CARING FOR THE FLOCK

BY GEO. A. BROWN.

Breeding ewes which have raised lambs are usually thin in flesh after the lambs are weaned and should have the best care possible during the fall months or just previous to mating with the ram. The practice of good feeding and care before mating is called flushing. This can best be done by giving the flock access to the best pasture the farm affords. Where a meadow will not be available, rape may be sown with the oat crop. The rape should be broadcasted about three weeks after the oats are sown.

During seasons when we have abundant rainfall excellent fall feed may be provided by sowing rape or rye in the cornfield at the time of the last cultivation. Where good pasture is not available the ewes may be flushed by feeding grain for three to four weeks before mating. Good care at this time insures a larger, stronger lamb crop and practically all of the ewes will lamb within three weeks after starting.

The flock which goes into winter quarters in good condition is easily wintered, while it is not only difficult but also requires a great deal of extra feed to get the thin ewe in suitable shape for lambing.

The period of gestation for a ewe is five months. When the lambs are to be sold during the summer or early fall the rams should be turned in the last of October, where the lambs are to be held over and fed the winter following their birth, breeding should not take place until December.

The importance of using a purebred ram of superior individuality and good shearing qualities cannot be too strongly emphasized. If quick maturing lambs for market only are desired a mutton type of ram should be chosen. A good vigorous yearling or two-year-old ram should handle forty ewes. It is a good practice when possible to change rams after three weeks as a ram occasionally proves sterile and in many flocks there are ewes which would not conceive to the service of the first ram that might be settled by another sire.

WINTER QUARTERS.

Winter quarters for the breeding flock need not be elaborate unless the lambs are to be dropped early. There are, however, a few essentials which should be rigidly adhered to. The shed should be dry both under foot and over head, free from drafts and with wide open doorways. To avoid drafts the shed should be closed tight on the north and west with the doors on the south and east left open so that the sheep can go in or out at any time. Lambs are often lost, and occasionally ewes, through having pregnant ewes crowd through narrow doorways. Abundance of rack room should be provided so that all members of the flock can feed at one time without crowding and the racks so constructed that chaff and straw from getting into the fleece and thus reduce its value.

The breeding flock will utilize a wide variety of feed stuffs and can be maintained entirely upon home grown feeds. Bean pods, pea vines, oat straw, corn stalks, corn silage and feeds for breeding use. Where silage is not available root crops or small potatoes are often used as a succulent feed. If a moderate allowance (from one and one-half to two pounds per head) of good leguminous hay is fed each day the remainder of the ration may consist of cheaper roughages such as straw, stalks, bean pods or silage or some combination of these feeds.

Timothy hay is not satisfactory for sheep nor should a ration be made up largely of corn stalks, corn silage and straw as this combination would not furnish sufficient protein, although these feeds give excellent results when fed in combination with leguminous hays which furnishes sufficient protein.

For the last thirty days before lambing it is usually best to feed some grain. Oats or a combination of equal parts of oats and bran fed at the rate of one-half pound per head daily give good results. After lambing this allowance should be increased to from one to one and one-half pounds per head daily. Ewes which have a full udder of milk very seldom disown their lambs and correct feeding will insure plenty of milk.

The flock should have access to salt and water at all times. On farms where trouble has been experienced with goiter the addition of four ounces of either potassium or sodium iodine to each one hundred pounds of salt will prevent this trouble.

CARE AT LAMBING TIME.

There is no season of the year when extra care will pay larger dividends than at lambing time when the flock should have almost constant care and attention. Individual pens should be provided in which the ewe and new born lamb may be placed by themselves for a few hours until they are thoroughly acquainted. The wool should be trimmed away from the udder of the ewe and when necessary the lamb assisted to nurse the first time, after which it may be said that the lamb is half raised. Care should be taken to feed the ewe rather lightly for a few days and the lamb should be watched very closely to see that it does not become constipated. In case it should this trouble is readily remedied by giving the lamb from a teaspoonful to a tablespoonful of castor oil and an injection of soapy water.

A frequent source of loss to farm sheep raisers arises from the failure to dock and castrate the lambs. This operation ought to be performed when the lambs are from one to two weeks of age.

At about three weeks of age the young lambs will start to eat grain and at this time should be provided with a creep, to which the ewes do not have access, where they may be fed grain consisting of oats, bran and a small proportion of crushed corn and also a good quality of second cutting of clover or alfalfa hay. Any feed remaining in the trough should be fed to the ewes twice daily and the lambs given a fresh supply. Young nursing animals make much more efficient use of their feed than do older animals, hence the importance of rather liberal feeding where it is desirable to market the lambs young.

Summer care of the flock on pasture offers comparatively few troubles. The sheep should at all times have an abundance of shade in the pasture, fresh clean water and access to salt. A constant look out should be maintained to see that the flock does not become infested with parasites and the rear parts of the sheep should be kept tagged so that the flies will not blow them. Providing fresh succulent pasture, such as Dwarf Essex rape for midsummer use will give liberal returns. This is especially true for lambs after weaning.

Thinning Paints.

Paint that is just right for priming is obviously not just right for a finishing coat. Hence it is evident that the ready-mixed paints on the market are "ready for use" in name only, and can not be used for all purposes without some manipulation. The directions on the cans usually state this fact. It is likewise true that some of the well-known brands are thick enough to allow the addition of thinners when a thinner paint is required. However, the addition of a thinner is a frequent source of paint failure.

"Add pure linseed-oil to thin outside paint, or turpentine to thin inside paint" is usually a safe rule; the danger lies in the use of wrong thinners, the use of substitute turpentine or linseed-oil, or what is a greater evil in paints of this class, the addition of drier. Driers "burn" paint. Each manufacturer of ready-mixed paint has added enough drier to take care of this particular formula and no more. If more is added it reduces the useful life of that paint to a surprising extent. Drier can indirectly cause any of the well-known paint troubles, such as cracking and scaling. It is likewise true that paints have a saturation point in absorbing drier. Consequently, when this point is reached, the addition of more drier does not help but actually retards drying. Those who doubt this are invited to try it and be convinced.

Another thing, always use ready-mixed paint for the surface it is meant for. That is, don't use inside paint for outside surfaces, nor wall paint on the floor, etc. My neighbor wanted to save a little money when fixing up his kitchen, so he took some outside paint, thinned it with oil, put it on the kitchen floor. He waited a week for it to dry, and then had to scrub it off.—Ed. Henry.

Producing Clean Eggs.

Poultrymen need not be at the nest to wipe Mrs. Biddy's feet before she enters to make her daily contribution to their profits, but if the hen-house is so arranged that her feet will be clean and will not dirty the egg, it will mean added profit for the owner.

Dirty eggs are a second-rate product on any market; so are washed eggs. This means that the egg must be produced clean, which further means clean nests and clean feet.

Clean nests can be provided with little trouble. A change of nesting material whenever it gets dirty will do away with the danger of soiling from this source, and special care must be taken to see that the birds do not roost on the edge of the nests at night.

Keeping the birds' feet clean is more of a job. First of all, you must have a clean door-mat, in the shape of fresh litter and plenty of it on the floor at all times. Second, do not let the birds out on muddy days when their feet are bound to get dirty.

Most important of all, keep the dropping-boards clean. Daily scrapings are prfeerable, but if a poultryman feels that he has not the time for this, the cleaning should be done at least twice a week. A cage of one-inch or one-and-one-half-inch poultry wire tacked under the perches and over the dropping-boards will prevent the birds from walking on the boards, and incidentally will catch any eggs that are dropped in the night.

The so-called "plain dirties," eggs soiled by dirty feet and dirty nests, are easily cleaned with a soft damp cloth, which should be used only on the dirty spots. Be careful not to rub dry, but to allow them to dry by standing in the air. The gelatinous coating which seals the eggs should not be soaked off, as this covering is germ-proof and serves to keep the egg fresh.

Dame Ethel Smyth, regarded in England as the most eminent woman composer alive, who, following in the footsteps of Richard Strauss, has written a comic operetta.

No. 1151—Girls' Dress, having round collar or narrow neck-band, patch pockets, and long or short raglan sleeves. Sizes 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 years. Size 8 years requires 2½ yards of 32-inch, or 2⅜ yards of 36-inch material. Price 20 cents.

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Our new Fashion Book contains many styles showing how to dress boys and girls. Simplicity is the rule for well-dressed children. Clothes of character and individuality for the junior folks are hard to buy, but easy to make with our patterns. A small amount of money spent on good materials cut on simple lines, will give children the privilege of wearing adorable things. Price of the book 10 cents the copy. Each copy includes one coupon good for five cents in the purchase of any pattern.

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Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred; wrap it carefully) for each number, and address your order to Pattern Dept., Wilson Publishing Co., 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto. Patterns sent by return mail.

Johnnie dressed alone the first morning that he was given his new winter union suit of underwear. When he came from school that evening, he informed his mother that his suit was too small, except that the sleeves were "way too long." On investigation, it was found that he had worn the suit upside down—that is, the sleeves were used for the legs while the legs, folded back, served as sleeves. It was certainly the oddest thing that I ever saw any one attempt to wear.—B. F.

We know a farmer who has a workbench upstairs in his wagon house, with hooks, nails and other devices for holding tools. This man never has to run all over the farm to find the thing he needs.

TWO YOUNG SETTLERS

BY ELIZA R. PARKER.

Accustomed as they were from the cradle to the most appalling perils liable to run athwart of lurking savages every day it should not be surprising that the children of the early settlers grew as wary as lions, wild and hardy as young partridges, ever on the alert; yet such narratives as the one about to be given appear more like romance than reality.

More than a hundred years ago two little brothers, John and Henry Johnson, went about a mile from their home, to look for a hat one of them had lost.

After finding it, the boys, who were aged eleven and nine years, took a seat on a log to rest and eat some nuts.

They soon saw two men approaching, who greatly frightened them, for they, not living on the frontier, were not much accustomed to seeing Indians.

The boys attempted to run, but were stopped by the savages, who told them that they must go with them, which they quietly did, as there was no help for it.

All day long the children were made to march before their captors, and when night approached they halted in a deep hollow.

The boys saw them whet their knives and heard them talk in their strange tongue, and of course thought they were planning to kill them.

They now addressed the boys in broken English, and asked them if they would not rather be great warriors and hunters than women, to stay at home and raise crops.

John and Henry agreed with the Indians that it would be very nice to learn to hunt and shoot. This pleased them very much. They then asked them if they knew the way home. John, the oldest, feigned ignorance and pointed the wrong way. This delighted the Delaware chief, and he soon composed himself to sleep.

It was very dark, gloomy and lonely in the great forest, and little Henry Johnson, who had never before passed a night away from his mother, began to fret and wish to see her. John encouraged him by whispering "that they must kill their captors that night," and run away home.

One of the Indians sat by the fire and talked awhile to the children, asking them many questions about the settlers, their horses and cattle, which they answered promptly.

They were then permitted to lie down, one at the side of each Indian, that they might guard them. Seeing the children very quiet, the young Indian arose and went some distance nearer the fire.

As soon as John discovered them to be sound asleep, he rose and whispered to his little brother to get up, which he did as quietly as possible.

The older boy then took the gun, with which the Indian had killed game for the evening meal, and cocking it, fixed it on a log in the direction of the nearest Indian.

He then took a tomahawk and drew it over the head of the other sleeping savage. The little brother was placed at the gun, and made to understand that he must fire when John gave the signal, which he did at the same moment he let the hatchet fall.

Unfortunately, the blow fell too far back of the sleeper's neck, only stunning him. Recovering himself, the enraged Indian attempted to spring to his feet, but the courageous little hero repeated his blows with such force that the conflict became terrible and doubtful for a moment, when John succeeded in killing him.

The one that was shot by little Henry never moved, and fearing that there might be other Indians nearby, the children took flight, and, by the light of the moon, traveled all night.

When they came to an old deserted fort, John hung his hat on a bush that he might know the route he had come. They reached home a little after daylight, and related their wonderful adventures to the somewhat incredulous settlers.

A small party set out the next day, with the oldest brother as a guide, and, sure enough, found the Indian that had been tomahawked on the ground; the other had crawled off a short distance, where he lay dead, shot through the ear.

Was this not a wonderful exploit for two boys of eleven and nine years?

Yet it is quite true, and the adventure was related to us by one who had secured an account of the whole affair from Henry Johnson, who, when an old man, with whitened locks and faltering steps, still shuddered at the memory of that dreadful night.

AUTUMN PICNICS

BY JEAN HATHAWAY.

Why are so many picnics planned for midsummer when there are really so many delightful days for outings in September and October? November even is lovely in some localities.

Try having a sunset supper this month or next. If you are near the water and can see the sun go down over a lake or stream, it will be perfect. And if you have selected a moonlight night, you need not worry should it take a little longer than you expected to prepare the campfire supper.

When the meetings of your girls' club begin to seem a bit dull or monotonous and whispers as to "When are we going to have the boys?" are heard, it is time to have one of these suppers and ask the boys to come as your guests. They will accept the invitation with flattering haste.

Each girl may be privileged to invite the boy of her choice or the names may be brought up at the meeting and the guest list decided upon. The girls selected for the Invitation Committee will get in touch with those who are to be invited and arrange a way for everyone to ride to the place chosen. It will be ever so much nicer if you can go in groups rather than in twos. Two or three congenial chaperons will be selected from among the parents.

FILL 'EM UP.

Boys have god appetites. Fill the picnic basket to overflowing! That you may have plenty and yet have no waste I have made out a list of the requirements for thirty healthy, hearty appetites. This list has been used and proven entirely satisfactory. You will notice too that it is quite a well-balanced menu for a picnic meal and it requires practically no preparation at home. Weiners are cooked over the campfiire and eaten with rolls. Broiled bacon and slices of tomato are made into sandwiches as the bacon is broiled over the campfire.

When everyone arrives, the campfire is started by the boys and all gather firewood except the cooks who are busy getting the coffee on to boil and making other preliminary supper preparations. Delicious camp coffee is made by tying the grounds in a cheesecloth bag and boiling in a covered bucket for ten or fifteen minutes. Do not add the coffee until the water is boiling. One pound of coffee will make two gallons.

Carry a milk can of ice water with you if there is no drinking water where you are going. A five-gallon can for drinking and a two-gallon can for the coffee should be sufficient.

The camp supplies which we have found convenient are a wire grate, long-handled frying pan, two-gallon bucket (for coffee), a dipper, paper plates, cups and spoons, and sharpened sticks about five feet long on which to broil weiners and toast marshmallows.

FIND YOUR PARTNER.

Everyone will be delighted to find partners for supper in this fashion: Cut tiny birds and animals (two of each kind) from colored kindergarten paper or cardboard. Owls, elephants, camels, bears and any others that you can find to trace will fit into the woodland atmosphere. Tie to these strands of yarn of different colors. The pairs of animals are divided and placed in two baskets (or hats), from one of which the boys will draw and from the other the girls. The fun begins when the elephant, the bear and the owl begin looking for the other elephant, bear and owl. When partners are found, the boys see that their partners' plates are served and all help in toasting weiners and marshmallows.

In almost every group of girls is to be found a palmist or fortune teller of some kind. Ask her to try her art in the light of your campfire. And be sure to ask the musicians to bring their ukuleles and guitars for there must be music and songs, and perhaps a Sir Roger de Coverley if time permits. Such old favorites as Drop the Handkerchief, Cross Questions and Crooked Answers, and Three Deep, will complete the evening's fun and the chaperon's call to go home will seem all too soon.

Note well: A good woodsman always puts out his fire before going home.

SUPPER FOR THIRTY.

Weiners—6 pounds.
Bacon—2 boxes.
Tomatoes—2 dozen.
Rolls—75.
Mustard—1 small jar.
Pickles—1 quart cucumber.
Coffee—1 pound.
Sugar—1 pound.
Milk or Cream—
Marshmallows— 6—packages.
Coldslaw—1 dish.
Small cakes—4 dozen.
Paper plates—3 dozen.
Paper cups—3 dozen.
Paper spoons—2½ dozen.
Paper napkins—

Shoes and the Feet.

When buying shoes, avoid those that do not allow the great toe to lie in a straight line, or that pinch at the heels. A shoe that is too large at the heels is equally as bad, for it does not keep the foot in place. If a pair of shoes fit comfortably otherwise, the loose heel can be corrected by pasting a strip of velvet around the inside, or have the shoemaker paste in a strip of suede leather. Some dealers use a strip of webbing not unlike the cuff of an undershirt, stitching it to the top edge of the shoe, around the heel. When Oxford shoes are too loose around the top, some of the "slack" can be taken up by padding the tongues with cotton. A lining stitched on the under side of the tongue forms a bag which is filled with cotton padding.

SELECT SHOES CAREFULLY.

The small, narrow foot is greatly admired. To produce this type of foot the pernicious practice of moulding the foot to suit the style of shoe in vogue at the time is practiced. The shape of the shoe varies from year to year while the contour of the normal foot always remains the same. A comparison of the feet of children and of individuals who have never worn shoes shows no striking differences. Styles of footwear however, are radically different.

Shoes that have a depression in the sole allow the joint to drop below the level plane. Do not buy shoes with the soles turned up much at the toes as they cause the cords on the upper part of the feet to contract. It is not wise to change from a high-heeled shoe to a very low walking shoe; try a style having a heel of medium height. The wise housewife has rubber heels added to her shoes. These save much of the unavoidable jar that comes from walking all day long.

BROKEN ARCHES.

Many broken arches can be traced to imperfectly fitted shoes. When fitting, if you find too much space left in the toe of the shoe, there is no doubt but that as soon as the shoe is worn for a short time the heel will begin to chafe and cause the wearer much annoyance. To avoid this give the clerk enough time to fit the shoe properly. The ball of the foot should be at the curve of the sole.

The foot not only serves as a support for the body but also as a machine for raising the body and an aid in carrying it forward in walking. If the foot is to act as a lever, it must be extended in a straight position with the feet parallel. This is the habitual gait of every child and should be prolonged throughout life. With the toes diverging, less of the leverage function of the foot can be used, the functioning of the muscles is reduced, taking the spring from the gait.

Change to another pair of shoes before supper, whether or not you make an afternoon toilet. Every pair of shoes affects a different set of muscles and the change is restful. It is also an economy to change from one pair to another, for shoes last much longer if they are permitted to rest occasionally. If, after all this care, your feet continue to burn and perspire there may be an excess of uric acid in the system. This acid has the habit of affecting the feet and may be overcome by dieting or taking some remedy under the direction and advice of your doctor.

Remember that when your feet pain you, it is because you have neglected to care properly for these poor "beasts of burden" that carry you so faithfully through the work of the day and only ask a reasonable amount of care to serve you constantly and painlessly.

An Odd Sight.

The oddest sight I saw in 1924 was an old dog rocking a nestful of puppies to sleep. There was a nail-keg lying on its side in our back lot. In the keg were five cute little terrier puppies, still too young to walk very well. A big fox-hound was tied to his house right by the side of the keg. I noticed him sitting on the keg with his front feet on the ground. He was trying to balance himself, and as he did so he rocked the keg gently to and fro. As I approached the old dog, he watched me anxiously without ceasing the gentle rocking motion. I peeped into the keg; there lay the puppies all soundly sleeping. The big dog turned his head and gazed at me complacently, for he had succeeded in lulling them to sleep.—R. M. B.

"Tom said if I married him, I could have anything I wanted."

"What did you say?"

"I told him if I married him I'd be getting something I didn't want from the start."

Oats are so universally self-fertilized that in a number of pure-line cultures grown side by side for years only one hybrid was found.