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Nec aranearum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.

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Agricultural Journal.

From the Albany Cultivator.

INFLUENCE OF THE MALE IN SHEEP BREEDING.

I am aware that many do not fully realize how highly essential it is that we breed from none but the most perfect of male animals. It is truly astonishing to look about among wool-growers, and see how much indifference, how little discrimination is generally manifested on this point. Many have not that extensive experience, combined with scrutinizing observation, to enable them to make the best selections, provided they have the means, disposition, and an opportunity; others are so destitute of the spirit of improvement, think so much of present labour that they will not pursue a course that would in the end be productive of the highest benefit. Much of this results from the want of knowledge as to the true comparative value of breeding animals. The value is not to be computed by the present difference in the value of the fleece and carcass, but by the difference in the value of the offspring.

Suppose, for instance, we have a flock of 100 breeding ewes, and are to select bucks from one or two classes, both of which, for constitution, size, and form, are equally good; the one with an ordinary fleece can be obtained for three dollars; the other, with a prime fleece both alike as it respects quantity and quality, for ten. Which shall we choose? From a knowledge of the properties that constitute the intrinsic value of a sheep, and a knowledge of the male influence upon the offspring, I am satisfied that the progeny of the last named class, will give four ounces of wool more per head, that shall be worth three cents more per pound. Admitting that they shear three pounds and one-fourth of wool, worth forty cents per pound, here would be an improvement of ten cents in the quantity, and about ten in the quality; making twenty cents in the value of each fleece; to this we may add twenty cents for the increased value of the sheep for the future production of wool, and one-half of this sum for their increased value for breeding; making an aggregate of 50 cents on each individual offspring, which on 100 would amount to \$50, quite a handsome little sum to add to one's annual profits.

The statement may seem extravagant to some, but experienced breeders will tell you it is only a moderate estimate and that too, when ewes are not above a medium character. I know of flocks where five hundred dollars would be no inducement to the owner to use such bucks as are frequently used by nine-tenths of the wool-growers. And notwithstanding all this, I fear there are not a few, who sooner than pay \$5 difference between two bucks, under the above circumstances, would ignorantly sacrifice ten times this amount, honestly believing it the best and most profitable course.

From what I have said, I would not have one infer that I always think the highest priced animals the best or the most profitable. A man's asking or paying a high price, adds nothing to the value. What I have aimed to illustrate, is that we had much better pay a reasonable price for a good animal, than to use an ordinary one as a gift.

There is in this vicinity, a brisk demand for wool, at the present time, with an advance in the prices from 6 to 8 cts. from what it was last year at this time. Our wool is in better condition than it has been in former years; people are getting into the practice of wetting their sheep previous to washing, which is found to be a great improvement. Wool as a general thing, is lighter than usual which is probably owing in part to its better preparation, and in part to disease, brought on by a maggot-fly, and the long severe winter. I have not as yet weighed any fleeces but yearlings, (May lambs which are as follows:

20 yearling ewes, total, 105 lbs. 3 oz.,

av'g 5 lbs. 4 oz. 100 yearlings, total, 464 ' 5 ' 4 ' 10.'

We are beginning to open our eyes to the importance of establishing wool depots. I understand there is much wool sold in this manner in the state of New York.

E. BRIDGE.

Promfret, Windsor Co., Vt. July 27.

From the London Farmers' Magazine, for June.

VENTILATION OF CATTLE HOUSES, &c.

The proper ventilation of stables and buildings in which cattle are lodged, is a subject which cannot be too strongly represented to the mind of the farmer and cattle breeder; there is no point connected with the successful feeding and management of stock that bears so important a relation to their health and consequent condition as the purity of the atmosphere which they inhale. The influence of noxious effluvia is even stronger upon the constitution of the lower animals than upon that of man; air, vitiated by the presence of the poisonous gas termed sulphuretted-hydrogen, to a sufficient degree to be fatal to a dog or horse, will not produce death in a man, and cattle are extremely susceptible to malarious influences in general.

The atmosphere of stables and cattle houses is usually charged not only with the common products of respiration but also with the emanations from excrementitious matter, where great attention is not paid to the state of their buildings, often in very large quantity, which if it be not regularly cleared away, soon begins to undergo decomposition, and becomes the source of floods of gaseous matter, rife with the seeds of disease. Ammonia is also largely evolved from the liquid excrements, and although not acting as a malaria, this matter when constantly inhaled (as is mostly the case in all stables) is productive of a condition in the animal which very much disposes it to attacks of inflammation of the organs of breeding, thus we find that horses are always predisposed to inflammation of the lungs, and it is worthy of notice that persons much employed in stables contract a similar tendency. Independently of the presence of any extraneous matter, air is rendered totally unfit for the support of animal life by the process of respiration itself. The air exhaled from the lungs of an animal consists in a great measure of the gas termed carbonic acid, a substance which breathed in a pure or undiluted state causes immediate death by suffocation. A man expires upwards of 650 feet of gas daily, which if collected in a close chamber or vessel is capable of destroying the life of other animals; and of course the atmosphere of a common building containing a number of animals, unless it were renewed frequently, would soon become unfitted to support the vital process, and the chemical changes in the blood essential to the performance of the functions of the various organs not being produced, the circulation is interrupted, the power of assimilating food weakened, and the whole economy of the animal system impeded. Even when the badness of air is not sufficient to produce immediate and urgent symptoms, its deleterious effects are not the less certainly produced upon the constitutional powers of the animal, which soon gets out of condition, the food fails to be converted by the act of digestion into nutrient matter, the animal becomes predisposed to disease, and probably falls a victim to the first attacks of any prevailing epidemic.

There can be no doubt that dry and pure air is the most powerful preventive of disease, and that if the state of cattle houses, as to dryness and ventilation were more carefully attended to, the farmer would generally have less loss to deplore at the end of an unhealthy season. Such arrangements should be made in the building as to ensure a constant renewal of its atmosphere without establishing draughts, this may easily be effected by providing outlets near the ceilings for the heated and vitiated expired

air, the supply of fresh being kept up by communication with the external atmosphere near the ground. By these means a continued circulation is kept up, the fresh air entering below to occupy the place of that which has been respired, and which escapes by the top; the opening should not be large in either case, and might be covered advantageously by perforated metal, in which the holes are sufficiently large and numerous to admit of the passage of sufficient air. By thus breaking up the volume of air admitted into minute currents, the danger of draughts, and consequent colds, is entirely done away with.

In the ventilation of stables it is also particularly desirable to deprive the atmosphere of the ammonia which is made manifest by the irritation it produces both on nose and eyes whenever one enters such a locality. Ammonia may be absorbed from the atmosphere by exposing in large flat trays powdered charcoal or sawdust, moistened by sulphuric acid. The ammonia from its chemical nature combines with avidity with the acid, and in the place of a deleterious nuisance a matter is produced possessing the most powerful fertilizing properties. The tendency of ammonia to combine with an acid may be proved by holding the stopper of a vinegar bottle near the mouth of another containing hartshorn, when copious white fumes will be formed, indicating the chemical combination of the ammonia and acid.—Agriculturist.

RED WATER IN CATTLE.

For the past few weeks, red water in cows, the second or third week after calving, has prevailed to a considerable extent in this district. This disease has been usually divided into the acute and chronic, the former of which at present prevails as an epidemic, and has been fatal in several cases. Like many other diseases, the state of the atmosphere must exercise a powerful influence, it being seldom found that one dairy is attacked without others in the neighbourhood also suffering.

The causes are obscure and difficult to discover. It is generally attributed to the nature of the food, and sometimes to the presence of acrimonious and poisonous plants, drinking bad or stagnant water, to the scanty supply of water on dry soils, low marsh lands, &c. The presence of the complaint, at this time, however, shows that it is not always connected with these exciting causes, as the animals are not yet turned out of the byre, and consequently are more likely to be free from these evils. It seems closely connected with the change which takes place in the cow after calving, and probably also a degree of indigestion, and we would therefore recommend that a dose of purgative medicines should be given to every cow immediately after calving, especially during the prevalence of this epidemic.

Acute red water prevails mostly in spring and autumn, and in cows after calving, and as the disease is at present prevalent, farmers should be very careful to guard against the first symptoms of it.

It generally commences with diarrhoea, which is very soon afterwards followed by obstinate costiveness, at which time (but sometimes at the beginning of the complaint) the water is seen to be red. There is also a considerable degree of fever, with tenderness of the loins, coldness of the extremities, &c. In the early stage the pulse is strong and full, evidently indicating blood-letting: but when the disease has been neglected for a short time at the first, it is found weak and feeble, and the animal suffering from weakness. In all cases of high fever, when the pulse is full, quick, and hard, bleeding should be resorted to, followed by purgatives and other antiphlogistic means. But as the disease is often considerably advanced before proper remedies can be applied, and as frequently great weakness has ensued from the passing of so much blood with the urine, the expediency of Purgatives, however

combined with aromatics, must be preserved in. A good dose of Epsom salts combined with ginger and carrui, should be given, followed by half-pound doses every eight or ten hours, until the bowels are thoroughly acted upon. This frequently does not take place till these medicines have been preserved in, sometimes for three or four days: the commencement of purging is generally the sign of recovery.

On examination after death, the contents of the manyplus are sometimes hard and dry, and at other times partially so, the kidneys have a blanched appearance, one or both show spots of intense inflammation having existed, the uterus in cows recently calved is found very often inflamed and ulcerated.

Chronic red water is the form which this disease more generally assumes. It is principally a disease of the digestive organs, mostly confined to the third stomach, or manyplus—and the liver also generally suffers. The urine appears mostly of a brown or porter colour. In many cases a simple purgative immediately removes it, and indeed a natural diarrhoea often ensues with the same salutary result.

In more violent cases, and such as are generally fatal the diarrhoea has suddenly stopped, and given place to a severe and obstinate costiveness, which it is exceedingly difficult to overcome, requiring aromatic and purgative medicines, and more frequently repeated.

As however, it is the acute form which at present prevails, it is unnecessary to add anything further on the chronic.—Ayrshire Agriculturist.

CUTTING WHEAT EARLY.

H. B. Hawley says in the Prairie Farmer, 'As soon as the bulk of the crop has got its brown color, and the berry is doughy and soft, I commence cutting, and let lie in the swath one day if the weather is good, and do not wait for the small wheat to grow larger, for it never will. I let three acres of my best wheat stand until dead ripe, for seed; it weighed 61 lbs.; the weight, alongside, cut one week earlier, was 64 lbs.' The result of this experiment accords entirely with the same elsewhere. Wheat cut early affords more grain, yields less bran, makes better flour, shells less in harvesting, wastes less in gleanings, gives better straw, and enables the farmer to work more leisurely.

COAL ASHES FOR MANURE.

M. Allegany Co., Pa. So far as our observation goes, coal ashes are not a very valuable manure: we think they do, however, generally produce some benefit. On heavy soils, their mechanical effect is favourable in making the soil more open. Sometimes they contain iron and sulphur in so large quantities as to render their application injurious to vegetation. Mixing them with fresh lime or strong wood ashes, might in such cases be useful.

WHITE CARROTS.

HENRY COLEMAN says that the Belgian white carrot has come gently into favour in England. A distinguished farmer there finds it thirty per cent more productive than common carrots. One farmer had grown nearly 32 tons per acre, average 24 tons: another usually obtained 25 tons: another, with high manuring, obtained a hundred tons from three acres. Another had grown 4,800 bushels or 1,200 per acre on four acres. In this country, its comparative productiveness is as great as in England, and projecting several inches above ground, is harvested with great facility. But it will not endure the winter in the ground which, however, sometimes destroys the yellow carrot, when usually wet. Seeds of the white carrot do not ripen so readily, and much bad seed is sold, hence farmers planting this variety, should be on the look out.

EFFECT OF EXAMPLE.

A correspondent at Simsbury, Ct., says that although the farmers in that