

grain has a constant tendency to degenerate. But whether its species suffers or not, it must, by a thousand circumstances, be so blended and mixed with other kinds, and even with different grain, that it requires frequently to be renewed by picking and propagating the best heads. This is found by experience to be the surest method of preserving the grain; and so different is the produce of the earliest and most vigorous ears from that of the poor diseased ones, that it has generally obtained some name to distinguish it from that even of its kind. A Farmer in East Lothian some years ago found, in a cold, bleak situation (Coldingham Muir) a very fine looking vigorous head of wheat—which, being ripe at a period earlier than might have been expected from its situation, he brought with him; and having repeatedly sown its produce, at last furnished seed to a considerable part of that county, and even to farms in many a distant county. It is an excellent kind of wheat—being considerably earlier and more prolific than any kind we are yet acquainted with. It is known as *Hunter's Wheat*.

These hints may perhaps be of some use to Farmers who are only about the beginning of their agricultural pursuits. They may cause a little reflection, and occasion rational experiments, which may confirm, in their mind, the utility of such first principles upon which they were made.—*Scottish Farmer*.

SHEEP—ON THE BREEDING OF LEICESTER TUPS.

When treating of short-horned cattle, the attention of breeders was directed to the importance of carrying on as a separate trade that of breeding and rearing young bulls. The same arguments there urged apply with equal force when considering the propriety of establishing a farm for the sole object of breeding Leicester tups. In commencing an undertaking of this kind, the primary object is the proper selection of the breeding stock. The ewes, besides being pure bred, must possess all the requisite points of a first-rate Leicester; while the tups should be most carefully and judiciously selected from the best stocks. Some breeders prefer large sheep and others small, or sheep which stand high or low on their legs; but a middling-sized animal is to be preferred, extremes being avoided. Such a tup should have a fine head, rather wide from eyes to nose, wide and expanded nostrils, full, bold, quick eyes, thin pricked ears, head altogether prominent and well covered; full neck, sloping gently back to the shoulders and firmly set on; the shoulders broad, full and compact; the breast should also be broad, full, and prominent, joining full up to the neck; the forearm full of muscle to the knee, and a fine flat clean bone and leg below the knee; ribs round and well arched to the back, and full of mutton up to the shoulder; the chine, from the shoulders backwards, strong; the back straight and wide; loins wide; hind quarters long, wide, and well formed; tail well set on, nearly in line with the top of the shoulder; belly nearly straight, shewing little offal; ham or leg full and well filled to the hind hough, both inside and out; standing rather wide on the hind legs, so as to correspond with the fore. In fact, the whole carcase should be so compact as to look like a cylinder with four pins stuck into it, particularly from the fore part of the shoulders backwards; and if the head and neck are all right, he will have a bold and graceful appearance. The wool should be a proper length, fine, bright, and soft, rather close set, with a thin pelt. If a tup possesses all the foregoing requisite, he will feel and handle mellow, and the fingers in handling should sink into the back from shoulders to tail, which is a true indication of the purity of the blood.

These are the qualifications and points which a Leicester flock should have to be fit for breeding. Therefore, those beginning the trade must either have or select such as here described, and without defects; as it too frequently happens that wrong points fall out in sheep which cannot be accounted for. To procure a breeding stock of this kind may be expensive; but it is of no use beginning the trade without, as, unless able to compete with the most eminent breeders of the day, top prices cannot be expected, and the trade, unless at these prices, will not be profitable. It is possible, however, for a