

FAIRM STOCK

BETTER CARE IS BOOST FOR WOOL

Shearing is probably done as well as most of the various other tasks connected with sheep raising. There are a good many points about wool growing and wool preparation, however, in which Illinois does not hold an enviable position, according to W. G. Kammlade, in charge of sheep husbandry at the college of agriculture, University of Illinois. In fact, the Boston Wool Trade association has reported that in every state east of the Missouri river some gain would result from improvement in methods of preparing wool for the market, but that the greatest gain could be made in the states of Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Minnesota and Wisconsin. The reference is not to the method of marketing—although great improvement could be made here also—but to the preparation of fleeces.

One of the worst things with which manufacturers have to contend is the chaff and straw that growers allow to get into the fleece, either by carelessness in feeding, unswept floors at time of shearing or poor storage after shearing. This may result in a loss of some ten cents a pound or from seventy-five cents to a dollar a fleece. No great care or effort is necessary to avoid this loss. The preparation of fleeces can be further improved by the removal of all tags and dirty locks right after shearing. These should be kept separate from the rest of the wool. Black wool also should be packed separately.

A great amount of carelessness is evident in handling fleeces after shearing. The tendency is to roll the fleece in any old way and tie it with anything from half-inch rope to barbed wire. The proper way to roll a fleece is to spread it out on the floor, fold side down, then fold in the legs and belly wool so that the fleece will be about two and one-half feet wide. Then start at the rear of the fleece and roll toward the head. The head and neck wool should be turned so that this part will be underneath the wool from the shoulder when rolling is complete. When the fleece is then tied it will show the flesh side and be very attractive. Rolling in this way brings the wool from the shoulder and side on the outside of the fleece. The wool from these parts is the best wool grown by the sheep.

In tying the fleece, either paper or glazed twine of moderate size should be used and not more than two strands put each way around the fleece. About seven or eight feet of twine is ample to tie the average fleece. These twines will not injure the fleece in any way. Certainly any one wishing to have a well prepared product will not use binder twine or pieces of rope or wire. The Boston Wool Trade association looks with disfavor on the use of the wool tying box as it gives the fleece a blocky, heavy appearance which is certainly not an advantage.

No suggestion looking to the improvement of wool marketing methods has so much to commend it as has the "wool pool" and it is certain in the long run to bring better prices for high quality wool—the kind every one should endeavor to produce. The wool growers of Illinois will do well to give the co-operative marketing of wool due consideration, according to Kammlade.

Live Stock Notes

Good housing is essential to successful hog raising.

One should employ a veterinarian to vaccinate his hogs and adopt no half-way measures.

Carrots are beneficial and next to them in point of utility for mares come parsnips and then medium-sized rutabagas.

Keep the ram in good medium breeding condition. Do not allow him to run with the ewes in the pasture but keep him in a small pasture lot to himself during the day.

Have the pasture lot in which the ram stays fenced sufficiently high to keep dogs out. When the ewes come up at night turn them with the ram. He will single out those in heat at once.

Any ewe lambs which are saved over for replenishing the flock should be drenched three or four weeks with the bluestone treatment. This consists of a 1 per cent solution of bluestone mixed with water.

A ewe which has hearty twins year after year may well be excused some defects in wool. A "leader" of exceptional ability may well be kept to old age. An occasional extra heavy shearer of good type might be exempted from lamb raising.

A brood sow should have plenty of exercise during the winter months. The sow that keeps out of doors most of the time when the weather is good is much more likely to produce a strong litter than the sow that stays in the barn or shed.

DAIRY FACTS

DAIRY HINTS FOR SEVERE WEATHER

The dairy cow is a home market for feeds produced and if she is to pay the highest prices for producing milk, she must be kept comfortable in winter. That's just the way it is and the owner who doesn't keep his milk cow warm and dry will find that she will not produce milk at a profit.

"The cow that is not kept warm by a good barn and a dry bed will use a large part of her feed for this purpose and thus reduce the amount of nutrients available for milk production," says John A. Arey, dairy extension specialist at the North Carolina State college. "Then, too, grain must be fed liberally on those farms where it will be necessary to use low grade roughage for legume hays."

Mr. Arey recommends that fresh, clean water of a medium temperature be given the cows during winter. Cold water chills their bodies and feed energy must then be used to warm them. The water supply must also be convenient for the cows to use. Cows forced to go long ways through mud and rain for water do not drink enough for heaviest milk production.

It is advised that an accurate feed and milk production record be kept on the cows during winter because some cows pay well for the feed consumed, while others do not. Accurate records are needed to locate the unprofitable cows. Mr. Arey states that the new year might be started in the right manner by the dairyman buying a pair of milk scales.

Another winter suggestion by Mr. Arey is to give the young heifer calves some extra feed and care during the cold months of December, January and February. A stunted heifer never makes a good cow, he states, and many dairy cows are under-sized because they were not properly fed when calves.

Big Production Records Possible on Small Farms

Expensive equipment and high-priced herdsmen are not always necessary for making advanced registry records with cows, according to the dairy department of the New Jersey College of Agriculture. Good cows are the first requirement for good records, and many a man does not realize how good his cows are until he gives them a chance.

Fame and fortune have come to many a small breeder because he started official testing of his herd with what equipment and means he had instead of waiting until he had everything just right. It isn't necessary to break any records to make official testing a very profitable venture. Good ordinary records make additional values that pay big dividends on the money and labor involved.

The department further points out that the small breeder has some distinct advantages in his favor. He lives closer to his cows. He knows them better and they know him. He can always rig up some place to make his test cows comfortable, and by his personal care and attention overcome many of the advantages the big breeder may have in the way of elaborate equipment and expensive herdsmen.

If the small breeder brings out a sensational producer, the credit, fame and fortune are all his and he doesn't have to divide it with anyone, except to give his wife due credit for her encouragement.

Selecting Herd Bull Is Serious Dairy Problem

Every breeder of dairy cattle should study seriously the problem of herd improvement as the whole future of the herd is at stake when the bull is selected, says R. E. Waters, extension dairy specialist, Clemson college.

The problem of getting a better herd is largely one of having better young stock coming on. This is a matter of breeding and particularly of selecting the right bull.

The ability to produce milk is inherited through both the sire and dam, but since the sire is responsible for half the inheritance of each animal born in the herd, he is clearly the most important single factor in the development of the dairy herd.

To obtain the greatest possible improvement by use of the bull it is very important that due consideration be given to his pedigree, for both type and production. And where possible, select a bull that has some daughters, preferably some that have been in milk and proven their ability as producers. With the above points in mind a breeder can select a bull that will, with reasonable certainty, transmit to his offspring the desired type and production.

Balanced Ration Helps

A slight change in the ration of eight dairy cows reported recently made a difference of more than \$40 a month in net profits from them. The change consisted in adding a portion of a high protein concentrate to the ration, which brought immediate results in the increased yield of milk. No matter how good a cow may be if she does not receive a good balanced ration suitable for her needs she cannot give a profitable yield of milk and butterfat.

POULTRY

PLAN INSPECTION OF LIVE POULTRY

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Agreements establishing a live poultry inspection service in New York city have been signed by the New York Live Poultry Commission Merchants association, the Greater New York Live Poultry Chamber of Commerce, and the United States Department of Agriculture. It was announced today. The service goes into effect November 15.

The agreement is the outcome of efforts by New York poultry interests to establish better business methods in the industry. The department was asked by the trade to make a survey of conditions in the New York market, with a view to putting into effect an inspection service under government supervision.

The survey, made last August, indicated the practicability of the work to be financed by the trade, and in conjunction with compulsory inspection of all live poultry arriving at New York, under board of health regulations, the department worked out an inspection system which has been approved by the trade.

Inspectors are to be licensed by the Department of Agriculture, the poultry to be inspected for condition, and later for class, grade, and quality. Inspection certificates under the agreement are to be joint certificates of the Department of Agriculture and the two co-operating organizations.

Inspection fees are to be fixed by the secretary of agriculture, and the inspection work conducted in line with the sanitary code of the New York city board of health, as well as with the laws and regulations of the states of New York and New Jersey. The agreement is to run until June 30, 1927, unless terminated at an earlier date by mutual consent. It may be renewed, however, at expiration.

Green Feed Important for Layers in Winter

Green feed is important in the ration of hens in winter. A California bulletin tells of a request from some of their breeders for help in combating a disease which resembles roup in many respects. The station found that it was not roup for it could not be transmitted from one hen to another. Further investigation showed that the flocks were affected with a nutritional disease on account of lack of green feed in the ration.

A good many people supply this green feed by sprouting oats or by having a supply of root crops. Some could improve their ration and overcome a good deal of their trouble by making use of the shattering leaves from clover or alfalfa hay. If the shatterings, which in the majority of cases are mostly leaves, are picked up and given to the hens in the morning they will eat a lot of the leaves and smaller stems. The coarser material will make excellent scratch material in which to feed the grain portion of the ration. These shatterings make a good substitute for other green feed.

Poultry Notes

Sprout oats for the poultry flock.

The big, fat, yellow-legged hens seem to be doing anything but laying eggs.

The average egg production, the country over, is said to be 130 per hen per year.

Cod liver will help keep the poultry flock in good health and keep the eggs coming this winter.

Many eggs will stand 20 pounds pressure on the shell. The average is about fourteen or fifteen pounds.

The production of winter eggs requires care and feed which make the conditions as nearly like spring as possible. The person who feeds his hens nothing but corn, oats and wheat will be disappointed.

Hatching eggs should be not only fertile but also standard weight, clear, sound, fresh and uniform in shape and color.

Growing chickens, like all other young and growing animals, need large amounts of high-protein feed for muscle and bone building.

Breeding hens should be kept out in the sunshine as much as possible. Every time the sun shines they should be driven out, if they don't go on their own accord.

One thing for the poultryman to remember: Old hens need more feed than pullets need to produce a dozen eggs.

Best results can be obtained if the brooder house is ready, the stove in place and the heat properly regulated before the chicks arrive.

Winter seems to whet the appetites of chicken thieves; and locks are no good. One man trained a lot of hysterical Leghorns to squall lustily at any sound in the henhouse.

BLACK VELVET FOR FORMAL WEAR; SHORTER COATS ARE COMING IN

BLACK velvet and pearls! A sumptuous combination this and one which is outstanding in the pageantry of midwinter evening frocks. It is not enough, to refer to the beautiful pearl-worked black velvet dress, which is the "last word" from Paris, as merely a beaded gown. There is little in common with these exquisite hand-embroidered creations and the "popular" glittering machine-headed georgette types. The be-pearled black velvet gown stands in a class all its own.

If you would get an idea of the pearl-beaded and silver-embroidered are so fashionable, one welcomes the short-coat vogue, for together they produce a chic and youthful silhouette. A very interesting short-coat model is shown in the picture.

Perhaps you are questioning in your own mind as to the material employed for the development of this charming coat. Velvet, of course, is the answer, for velvet is one of the smartest of midwinter cloakings.

This pretty coat in the picture might just as well have been made of black velvet with a rich dark fur trimming, but the creator of this girlish wrap decided on a beautiful vi-



Decorated With Pearl Beads.

black velvet robe as a master artist creates it, study this picture. Regally beautiful, is it not? This exclusive model presents a new and fascinating interpretation of the black and white effects which fashion considers very smart.

The alliance of pearls and velvet is not at all times expressed through actually patterning the fabric with the beads. To achieve the now-so-modish black and white compose, women are wearing snow-white accessories with their décolleté and sleeveless black velvet dresses. These include ropes of pearls wound around the throat and falling in festoons until they seem almost like a trimming for the bodice. The inevitable shoulder flower is either a gardenia, a shaggy chrysanthemum or a white rose. Even the young girls are wearing black velvet frocks of youthful silhouette with a single white flower posed at the left shoulder or low round neckline.

Another partnership of pearls and

brant blue with chinilla collar, cuffs and borderings, for colorful velvet is very popular for daytime coats as well as evening ones.

The fact that the sleeves are so fancifully furled, emphasizes this season's fashion trend toward cuffs of extreme novelty. The bordering of this coat is also somewhat unique. Note how it separates toward the front just enough to allow a row of cunning buttons between.

Now that colorful velvet coats have come into fashion, the vogue promises some extremely interesting versions. Very choice is the black velvet coat colored with unspotted ermine. Straight from Paris comes a black velvet tailored jacket bound with braid, worn over a black rep skirt. The tight-fitting sleeve is slightly belled at the wrist.

An attractive Paris-made ensemble shows a dark green velvet jacket designed with a mannish waistcoat, just above which one catches a glimpse of a Nile-green crepe blouse. The skirt



Pretty Coat of Blue Chinilla.

black velvet is registered in the realm of millinery. The latest French imports include cunning black velvet chapeaux encrusted with white pearls most elaborately designed.

Velvet, how often we repeat that word this season. It is not at all surprising that the evening coat worn over this handsome pearl-patterned velvet dress in the picture, is also of velvet—brilliant sapphire blue, if you please. This marvelously befringed wrap is heavily embroidered in metal thread across the shoulders. The colorful velvet evening wrap plays a stellar role among midwinter formal modes.

Not always does "cut it short" pertain to interviews: In the parlance of the stylar it refers to the latest-mode winter coat. Recent advice from fashion's headquarters is to the effect that shorter coats are "coming in."

Now that plaided and plaided skirts

Daddy's Evening Fairy Tale

A MARY GRAHAM BONNER

A ROBIN WEDDING

Little Miss Robin was preening her feathers and smoothing them down, for it was the fourteenth of February and she had received a valentine.

Naturally she was very much excited, and she looked at her reflection as she stood over the brook.

"Yes," she said to herself, "I am looking well today. I hope Mr. Robin Redbreast will surely think so too."

"My, what a fine bird he is!"

And, oh, how lucky I am to have received a valentine from him!

Now Mr. Robin Redbreast for a long time had admired Miss Robin and thought she was the most beautiful bird he had ever seen.

And so he began to get his valentine ready 'way back in the autumn when the trees had turned red.

He would fly from tree to tree and spend hours each day looking for the most beautiful and perfect leaf, and he wanted it to be a real crimson color.

At last he found it and put it away in his nest, very carefully covering it over with moss and straw to keep it well protected and so it wouldn't fade or shrivel up at the ends.

Then a few days before Valentine's day he got a little stick, which he



Miss Robin Was All of a Flutter.

stuck through the red leaf, which he had pecked off into the shape of a heart, and this was the valentine he sent to Miss Robin.

Of course the stick was to mean that his heart had been pierced by love.

Mr. Robin Redbreast sent his valentine by a messenger, and then he waited what seemed hours to him before he went to call on Miss Robin, and it seemed hours to Miss Robin, too, who had smoothed her feathers so many times.

At last Miss Robin heard him singing the most beautiful song, with such high notes it seemed as if they almost reached the sky.

And oh, how proud Miss Robin was to feel that such a beautiful singer was to be her mate!

In a few moments Mr. Robin Redbreast came in sight and stood before her by the brook.

Miss Robin was all a-flutter with joy and nervousness.

"I've come," said Mr. Robin Redbreast, "to ask you if you'll be my wife and come to my new nest in the apple tree."

And then he sang another little song.

"I would love to, I would love to!" chirped Miss Robin.

"We'll be married today, then," said Mr. Robin Redbreast, "for I've invited the guests, hoping you would surely accept my humble robin's love."

Then he gave a long call.

At that, from far and near, countless robins flew down and hovered around.

Mr. Robin Redbreast and his bride flew to the branch of a nearby tree, and all the others perched about them singing such merry, happy songs.

And then they all went back to Mr. Robin Redbreast's nest, where a banquet of fat, juicy worms awaited them.

Had a Suspicion

PECKY, aged two and one-half, was left downstairs, while her mother made the bed upstairs. On seeing that Peg was so quiet, her mother suspected that she was at the cheese she had left on the table.

"Pecky, get away from that cheese," she called down. To which Pecky came to the foot of the stairs and called out: "How you know, mom?"

A Long Visit Yet

Little Marjorie (age four)—Grandma, hell is an awful hot place, isn't it?

Grandma—Yes, dear, very, very hot. But what do you want to know about such things for?

"I just wanted to be sure you wasn't going home soon. I heard daddy say he reckoned you'd stay till it freezes over."

Origin of Baseball

The first mention of baseball is in the Bible.

Eve stole first, Adam stole second, Gideon rattled the pitchers, Goliath was put out by David and the prodigal son made a home run.—Dental Digest.

Hard Luck

Willie—Two boys were throwing rocks at each other and I got hit!

Boo, hoo!

His Mother—What boys?

Willie—Another fellow and me.

JULIA BOTTOMLEY
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