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THE EWE AT LAMBING

Hints on Care of Both Mother and Lamb.

Care Before Lambing Important—How to Help In Cases of Poor Delivery — A Good Ration for Ewes When Raising Lambs.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

THE two main factors contributing to a satisfactory lamb crop are the proper feeding and care of the sheep during the six months previous to lambing time together with care and detailed attention given to the flock during the lambing period. Plenty of exercise coupled with sufficient amount of the right kind of feed to maintain the ewes in good thriving condition will usually result in the birth of active rugged lambs, for which the mother will have a sufficient supply of milk. In practically every flock, no matter how well cared for, the attendant must be on hand frequently, day and night, during the period the lambs are arriving. A little attention at the proper time often results in the saving of not a few lambs.

Absolute dryness and freedom from draught are very essential for the flock at lambing time, and when the lambs are expected in March or even early April provision should be made for reasonable protection from the cold.

Wool balls in the stomach is often the cause of much loss in young lambs. This trouble as well as difficulty in getting the lambs to nurse may be avoided by clipping away all loose and dirty wool from around the udder and quarters of the ewes. It must be borne in mind that at this time the ewes, heavy in lamb, should be handled gently, otherwise serious loss may occur from ewes slipping their lambs.

Provision should be made for a few small pens located along the warmest side of the building. The ewe about to lamb is much safer separated from the main flock and in cases of difficult parturition, weak lambs, ewes disowning their lambs, and numerous other difficulties that may arise they can be looked after a great deal more satisfactorily when confined in small enclosures. It not infrequently happens that a ewe has difficulty in delivering her lamb; this is more common in the case of young ewes with their first lamb. When the lamb has come forward far enough so that the nose and front feet are in sight and the head is unable to pass through the ewe should be assisted by gentle pulling on the forefeet. If this fails smear the inside of the vagina well with linseed oil; this has the effect of softening and allowing the opening to stretch, and will, unless the case is a very severe one, give relief. No action should be taken until it is reasonably certain some assistance is needed, and before investigating the hands should be perfectly clean and disinfected.

Lambs may be born weak and apparently lifeless, more particularly in case of difficult delivery. These may be revived by quick action on the part of the attendant. First remove the phlegm from the mouth, then hold the mouth open and blow gently a few times to start lung action. Next lay the lamb on its belly and gently beat it on the sides next to the heart just back of the shoulder.

A ewe may lose her lamb and still have a supply of milk. She may be given a lamb say one of twins or an orphan lamb belonging to another ewe to raise. This may be accomplish by skinning the dead lamb and throwing the skin over the one to be adopted. A ewe may take to another lamb when held and the lamb allowed to suck. Especially is this true where a ewe has a full flow of milk.

When a lamb is born during a cold spell it may become so thoroughly chilled as to require attention. Place the lamb in hot water until well warmed, rub dry, then wrap in a cloth and place beside a fire until restored. A little warm milk taken from the mother should be given as soon as the lamb will take it. A few drops of whiskey in a little warm water may often prove beneficial.

Ewes, like dairy cattle, vary a great deal in the amount of milk given. In case of single lambs the mother may have more milk than the lamb will take for a week or more, the lambs may be nursing on one side only and the other side will become inflamed and caked. Either hold the ewe and allow another lamb to nurse or milk out. In case the udder has become hard bathe with hot water for five minutes with a woollen cloth, dry thoroughly and apply (warm) pure melted hogs' lard.

Ewes should be fed sparingly, especially of grain, for a few days after lambing, as soon as they are safely over the effects of lambing they should be gradually brought up to full feed. Clover or alfalfa hay, together with a grain ration of oats and bran should give results. If roots or good quality silage is available they will supply succucency and add variety to the ration.

All lambs should be docked and the male lambs, other than those intended for breeding purposes, castrated at from ten days to two weeks' old.

Following is a good ration for ewes when raising lambs:—

Oats, eight parts.
Bran, four parts.
Oil cake, one part.
Roots, four to six pounds per day.
Good hay.

Lambs started on ¼ pound per day will give a good account of the feed consumed.—Percy Sackville, O. A. College, Guelph.

A laying hen requires grain, meat or milk as well as green food during the winter months.

THE STABLE IN WINTER

Keep Your Dairy Cows Comfortable and Clean.

Spray the Place With Whitewash—Add Some Germ-killer — Fill In All Broken Window Panes, and Provide Other Ventilation—Care of Plants In Winter.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

THE period of long, cold winter is here. Of necessity, our milking cows must have special protection from the cold, and at the same time must be made as comfortable as possible.

The whole of the inside of the stable should have a thorough cleaning. The dust and cobwebs should be swept from the walls, ceiling and windows; the windows should be thoroughly cleaned, also the mangers and stalls. Then spray whitewash all over the inside, except the windows. To the whitewash add some disinfectant such as a carbolic acid preparation, or a chloride germ-killer. This will kill disease germs, lurking in dark, damp places and maintain the health of the animals, which is at the foundation of profitable milk production.

The next step is to put in all broken window lights, but where the owner thinks he cannot afford to buy glass at the present high prices, a piece of coarse cloth, such as an old sack, may be tacked over the window space. This will provide some ventilation in a stable not otherwise ventilated.

Cow stables need ventilation in winter by having the foul air removed and fresh air introduced without a draft directly on the cows. A simple way to do this is to hinge all windows at the bottom and allow them to open inward, so as to shoot the air toward the ceiling. There should be a V-shaped board at each side or end of the window, to prevent the side-draft. Foul air outlets should extend below the ceiling of the stable, and preferably have two inlets for foul air—one near the floor and one at the ceiling, as in this way the foul air is removed without cooling the stable too much, by simply closing the top outlet. No system of cheap ventilation works automatically. They all require some attention.

Other points in stable preparation are to have all ties secure so that a cow may not get loose; repairs to mangers and gutters should be made so that they may be kept clean and sanitary without too much labor. Litter and feed carriers are great savers of labor in looking after a herd of milkers during the winter.

In a word, make the cows comfortable and lessen the labor of stabling cows by having them sanitary and convenient, with as many helps as possible in the form of machinery.—Prof. H. H. Dean, O. A. College, Guelph.

Care of Plants In Winter.

Water growing pot plants only when they need it, then water them thoroughly. When the soil begins to get dry and powdery on the surface, or when the pot is tapped with the knuckles or a knife handle and it emits a ringing sound, the plant requires water. Give sufficient water so that it runs out through the bottom of the pot. Water plants in the morning in cold weather, not at night. Use tepid rain water, or water that has been exposed to air and sun for a day or two, if possible. The water should be lukewarm, about 50 to 60 degrees F. in winter.

Humidity in the atmosphere is one of the main requirements to be successful with plants indoors. Place pans or saucers of water on the heaters or registers. A steaming kettle or pot of water on the stove is a great help in this respect.

When the pots become full of roots, or where the soil is poor, worn out or exhausted, liquid fertilizers can be given plants. The soil should be moist, not dry, or very wet, when the fertilizer is applied. There are several good plant foods sold at seed stores. "Sterling Worth Plant Tablets" or "Bonora" are both good. Half an ounce of nitrate of soda dissolved in a little warm water first, and cold water added to make one gallon, also makes a fairly good fertilizer for pot plants. Apply once every week or ten days.

Spraying with water will help keep down insect pests. A fine spray thoroughly applied to all parts of the plant is necessary to be effective. Plants having very rough hirsute foliage, should not be sprayed or sponged, especially in winter, only the plants having glossy, glabrous foliage. Insect pests increase and thrive best in a dry, warm atmosphere. For aphis or green lice, white fly, red spider and thrip, "Sulpho-Tobacco Soap" is a good remdy. Black Leaf 40 is also a good remedy for most insect pests on house plants. Soapy water or a solution of whole oil soap and tobacco water are beneficial for scale insects on plants.

Slake about one-half pound of fresh lime in a pail of water, allow it to settle. Give about a teacupful of this solution once or twice to each plant suffering from earth worms.

Put frozen plants in a dark place at once, temperature about 45 degrees F. Do not touch the leaves. Sprinkling with ice cold water is beneficial.—W. Hunt, O. A. College, Guelph.

A Chat About Chickens.

In very cold weather to make the hen comfortable and to keep her in good condition feed (a little at a time, but often, in dry straw or other litter) some kind of mixed grain.

Milk to drink, or about a pound of meat or its equivalent in beef scrap each day, is required to supply material for the building of the egg white for twenty hens.