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Soils and Crops

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Buying and Feeding Feeder Sheep.

Success in buying and feeding lambs depends upon the man who buys and feeds them. A year ago I was talking with a feeder who was in the yards looking for some lambs. He told me that he bought a car-load the year before just before they started down. He waited until they struck the bottom and then purchased another load to offset the loss on the first. He didn't like the idea of just breaking even, so he bought a third load and made money on the operations. The profit would have been three times greater had all three loads been bought right.

To have success in feeding sheep the feeder must know how to select his sheep and the best kind to select. He should be acquainted with the market conditions and the different market classes.

The first thing to look for in buying lambs is thrift. If the lambs are very thin, make sure that their condition is due to hunger. The lambs should carry their heads up and their ears alert, and show a bright look in their eyes. They should carry a heavy, compact fleece. Long, loose, shaggy fleeces do not protect the lambs from the cold rains. The best weight is from fifty-five to fifty-eight pounds. In from sixty to ninety days such lambs, if properly handled, will weigh from seventy-five to ninety pounds.

Some people think that the thinner a feeder lamb is, the faster will be the gain. That is a false understanding; don't be misled. The thin ones do not get so quick a start and the loss is likely to be great. The feeder in medium flesh is the one that will win out.

If you are properly equipped and have plenty of time and patience then you may consider buying ewes to carry over. In this case, examine the ewes closely; watch their teeth and their udders. Many ewes have teats clipped off when being shorn. Such ewes should be sorted out if they are to be used as breeders.

If ewes are bought for carrying over, mate them with purebred bucks of the mutton breed. There should be at least one buck for every fifty ewes. The gestation period for ewes varies from 145 to 154 days.

With a large flock it is advisable to "flush" the ewes. This consists in giving an extra allowance of nutritious, highly palatable food for two weeks or so before the desired date of breeding. The ewes will then be rapidly gaining in flesh. Not only is the ewe then more certain to produce a vigorous lamb, but she is a more reliable breeder and more likely to drop twins. Also the flock will all breed within a shorter time if flushed, thus shortening the lambing period with its anxious hours.

Rams should not run with the ewes

all the time, but at night only. To determine whether a ewe has been bred and at what time, the ram should be painted on the brisket so that he will leave his mark on the wool of the ewe.

Suitable feeding troughs should be provided for hay and grain. Light portable racks prove most satisfactory.

Pure drinking water should be supplied in abundance; it is the cheapest part of the ration and often is the most lacking. Each sheep should have from four to six pounds of water daily. Sheep will not take so much unless it is available at all times.

Salt should be kept before them constantly, for an irregular supply induces scours. For the first two or three days they should not be allowed all the salt they will take, but at first it should be dissolved in water and the brine sprinkled on their hay.

There are several precautions to observe in shipping sheep and starting them on feed.

If the sheep have lice or ticks they should be dipped before they leave the yards. They should not be shipped the day they are dipped, as the cold night air fanning on them will develop colds and a loss will result. Feed them hay and allow them to rest in the yards overnight. Give them plenty of fresh water. They will then be in better condition to ship.

When driving sheep from the local yards to the farm let them take their time and eat along the roadside. They will not overeat if they are driven slowly. They will be very thirsty and should not be allowed to drink all they want until the second day. The first night they should be kept in a yard and fed clover or alfalfa hay. The next morning after they have had another feed of hay, turn them out to graze for three or four hours. If they are to be fed in a dry lot, start the grain the second day and increase it gradually. Feed twenty pounds of corn, thirty pounds of silage and 1.5 pounds of clover or alfalfa hay a head a day. Gradually increase their feed and in two or three weeks have them on full feed. If the feeding period is to be short, get them on full feed in about two weeks. Sheep have a better appetite on a bright clear day so it is best to make increases in feed on such a day.

Keep the feed troughs and the lots clean and fresh. When sheep are fed in dry lot they should be fed at the same hour each day. Feed twice each day, once in the early morning and again in the cool of the evening. If you have the range for the sheep it is more economical to let them gather a part of their roughage. If they get off feed, reduce the grain part of the ration.

Do not allow dogs nor strangers to enter the pens or frighten the sheep; for they will lose weight if frightened.

Financial Notes

Tenders are being called up to Sept. 21st on a \$3,000,000 bond issue of the Province of Saskatchewan. The announcement presents two alternatives; the first request is on the \$3,000,000 6 per cent. 10-year bonds, dated Sept. 1st or Oct. 1st, 1920 at the option of the purchaser, the principal and interest payable in Regina, Toronto, Montreal and New York. At the same time alternative bids are asked on \$3,000,000 6 per cent. 20-year debentures dated optionally as in the previous instance, and the principal and interest payable in Regina, Toronto and Montreal.

The success of certain Ontario municipalities in the marketing of their debentures "over the counter" to their own people, is attracting a good deal of attention throughout Canada. The latest city to come into this category is Brantford, reported to have sold over a half a million debentures to its citizens, since the first of the year. Others of the smaller Ontario towns and cities have also been trying out this method of interim financing and have found it to work out well.

While this method of financing will not likely do for the big issues, which can best be placed through firms with wide organization, it has been found satisfactory for odd lots and small blocks placed in between the bigger issues.

The Shawinigan Water and Power Company have now under construction at Shawinigan Falls, extension to plant that will cost over \$3,000,000 and take some two years to complete.

It is the purpose of the company to considerably augment the 333,700 h.p. electrical and hydraulic development now being generated at Shawinigan Falls and the Laurentide Company. Present plans take into consideration the eventual adding of 310,000 h.p., with 100,000 h.p. at Shawinigan as the first step; 60,000 h.p. at Laurentide as the second unit; and later, 150,000 h.p. at Gres Falls. Present demand for power is expected to readily absorb projected increases in plant.

A Long Distance Layer.

As a rule, hens lay two or three eggs and then miss a day. Some good hens will lay more before they take a day off and we have known individual hens to lay five and six dozen eggs and not miss a day, but a record in long distance laying without a miss has, as far as we know, been established by the Experimental Farm, Poultry Division at their Kentville, N. S. Station, where a Barred Plymouth Rock pullet laid 104 eggs in 104 days.

This Barred Rock whose leg band No. is 63, did not start to lay very early. In fact her first egg was laid on the 25th of January. She laid two eggs and missed a day, laid five eggs and missed a day, four eggs and missed a day, one egg and a miss, then two eggs, but on the 13th of February she got down to business and laid every day for the rest of the month, every day in March, every day in April, and every day in May up to the 27th when she took two days off. After this time she took an occasional day off until the 20th of June when she became broody. When she went broody her total record was 136 eggs in 147 days.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

LESSON I.—OCTOBER 3.

Birth and Childhood of Jesus, St. Matthew 1 and 2. Golden Text, Matt. 1: 21.

1: 1-17. The Book of the Generation. The author of the gospel set himself the task, which seemed to him exceedingly interesting and important, of tracing the ancestry of Jesus back to Abraham, the founder of the Hebrew race. This was made possible by the family lists and records which had been carefully preserved by many families, especially after the Babylonian exile. These, it seems, did not always agree. In the Gospel of Luke (3: 23-28) there is another and independent list. Matthew makes only nine generations between Zerubbabel and Joseph, but Luke has seventeen. Many of the names are different. The matter is not one of great importance to us and need not occupy our time. Both evangelists intend to show the descent of Joseph from David. Wesley, in his Notes on the New Testament, referring to the differences, says that "The difficulties rather affect the Jewish tables than the credit of the evangelists."

2: 1-15. The Child of Bethlehem. Herod, commonly known as "Herod the Great," was king under the Roman sovereignty from B.C. 37 to B.C. 4. It is quite evident, therefore, that our Christian era has been made to begin several years too late. Jesus must have been born in B.C. 5 or 6. Herod was an able but unscrupulous man,

who was guilty of many crimes. His wife, the beautiful Mariamne, was a descendant of the Asmonaeon kings. She and two of Herod's sons were murdered by him. The man who could commit such brutal crimes in his own household might well have been guilty of the murder of the Bethlehem children. The teacher should consult Matthew's History of New Testament Times in Palestine, or Riggs' History of the Jewish People in the Maccabean and Roman Periods, for an account of Herod's reign.

"Wise Men." Just who they were and from what country they came we do not know. The wise men, or magi, of Persia are mentioned by Greek writers, and the Chaldean wise men, in the Book of Daniel. An early Christian tradition represented them as kings, and regarded their coming as a fulfillment of the prophecy of Psalm 72: 10-15. Herod was troubled when he heard of their coming, for he knew that the expectation of a great King and Saviour, which was based upon ancient prophecy, was cherished by many of the people, and he feared that this might mean the end of his own kingdom. He had come to the throne and had held it by fraud and violence, and his guilty conscience may have been stirred by dread of a coming judgment.

"Into Egypt." The words of Hosea quoted in verse 15 in the original passage referred backward to the deliverance from Egypt (Hos. 11: 1). Here, by a curious change of direction, they are made to look forward to Christ.



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Poultry

Of all domesticated poultry, turkeys are probably the most difficult to rear. From the time they are hatched, up to that period of their life when the red shoots into the head, they are more or less delicate, and must receive special attention. After that they are probably the most rugged of all fowls.

The turkey chick has a very small crop and should be fed every two hours for the first week. For the first three or four days hard-boiled eggs, mixed with bread crumbs or coarse oatmeal, can be given; but after that period the egg part may be dropped from the diet, although it generally is advisable to continue feeding it for a week, at least. Onions are highly relished and they are very good for the poults. The onions should be chopped up fine and kept constantly before the poults. Meat is another essential, as well as green food, of which tender lettuce is best.

A gobler may be mated to ten hens. Pullets in their first year should be mated to a male in its second year, while hens over a year old are best mated to a vigorous cockerel. The turkey cock reaches maturity after the molt in its third year, and from then on is not reliable as a stock bird.

The hen prefers choosing her own nesting place, and usually where she lays her first egg she will drop all succeeding ones. After laying from fifteen to twenty eggs she generally becomes broody.

Interbreeding must be avoided. Nothing will claim more weak and ill-conditioned stock than close relationship, and the offspring naturally become prey to disease.

There must be strict cleanliness—clean roosting places, clean feed, and pure, clean drinking water. The young must be kept out of the rain; a sudden shower is generally fatal to them.

Smut takes large toll from the wheat crop every year. Be forehanded and prevent this loss by sprinkling on the cleaned seed a solution made by adding one pound of formalin to forty gallons of water. Use about one gallon of the solution for each bushel of seed. Get every kernel wet. Cover the grain with a blanket for several hours, then uncover and stir occasionally until it is dry, when it is ready for seeding.

Hogs

My neighbor asked me once to look at his pigs. I was about to step into the pen when he cautioned me: "Better take a stick with you, the sow is pretty cross."

This I found to be exactly true. The mother sow was in no humor to tolerate visitors. I soon saw that I would enter her pen at the risk of my life. As a natural consequence I kept out.

I have often contrasted the wildness of my neighbor's sows with the gentleness of my own. I am fully convinced that it pays to have gentle sows. At farrowing time I have no difficulty in caring for my sows; they do not mind in the least if I handle their pigs. As a result, I do not have to fight with the sows to get them to do as I wish. I do not need to go armed with a club; my sows have no fear of me and I have no fear of them.

A tame sow will look after her pigs much better than one that is wild. Because of her fear, the wild animal imagines danger to her young ones. As a result she frets and worries and uses up vital energy. Her pigs acquire the same fear and are hard to manage. Naturally they are harder to confine and invariably strive to break through the fences. The pigs from tame sows grow up tame, as a rule, and give a great deal less annoyance with respect to fences. In addition to all this, a tame hog fattens more easily than a wild one.

Queen Victoria visited Ireland on four occasions. In 1849 she landed at the "Cove of Cork" which was renamed "Queenstown" in honor of her visit.

Perhaps the most vital reason for using agriculture in the education of the country child is that it is in strict accordance with that recognized principle of educational psychology which demands that education should be built upon past experience. If this be accepted the daily experience of the farmyard and the farm home will furnish the groundwork of the teaching in the rural school; it will be the common stock from which other subjects grow, and the extent to which they grow will be limited only by the age and capacity of the pupil and the interest and the enthusiasm of the teacher.

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