their ewes lamb down so early, and are so well treated all along, that in September the lambs are as vigorous as the shearlings of other breeds. The ram should be *ruddled* on the breast, that the time of each ewe may be marked in the shepherd's book. A separate pen should be provided for the ram, where, in company with a ewe to keep him quiet, he



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inspection, will give them more additional value than an inexperienced man would believe.

You may think yourselves very fortunate if you find a good shepherd. I had one, and only one, but he was a wonder: he knew each ewe in the flock, personally; when they were due to lamb; what their pedigree was; could assist them in lambing, when necessary, but never troubled them when they could lamb alone; never wasted the food set apart for them; could nurse a sick ewe, bring up a *cosset* lamb, or induce a ewe to take an extra nursing when she was full of milk; there was no blaring of lambs and dams in search of each other in his lambing shed; his care was unintermitting, and he saved me, during the four years he was in my service, much more than the value of his wages.

may be fed twice a day with cake, corn, and any green stuff that may be handy; for his attendance on the ewes, if he is allowed to be always with them, will be so incessant, that he will not give himself time to eat.

The ewes will, probably, be all rammed by the end of ten days. Some will *return*, as it is called, and are served again. At the end of the third week, we used to withdraw the ram, as it is not considered desirable, when a man takes a pride in his flock, to have ewes keep on dropping lambs for a month or two after the main flock has finished.

Fat ewes always produce small lambs and suffer from inflammation in lambing, so don't keep your ewes too well. Ewes in poor condition, on the other hand, can't nourish their lambs properly, die in lambing from weakness, lose