

Farm and Household.

Telling a Sheep's Age.

The only correct way of determining the age of young sheep is by their teeth. After the last teeth have appeared, so that the "mouth is full" it will be impossible to determine the age with reliable certainty. Like most cattle, sheep have no incisor teeth in the upper jaw. The age must be determined by the appearance of the incisor teeth of the lower jaw. At two months old all the incisors of the lower jaw have appeared. These incisors are retained until the animal is twelve or sixteen months old, when they begin to be displaced, just as children shed their teeth, but not all at once. The two central incisors are displaced and replaced and renewed first by permanent ones, which will be retained their growth until the animal is two years old, it will be seen that the two central incisors have usually attained their full size. The next year, one incisor on each side of the central pair will displace the first teeth, and will be pushed out with the central ones. When the animal is between two and three years old, the next pair of incisors will be renewed. After three years have elapsed another set of incisors will have appeared. Between the ages of four and five years old, it will be found impracticable to determine whether the age is five, six or seven; unless some of the incisors have begun to disappear. After the seventh or eighth year some of the side incisors begin to disappear entirely. If the teeth appear old and decayed, and some are already gone, the sheep is probably more than three or four years old. Judging of the age beyond this period will be found no more reliable and shrewd guessing.—Heath and Howe.

Interfering Horses.

A correspondent to the American Agriculturist writes upon the subject of interfering horses, "on cutting of the foal and leg by the shoe of the other foot says: I have seen but few out of several hundred interfering horses that struck the opposite ankle with either the crust or hoof, the shoe, or the heelcord, and thus working by the rest, good keeping, and hand-working of the legs. This showing that weakness and a loose shuffling gait were the cause. When the crust of the hoof turns out on the inside and grows out on the outside, the horse will interfere. When such a shod foot is seen in a chalk shoe that is rubbed on the hoof, and when the horse strikes and the foot is examined it will be found that the chalk has been rubbed over the toe, and if the clinches of the nails are loose they will be found to have torn the skin of the hoof. In such a case the hoof should be pared away on the outside as much as is safe, and the shoe set out on the inside so that the bearings of the foot will be equal on each side from the center as it rests upon the ground. The horse will not then interfere. A farmer who had the reputation of shoeing interfering horses so as to cure them tried to do so on a horse, and found that the chalk was rubbed off on the outside of the toe, and that two projecting clinches there had cut the opposite ankle. He pared the outside of the hoof and set on a shoe made very thin on the outside and very thick on the inside, and set well out on the inside with the heel wide. The interfering then ceased.

Preparing the Land for Grass.

We are, very apt, to overlook that land intended for grass should receive more thorough culture than any other, because for years while in grass, it has not the advantage of the plow and other implements to stir the soil, but must rest and pack, and get more and more in a condition to keep out the air, and in a pass of less ready the water. We should, therefore, thoroughly prepare the soil. Plow as deeply as may be, and subsoil well; pulverize and enrich the soil—enriching it will make it more loose and mellow, and keep it mellow in that condition, as well as increase the yield. Such land will "catch" its seed, and if plentifully applied, will be certain under anything like favorable circumstances to form a thick sward. A little top dressing, aided by the aftermath, which should never be fed close, will insure good crops—two cuttings a year. But let there be a cold, hard underseed, and the seed put in the usual way—little of it and on hard, reduced soil, without manure—what can be expected of it? Just what we can see; light crops, getting lighter each year until it will hardly pay harvesting. Such land, when the plow turns it down, will be found to be hard. The soil must be deeply broken up, and in properly treated land, it will yield from sixty to seventy bushels of manure per acre. A mellow seed bed, deeply subsoiled soil, well enriched, plenty of seed sown as early as possible, are the points to be secured in putting down grass land.

What Underdraining Does.

It dries the soil. It moistens it. It makes it porous, and therefore allows air to the touch of the plow. It makes the land a better grower, and in a cold, wet weather, and cools it to over hot weather. It is easier in the spring, and later in fall, in tillable condition. It stays the frost to a greater extent during the winter. It is indispensable to grow grain successfully, and grass that makes good butter and cheese. It is the cure of malaria; makes a country warmer; increases the value of land. It stays the heavy rain without turning the soil into a slough, and keeps the fertility. It will bear stock on it earlier in the season, and sooner without harm after a rain. It is a comfort to know you have it. But, it must be done well, else there is a loss, often the loss of the whole labor.

Feeding Corn to Pigs.

The Stock Journal, after giving a number of experiments in feeding corn to pigs, concludes that the best results are obtained when it is within a fraction of twenty-four pounds of pork in a bushel of corn; and the effort of every farmer should be to get out as much as he can of it. And to do this, he must have the right kind of hogs, they must be placed in the condition, and fed in the right manner, with a view to profit. A New Use for Onions.—A correspondent to the Scientific American commends onions as a specific against epidemic cholera, not as an emetic, but as a cathartic in a sick room, where they absorb any atmospheric poison. They should be replaced by fresh ones every hour. It is noticed that in the room of a small-pox patient they will blister and decompose very rapidly, but will prevent the spread of the disease. Their application has also proved effective in the case of snake bites.

UNITED STATES LAWS.

For rent of office of surveyor general of Washington Territory, fuel, books, stationery, and other incidental expenses, two thousand dollars. For rent of office of surveyor general of Idaho Territory, fuel, books, stationery, and other incidental expenses, two thousand dollars. For rent of office of surveyor general of Nevada Territory, fuel, books, stationery, and other incidental expenses, two thousand dollars.

For the construction of a trunk and iron fence along the first street between Pennsylvania and Maryland avenues, and along various streets, nine thousand five hundred dollars. For the construction of a trunk and iron fence along various streets, nine thousand five hundred dollars.

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Dry-Goods and Groceries.

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Miscellaneous.

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Boots, Shoes and Leather.

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Medical.

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