

SHEEP AND SWINE.

FRENCH TREATMENT OF LAMBS.

A ewe goes in young twenty-one weeks, and a lamb born ten or thirteen days before its time rarely lives. Yeanning is not attended with serious difficulties if the animals have been duly cared for, and kept in a condition neither too fat nor too lean. Before the period of parturition, they ought to be generously fed, and if one-third of a pound of bran, bean or pea meal, cake flour, etc., be added to their rations, so much the better. The interference of the shepherd with the ewes is often useless, and frequently injurious. Leave them in tranquility; but if a false presentation takes place, introduce the hand, carefully rubbed with oil or lard in advance. If anything more serious arises, call in the veterinarian. Should puerperal fever show, the disease being so contagious, the shepherd ought on no account, touch a healthy sheep after being in contact with an affected ewe.

Ewes that produce two lambs ought to be kept in separate cribs, to prevent the young going astray if the mothers were kept in the flock. The numbering and marking of the lambs should take place very early. The teats of the mother ought to be regularly examined, to ascertain if the milk flows freely. If necessary, make the teats supple, and remove any wool in proximity, so that the lambs may not contract the habit of eating wool. If all goes well, the lamb and its mother can be turned loose after three or four days; but if she refuses her milk the sojourn in the shed is to be prolonged. The shepherd ought to bring the lamb near to the mother's teats and milk a few drops into its mouth. As in the case of calves, the first milk of the mother is good for lambs. If the ewe gives too much milk, a certain quantity must be milked away and the rations diminished. This remark applies, of course, to ewes that have lost their lambs. If it be found that a mother has not sufficient milk for a lamb you desire to rear, obtain a nurse; the same treatment for a lamb that has lost its mother. Avoid, if possible, cow's milk, but if it be a case of Hobson's choice, give the preference to the milk of a six months' farrow cow. The state of the udder should be well looked after; for if the milk accumulates, an ulcer will be the consequence. If a mother has too much milk, and the lamb cannot consume all, reduce the forage. If a mother dislikes a lamb, the shepherd ought to reconcile them; and if, in the case of two lambs, one takes more than its fair share of milk, muzzle the offender; but good milking mothers rarely allow that partiality.

There cannot be good lambs without good milk; hence, select not only those ewes notable for their milking qualities, but supply them as early as possible with succulent food. When the lamb recognizes its mother, they can join the flock. It would be well to have lambs yeanned within fifteen days of each other grouped together. This classification will aid the weaning process. It will be a necessity if the yeannings of the flock extend over five weeks. To enable the lambs to be alone, it is good to separate them when four weeks old, from time to time, from their mother; this can be effected by having a hole in the pen, by which they can run in and out without the mother being able to follow them. By closing the aperture for fixed periods the commencement of the weaning can be made.

Lambs ought never to suckle less than three months, and weaning is the best time suited for selecting those to be reared—free from defects in shape, debility or fleece. Never rear any but good animals; their keep is not greater, and the care they demand is perhaps less. For four or

five months after the weaning continue the feeding commenced during the suckling. Tender hay is excellent, increasing until the ordinary rations of the flock can be enjoyed. To the hay add a little oats augmenting both with the advancing growth of the animal. When sent to graze for the first time care should be taken that the lambs be protected from the weather, and at the same time be well guarded. If the period be damp or moist it is not a bad plan to give a little hay or dry fodder, or let them remain all day in the shed. If the sheep are to be shed reared let the building be well ventilated, the rations good, and the exercise adequate. When ten days old castrate and dock the lambs. The amputation of the tail is much practiced on the Merinos and English breeds; the appendage economically, is useless; it accumulates filth. In France the shepherds have ever an interest in the yeannings being good; their salaries are increased, or a percentage allowed on sales, less deductions for losses.

In the case of a race of sheep that produces two lambs, one is sold off at an early hour to the butcher. To produce meat, the French ewes are generally crossed with English rams. It is said that the flesh of the female is better than that of the male lamb. Often the mother and lamb are fattened simultaneously; that is, the former is well kept on roots and hay before, as well after yeanning, so that the mother, when dried, can be easily finished off. Artificial feeding is not in favour for fattening lambs. From M. Magne's experiments it appears the rate of increase in flesh of a lamb is, during the first week, ten and one-half ounces; the second, seven and one-quarter ounces, and between seven and eight ounces afterward; in other words, a lamb gains, on an average, in ten weeks after yeanning, about thirty-four pounds of flesh. The disease that lambs are often subject to, known as *muguet*, and which is due to feebleness of constitution and defective digestion, is a cryptogamic kind of vegetation in the mouth. It is often accompanied with chancre. The mouth ought to be washed by means of tow or old linen, on a stick, with a solution of alum, common salt, or borax. Give mealy or salty drinks. —N. E. Farmer.

WINTERING YOUNG PIGS.

Pigs born later than the first of October will need good care and skillful management to keep them in a thrifty, growing condition through the winter. This is particularly the case if you keep them in large numbers, and it is a good plan to sell all you can before winter sets in. People who keep only two or three pigs to eat up the slops from the house can handle their late pigs to better advantage than the large farmer or breeder. Such young pigs need milk, greasy water, or broth and bread, or cooked potatoes, with corn meal pudding; these are more likely to be liberally furnished from the kitchen when you have only two pet pigs than when you have two score or two hundred. Whatever method of feeding is adopted, let it be liberal. Let them have all the good feed they will eat—no more, no less. Let them have good, dry, comfortable quarters to sleep in, and disturb them as little as possible. Pigs are in part hibernating animals. The more they sleep the better for them and their owner. We do not want to fatten pigs in winter. We simply want to keep them in healthy, growing condition, and the fatter they are when winter sets in, the easier it will be to carry them through the winter. Pigs well wintered, are in good condition to thrive well on grass and clover next summer. They will do far better on pasture alone than young spring pigs. We are not now advocating having young pigs in the autumn, but if you have them and cannot sell them, or do not

wish to, then take the best care of them, and feed liberally. The most profitable pork we have ever made, was from young pigs which had been well cared for through the previous winter, and the next summer fattened on clover pasture.

A DOG STORY.

Some years ago, in the northern part of New England, Farmer Adams bought a drove of sheep from Farmer Scott.

"I need some one to help me drive these sheep home," said Adams, "for the road is long, and winds over the mountains and through the woods."

"There is nobody here to go with you; but you may have one of my shepherd dogs," replied Scott. "When you get home give him a good breakfast and tell him to go back and he will find the way all right."

The sheep were all turned into the pasture, at the end of the journey; but the dog had been so efficient that Farmer Adams thought he would try to keep him. Therefore he was chained, and only allowed freedom enough for exercise. After feeding and petting him for a week, that he might become wonted to the place, one evening his chain was loosed to allow him to take a run. At eight o'clock they called him to be tied up for the night, but no dog appeared.

About a week afterward a letter from Mr. Scott stated that the dog had returned home bringing all the sheep. He had evidently gone to the pasture, gathered the sheep together and driven them back to their former home.

Moral. Do not try to steal a dog for you may lose your sheep.

DRESSING SHEEP.

Many farmers are deterred from the use of mutton on their tables from the woolly taste of the meat when killed at home. The reason of this is almost wholly in the manner of dressing. To obviate this all that is necessary is the exercise of care. Allow the sheep or lamb no food for twenty-four hours before slaughter, but allow all the water it wants. Just at nightfall, having everything prepared, seize the animal, hang up by the hind legs, cut the throat, being sure to sever all the arteries of the neck. As soon as dead, disembowel at once and then skin quickly and without allowing the wool to touch the flesh. Spread the quarters to cool the carcass as quickly as possible, hang in a cool, sweet place, and you will not be troubled with woolly-tasting mutton.

POLAND CHINA.

At the National Convention of Swine Breeders, at Indianapolis, Nov., 1872, the following characteristics were decided upon as determining purity of breed:

"The best specimens have good length, short legs, broad, straight backs, deep sides, flanking well down on the leg, very broad, full square hams and shoulders, dropping ears, short heads, wide between the eyes, of spotted or dark colour; are hardy, vigorous, and prolific, and when fat are perfect models all over, pre-eminently combining the excellencies of both large and small breeds."

Most barnyards are larger than they need to be, and the consequent scattering of manure make it much more difficult to save. Early in the fall the entire yard should be covered with straw to the depth of a foot or more, to absorb the solid and liquid excrement that would be wasted. If the barnyard is too large for this a portion should be fenced off and the stock kept out of it.