

Lack of Exercise in Ewe Flock

The present winter has been so continuously severe and stormy with almost constant snow falls, resulting in a great accumulation of snow, that the percentage of weak lambs is likely to be much greater than usual. I venture this assertion because of the great difficulty, if not impossibility, of inducing the ewe flock to take sufficient exercise. I have usually little difficulty in this respect, my plan being to feed roughage in a roomy yard, spreading pea straw on the ground, the sheep—sheep-like—keep running around from one yard to another, picking up the morsels they seem to like best, and in this way get plenty of exercise, while they hunt out all the best of the fodder. But this year our yards are piled up fence-high with snow, and it has been almost impossible to induce the sheep to venture out where they mired and floundered, and although we shovelled and tramped for them, usually in a few hours after it would be piled in as deep as ever. In one case, when one of the flocks had access to a paddock of something over three acres, they got more than a couple of rods from the doorway. In another pen I had better success. The yard allotted to them was one where about fifty head of cattle were turned loose for four hours every day, tramping the snow well down, then the sheep have the use of it the rest of the time, being closed in while the cattle were out. This same difficulty has been present in many of the flocks I have seen, and there is nothing more likely to cause weakness in the lambs.

With ewes that do not come in until April, there is still time to overcome the difficulty, and with those dropped in the next few weeks, I look for a large percentage of weak ones. Our own ewes have not yet commenced to lamb, and I am hoping my efforts at prevention may be successful. But there are many flocks I know of that have scarcely moved out of their pens since the winter began. The lambs from these ewes will require much more attention, and since grass and feed was generally plentiful at the time of mating I look for a large percentage of lambs. The ewes will, however, require to be more carefully looked after, because when lambs are not over-strong, and a ewe has a pair of them, the first born is often neglected in looking after the second, and frequently get separated from the ewe, if she has not been placed in a small pen by herself. It is much better if this can be done, more especially with young ewes, but I know very well that it is not always convenient to have pens enough, when a person has several ewes likely to come in together. In the absence of those little pens, the shepherd has to be so much more alert, and it is the only time of the year that the flock is exacting of the attendant's time.

I very seldom have trouble in getting lambs started to suck, but sometimes it requires a lot of patience if the lamb be weak, or in some cases apparently determinedly contrary. I always want the lamb to have its first drink from the ewe's milk, cows' milk will answer, but a first drink of cow's milk, unless a little sugar be added, is usually followed by indigestion in the lamb, and I believe that more young lambs die of constipation than of any other cause. When you see one looking dull and breathing heavily, constipation is usually the cause. In a very young lamb, a teaspoonful of raw or sweet oil, or even a little milk, will generally relieve them, but if the lamb is old enough to eat much solid food, a tablespoonful of castor oil, with a few drops of turpentine, will be better.

Have all loose tags of wool removed from around the udder of ewe, lambs

will get hold of these and swallow some of them, and will almost surely die if they do.

A. W. SMITH.

Dan Patch in Canada

Arrangements are being made to bring Dan Patch, 1564, the champion harness horse of the world, to Canada during 1904. The International Stock Food Company, of Toronto and Minneapolis, inform us that the Central Canada Fair Association, Ottawa, has entered negotiations with a view to securing this wonderful horse as a special attraction to their fair next September, and should these be brought to a satisfactory conclusion, Canadians will be sure of a chance to see Dan Patch make an attempt to break his own record of 1:56 1/4 made at Memphis, Tenn., during the season of 1903. Dan Patch holds not only the world's record for a mile to a bike, but also the world's wagon record of 1:57 1/4, mile record to a high wheel sulky 2:43, half mile record 56 seconds, mile record on half mile track 2:34, and a two-mile record of 4:17, making him the holder of more world's records than any horse that has ever lived.

Codling Moths Wanted

Dr. William Brodie, of Toronto, who is an expert student of parasitic insects, and whose studies have been carried on for many years, has offered to follow up his investigations into the parasites of the codling moth and place his findings at the disposal of the Ontario Department of Agriculture.

To carry on this work, it will be helpful to procure from time to time, bur-lap or other bands, in which the codling moths have been caught. Some have already been received. Any fruit growers having bands now on trees will confer a favor by corresponding with the Department of Agriculture at Toronto. If parasites can be obtained that will be effective in destroying the codling moths, and they can be bred in sufficient numbers to distribute at favorable points, there may be accomplished a very valuable work in helping our apple growers to hold in check this most destructive enemy to our most valuable fruit crop. Apple growers all over Ontario should be interested in this important investigation.

Shorthorn Sale at Markdale

The sale held by T. Mercer, of Markdale, Ont., suffered to some extent through the stormy weather, but there was enough of the right kind of Shorthorn cows to be offered to induce a few of the best breeders to attend, and good prices were the rule. The prices ranged from \$15.00 to \$475.00 for females. This latter price was given by Col. J. McGillivray, Uxbridge, for a five-year-old Missie cow, of the Marr-Missie strain, and sired by J. & W. Russell's bull, Carlisle. The next highest price reached for a female was \$215.00. Geo. Amos, Moffat, Ont., secured a good one in Scotch Lassie, a cow of straight Flora breeding, and of a better scale than 1750. The herd bull, an animal of real outstanding quality and merit, two years old, bred by S. Campbell, Kinellar, Scotland, a get of the famous Golden Fame, and from one of Dr. J. S. Abbottsford's cows, Roan Rose, took some bidding, but was knocked down to A. Jacobs, of Blyth, for \$950.00. The rest of the bulls brought from \$75.00 up to \$250.00.

The Dates Fixed

The Dominion Exhibition will be held at Winnipeg from July 25th to August 6th, 1904. It will be a full two weeks' exhibition and will be full of interest and value to the West.

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A Mexico Experiment Station

The Mexican government has made arrangements to establish an experiment station to carry on experimental work in tropical fruits. It will be operated in conjunction with the Ubero Plantation Company, and the government will make an appropriation of \$10,000 annually for maintenance.