

the testicle up close to the anus—nearer to the tail than when the pig is standing—then make a short, deep cut into the testicle, and squeeze it out by the aid of finger and thumb through the opening. Remove as if a normal testicle, and, to prevent the intestines coming out, make a couple of separate stitches and tie. It is well, while the stitching is being done, to have an attendant press with his fingers on the parts to prevent the intestines protruding.

Mutton Types.

The butcher's ideal of a mutton sheep, writes Prof. H. W. Mumford, in the *Prairie Farmer*, involves form, fleece, quality and condition, the main points being form, condition, and such points of general quality as contribute to the better killing qualities. The question of fleece is important only in so far as it increases or decreases the total value of the sheep to the slaughterer. Good killing or dressing quality is indicated by an absence, in the general appearance of the animal, of all wideness or coarseness. The bones of the leg and the head should be as fine as is consistent with good feeding quality and constitutional vigor.

The butcher's ideal mutton sheep might be one possessing bone so fine that the animal would be too delicate to make a profitable feeder. Thorough knowledge of the butcher's ideal is essential, but if the butcher's ideal animal for the block is at variance with the feeder's ideal for the feedlot, shed or pen, the feedlot ideal is bound to receive the most serious consideration at the hands of the producer.

Fortunately, the butcher's ideal and the most profitable type of mutton sheep to feed are not materially different. By careful study, the feeder can meet the demands of the butcher in almost every particular without sacrificing anything in animals so selected as profitable feeders.

To make a profitable carcass of beef and a profitable animal in the feed lot, it has been said that the well-bred beef steers are necessary. The statement applies with equal force in speaking of mutton sheep. The importance of breeding, as affecting the profitability of a mutton sheep, is not generally enough recognized.

High grades of almost any of the mutton breeds possess the qualities most sought after by producer, dealer and consumer, viz., short legs and neck, broad back and loins; long, level rumps; well-fleshed thighs, low, full flanks, and thick flesh.

The presence or absence of these characteristics is not so easily recognized in a sheep as in a pig or steer, because of the thick covering of wool, which may, in the hands of an expert shepherd, be made to disguise the real form of the sheep. It is important, therefore, to follow a more definite method of examination in order to determine their value.

The better a sheep appears to be—that is, the smoother he has been made, either with feed or with shears—the greater the possibility of deception; consequently, the more urgent the need of a careful and intelligent examination.

The mutton type should be possessed, to a high degree, by every individual of every breed of mutton sheep. It may be said to be almost the only breed-type characteristic that is held in common by all mutton breeds.

True, more perfect development of the leg of mutton is expected in the Southdown than would be looked for in the Oxford, but a glaring defect in the leg of mutton should be a disqualification from the standpoint of mutton production, no matter what breed of mutton sheep is involved.

The novice in judging sheep is often deceived in purchasing an over-fat sheep because it looks good. While a sheep too thin in condition is a puzzle alike to the novice and experienced judge, a sheep in a condition bordering on either extreme is an unprofitable sheep to the purchaser.

The safest plan to follow in examining the sheep is to adopt a systematic method of examination. Thus, one will generally avoid overlooking either the strong or deficient points.

It is not enough to make an examination with the eyes; it is safe to say that less can be told of the real characteristics of a sheep by general appearance than of any other farm animal. More dependence must be placed upon the use of the hands. Not all judges agree as to the best method of examining a sheep. Some begin with an examination of the most important points, while others think it best to begin at the head, taking the points in passing to the rear of the sheep. The latter is the safer method.

Careful students of physiognomy can judge much of the characteristics of a man or woman by a good look at the face. So, much can be seen in the head and face of a sheep to indicate its masculinity. The ram with the long, narrow head is seldom a prepotent or satisfactory sire.

Passing from the head back to the neck, we should look for a short, thick neck, one that gradually thickens towards the body, joining the shoulder smoothly and evenly. There should be

no drop just in front of the top of the shoulders, constituting what is known as a "ewe neck."

In judging of the depth of chest, place one hand on top of shoulders and the other between the front legs of the sheep, noting, also, the width between the fore legs, which should be relatively great.

Examine, also, the fullness of the brisket, as well as the covering of the point of the shoulder and the shoulder-blade. It is well, too, to press firmly on top of the shoulders, to determine whether the shoulders are well overlaid.

By placing the hands a little higher and nearer the middle of the back, which would be required in examining the sheep for fullness of heart girth, the spring of the ribs should be noted. The hand should be pressed firmly, and moved slightly back and forth, pressing firmly all the time. If the back and loin is not well covered, the bone will be more or less prominent.

The hind quarters should be of good length, and carried as level as possible. In all these examinations it is well to bear in mind that it is the form of the carcass of the sheep, regardless of the covering of wool, for which we should look. To do this, the hand, or fingers, as occasion may require, must be firmly laid on the sheep. The fleshing of thigh and the filling of the twist should be taken into consideration at this point.

While the danger with the beginner in judging sheep is to judge too much by the general appearance of a sheep, such an examination is of practical utility. For example, by a careful view of the sheep as a whole, at some little distance, we judge of carriage and style.

The general outline, providing the sheep has not been blocked by the professional trimmer, should indicate whether the top and bottom lines are straight and parallel, whether the body is deep, the flanks full, and the legs short.

At some distance the sheep should present a low, massive, blocky appearance, the short legs standing well apart and well to the corners of the body. The legs should be reasonably straight as viewed from the side, front and rear, which indicates strength and feeding type.

The first step is to become familiar with a correct method; the next to know that the principal points of the mutton sheep are the leg of mutton, the head and the back, with a well-developed loin, back, and thigh, a low, massive form, on short, strong legs, fronted with a masculine head, and you have a ram that is safe to depend upon as a producer of good feeding lambs.

Bright Prospects for the Sheep Trade.

Not for many years has the demand for sheep been so brisk, or the prices for both sheep and wool so high as at the present time; and, owing to the scarcity of sheep the world over, the prospect is that this demand and the accompanying good and improving values will continue for many years. The pity is that so many Canadian farmers, becoming discouraged by the low range of prices of the past few years, and forgetting that ups and downs in values are inevitable in respect to all classes of live stock products, as, indeed, in all farm products, have abandoned sheep-raising, and have none to sell



The Dealer Driving Away the Last of the Farmer's Flock.

now that their value is on the up-grade, and those who have stood by them are bound to have a comfortable innings.

The greater part of Eastern Canada, as well as large sections of the West, are peculiarly adapted to successful sheep-raising, the land being undulating, the climate moderately dry, and the soil suitable to growing in profusion all the most desirable sheep foods. In no country within our ken are sheep liable to so few diseases or disabilities of any sort as in older Canada, while New Ontario promises to be equally favorable. No other class of live stock is so cheaply fed, or requires so little labor in their management. Quiet and unobtrusive, they are content with short pasture in summer, picking up much of their living in the lanes and byplaces of the farm, and consuming many weeds which would otherwise go to seed and foul the farm, while in winter they require no expensive housing, no daily ty-

ing and untying, or cleaning of stables, but only a few forkfuls of pea straw or clover hay, and a few roots, if they are at hand, and a little oats at lambing time, salt in a box where they may help themselves, and they pay handsome half-yearly dividends in the form of lambs and wool, the latter a crop no other stock affords.

The excuse that they rob the cow pastures has little point, as sheep despise the long and rank grass, and prefer the short, sweet bite on the hillsides, while they always sleep on the poorest places of the field—the high, dry hills—the fertility of which they improve by their droppings. The other excuse, the depredations of dogs, has even less force, since in England, where more sheep per acre are kept than in any other country under the sun, there are ten times more dogs to the square acre than in the most thickly-settled portions of Canada. These are the only reasons we have heard advanced for the neglect of our people to keep sheep, and they are more of the nature of a poor apology than a justification. A moderate-sized flock of well-bred sheep, with moderate attention, will never be found in debt to its owner, but will pay better returns for the capital invested and the labor and expense of attendance than any other stock on the farm.

This country will be overrun in the next few weeks by dealers from the United States looking for sheep for breeding purposes or for speculation, and anyone who purposes starting a flock, or strengthening an existing flock by purchase, will do well to act quickly in the matter of making selections before the bulk of the best specimens available are picked up and shipped out of the country. It's a case of the early bird securing the worm, and "forewarned is forearmed."

The Scrub Man.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

So much has been said about the scrub cow in the dairy business that it seems to me a great many dairy farmers are of the opinion that if the scrub cow is eliminated from the field of dairying, all would be well. It would certainly be a help, but there are a great many things of importance besides, which, if practiced in our present herds, would tend to improvement. The great mass of dairy producers in our Province are men of rather limited means, and cannot get into the high-class cow company at one jump, but if they are wise, they can build up a profitable herd out of the cows they have.

I believe in an Advanced Registry or Record of Merit for dairy cows, and it would not be a bad thing for some of us if there were a Record of Merit for dairymen. There is a difference, though. If you have a cow who does not reach your Record of Merit, put her out of the dairy business; she won't change. If you have come to the conclusion that you are not in the Record of Merit as a dairymen, do not drop out of the business, but get out of the scrub class as quickly as you know how. If you are sure you can't improve on your present herd and methods, better put yourself out of the business also, and get into some line in which you can be a Record-of-Merit man.

Let each of us, as dairy farmers, put on our thinking caps, and decide whether we are in the "scrub" class or in the Record-of-Merit class; let us ask ourselves these questions:

Do I buy a bull calf at \$4 out of one of my neighbor's good (?) cows and by a half-bred bull, or do I buy a good pure-bred bull from as good a cow as I can by spending \$5 for every cow in the herd? 20 cows will allow me to spend one hundred dollars profitably.

Do I use my bull as soon as he is willing to serve a cow, and then allow him to run with them, and serve each cow five times, or do I use him as little as possible till he is two years old, feed him well, give him a roomy box stall or paddock, and allow him only one service to a cow?

When I have a good bull that is proving himself a good sire, do I sell him at three or four years of age for beef, or do I exchange with one of my neighbors who has an equally good bull the same age, or older?

Do I raise the calves indiscriminately, and feed them on whey and wind, with a little grass off a sunny pig pasture, or do I raise the heifers from the cows that conform nearest to my ideal, and then treat them as well as I know how up to their first milking period?

Do I hit the bull as early as I can get a crack at her, so that when she calves I have to tie her head to the manger and fight for two