

**Agricultural.**

**MUTTON SHEEP—CARDINAL POINTS IN THEIR MANAGEMENT.**

In accordance with my promise, made some time since, I now give you a short account of my management of sheep. My experience at the commencement, was anything but encouraging, from want of practical knowledge. My first great difficulty arose from the lessons I had so often heard repeated about the impropriety of keeping sheep, especially breeding ewes, too fat. Now the result was, that in trying to avoid this extreme, I fell into the other, and found to my cost, when my ewes commenced lambing, that they were quite too poor; consequently there were many losses—the ewes not having strength to produce their lambs properly, or nourishment to support them. I maintain, that low condition, and the necessary accompaniment—the want of a sufficient flow of milk, is the principal cause of the abandonment on the part of the ewe, of her progeny—except occasionally with young ewes with their first lambs.

Finding that this system of low diet was not very satisfactory, I have since tried the other course, and find that sheep, like all other animals, require generous feeding; and will make a better return for it in the shape of mutton, wool, and last, though not least, in the quality of their wool.

The three cardinal points in the successful management of sheep, are proper shelter, judicious feeding and kind treatment. For shelter, my arrangements are simple and inexpensive, and as they answer a good purpose, I will give a short description of them. They are rough sheds, enclosed on three sides, and open to the south, with yards attached, enclosed by high picket fences, to make them dog proof. At the back of each shed, there is a bank of hay, which can be raised and lowered as required for ventilation; this board around is four or five feet from the ground, so that when open, there is no draft upon the sheep, but the current of air passes above them, keeping the pen from all unpleasant effluvia. These shutters are nearly always kept open, except in stormy weather, when they are closed, to prevent rain or snow from blowing upon the sheep. Fresh air, with protection from storms, is absolutely necessary for the well-being of sheep. The racks are so arranged that the hay is thrown into them from the loft above, which is much better than carrying it among the sheep; it disturbs them less, and their wool is kept cleaner. The pens should at all times be kept well littered; by attending to this, it will be found that sheep will make a large quantity of very excellent manure, and at the same time be more comfortable and better for it.

To have the two latter points—judicious feeding and kind treatment—properly carried out, requires strict personal attention on the part of the owner; if left to the tender mercies of Patrick, something is very apt to go wrong.

Sheep if kindly treated become very tame and confiding; whenever I see them timid and wild on the approach of their keeper, I infer that their treatment is not as gentle as it should be. As to the exact amount of food to be given it is very difficult to state, so much depends on circumstances; of hay they should have as much as they will eat nearly clean, three times a day. If too much is given, they will only fill it out, and their racks will waste it. In clear cold weather they will require more than in damp mild weather.

My plan is to keep the ewes, lambs, and yearlings, in separate lots. I generally have twenty-five breeding ewes; they are kept in a pen about thirty feet square, rather more than half covered by shedding, the rest open yard, as above described.—This gives them plenty of room, but not too much for heavy, long-wooled sheep.

A few weeks before lambing, the ewes should have some lambing, about a pint per head—more or less, according to condition—of oats or corn mixed. As they lamb, they should be separated from the flock and their feed increased, and if there are any roots on hand they would now come in very serviceably; too much attention cannot be given to seeing that they have plenty of fresh water at all times; salt should also be constantly within their reach.

**Best Way to Rear Calves.**

Eno. Co. Genl.—Agreeable to promise I will give you my mode of feeding and raising calves. Perhaps the numerous readers of the Country Gentleman will say the subject is already exhausted, and that they know all about the small matter of raising calves. Perhaps they do, but as there is a great diversity of opinion on the subject, I hope you may pardon me for what little I may say. Economy in these times of high taxes, is quite an important item to every farmer, and as this principle can be applied with profit to a great many points in our profession, perhaps by an interchanging of views we may be able to apply it in some measure to raising calves.

Some claim that a good calf cannot be raised unless they draw the milk themselves from the cow; and others that they must certainly be fed new milk for two or three months. Now let us investigate this subject on the principles of economy, and see if it is profitable. Suppose the calf takes one-half of the milk of a good cow for 90 days, what would the calf cost at that age with butter at fifty cts. per pound? If the moderate little sum of about \$225.00. Rather a costly calf. But without any further comments on the different modes of treatment, I will proceed to give my method, and in so doing I shall have to go into detail somewhat.

In the first place, I let the calf remain with the cow from two to three days; they put him away by himself, when the process of learning him to drink commences, and a little patience saves a great amount of trouble. The calf is usually tied with a rope, or put in stanchions, at feeding time, and in learning it to drink by putting the hand on the nose and pressing the fore finger on the end near the mouth, he will reach out his tongue, get a taste of the milk, and learn very readily to drink from the pail. I sometimes feed new milk for a day or two; then let the milk stand twelve hours, take off the cream, warm the milk, and feed to the calf for a week or so; then let it stand twenty-four hours, being careful not to feed too much so as to loosen the bowels; and after the calf gets to be four or six weeks old, it will eat almost anything you give him.

I prefer to keep them up in the stable or small yard, and give them what hay they will eat, and this treatment keeps the bowels more regular than to let them run to grass. I find a small quantity of oil cake meal a very good addition for a month or two at first. A little dry clay I think very good for them to lap occasionally where they are kept confined.

I have seen very fine calves raised in this way, and have raised a great many good ones myself. I will give you the dressed weight of one eleven months old that I raised a few years ago. It was fed all summer with skimmed milk with the addition of a little corn meal for the last three months. His dressed weight was 500 lbs., with 25 lbs. rough tallow. I do not pretend that a calf raised on skimmed milk will look as fine as those raised on new milk, but I claim that you can raise very good ones, and far more economically, and especially in the dairy districts where we have a large quantity of milk to feed.

One very essential part, in raising calves in this way, is to feed each calf by itself, so that each one shall have his regular mess, as some will drink a great deal faster than others.

I have always noticed where a lot of calves were fed all together in a long trough, and this is owing to some drinking faster than others. Now to those that are skeptical in regard to raising calves on skimmed milk, I say try it, and see if, on the principles of economy, you cannot make it pay. If you wish to fatten, add shorts of meal, and I have no doubt you will succeed to your entire satisfaction.

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**Cards.**

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