

AGRICULTURAL.

When Should Lambs Come?

When should lambs come? is a question of considerable importance to those who keep sheep. Some are of the opinion that by having them come late, say in May, you do not lose so many, it is less trouble, and the sheep shear a better fleece of wool. No doubt there is more or less weight in these arguments, but not sufficient, in my estimation, as a rule, to outweigh facts on the other side. I say as a rule for there are many exceptions.

If a farmer has been absent from home in Winter, and is obliged to leave his stock in the charge of boys, or unreliable help, or if he has not good feed to spare them, they had better not be allowed to come in till the sheep have a good bite of grass, so as to gain some in flesh, and have milk with which to supply them. If, on the other hand, they have good food, (good hay and some provender,) good faithful tending and warm quarters, there need be no trouble in having lambs come in mid-Winter. If you want to raise them they will get accustomed to eating hay, and will take "right hold" when they come to the barn the following Winter; they will get a better growth the first season by far, and will make larger sheep; they will be pretty sure to raise a lamb the next season, and will have a better fleece: while you let them go to the butcher, they will bring you the hard cash in July and August, and your sheep will have a better chance to gain. So I say as a rule let them come early.—*Cor. American Farm Journal.*

Cure for Scratches or Cracked Heels.

EDITORS WESTERN RURAL:—Will you please give me a remedy for scratches through your columns.

T. E.

Omaha, Neb.

—One of the simplest remedies for what is called scratches, but which is really incipient grease, is gunpowder mixed with sufficient glycerine to form an ointment that will stick when rubbed in. This is for cracked heels, which may or may not run into grease. A better remedy, however, when it can be obtained, is half a pint of animal glycerine; two drams of chloride of zinc, and one pint of a strong solution of oak bark. If the animal seem feverish, and out of condition, a drink composed of half an ounce of liquor arsenialis, one ounce tincture of muriate of iron, and half a pint of water, should be given every night for three or four days.

Look out for Swindlers.

We understand that the sharpers are going for some of our farmers in the neighboring counties in Illinois. The swindlers travel through the country with samples of goods, representing themselves to be runners or agents for wholesale grocers' stores in Chicago. They display their samples, offer their goods at exceedingly low prices, and take the farmer's note for the amount, payable in sixty days. The goods never get around, and the notes are traded off to innocent third parties, and while the farmer is congratulating himself upon not buying of middlemen, and wondering why the goods don't come, the note turns up. It is best for farmers and others to buy only of men they know, and especially not to give their note until they have value received.—*Dubuque Herald.*

Wool in California and New Mexico.

For many years to come, California and the Territories of the far West will form the great wool-producing section of the country. In California this interest has already acquired great importance. This State has now about 8,000,000 head of sheep, which will be increased by at least 3,000,000 lambs the present season.

The sheep are sheared twice a year, and with a good season the clips might be expected to average ten pounds per head. This would make the wool crop of California 80,000,000 pounds, or 25,000,000 more than the total product of the United States in 1871. It is estimated that the actual cost of producing wool in California is less than ten cents a pound. California wool comes into market two months earlier than that of Canada and the Atlantic States, and shrinks less.

As to New Mexico, it is said that the sheep business in portions of the country is in a discouraging condition this season, for the reason that the fall of snow and rain during the Fall and Winter was uncommonly light. For the same reason, farming is depressed, since the mountain streams do not afford the usual supply of water for irrigation, and farmers have not planted. Where streams come out of the snowy range water is abundant.—*Sacramento Record.*

A KNOXVILLE woman tends a steam engine and gets \$22 per week.

Wool-Growing in Australia.

Australian sheep husbandry is one of the many wonders of this wonderful century. The number of sheep a few years ago was so small, that their product had no perceptible effect upon the markets of the world. In 1872 according to very careful estimates made by Geo. W. Bond, Esq., of Boston, one of the most thorough statisticians in the country, there was a total export of 182,477,719 pounds—of which 173,266,435 pounds went to England, for use within her borders and on the Continent, and 9,201,284 pounds came to the United States. The number of sheep in Australia, according to statistics furnished to the International Exposition of 1873, is as follows:

1869	46,268,093 sheep.
1870	51,292,241 "
1872	53,680,752 "

The population of Australia in 1872 was less than two millions. By this it will be seen that Australia produces nearly thirty sheep to every man, woman or child it contains. The United States has something less than three-fourths of one sheep for each inhabitant.

Sheep Husbandry Abroad.

From statistics relative to the production of wool it appears, in round numbers, Great Britain and Ireland grow more wool than the United States, although there are more than thirty States and two of them are larger than the former countries. In fact it is stated that the Colony of Australia, so recently populated, grows as much wool as the States, viz.:—130,000,000 pounds, while Great Britain and Ireland produce 260,000,000 pounds.

In England a numerous well-fed flock of sheep is considered to be essentially necessary for the well doing of every upland farm and it is generally seen that those who keep the most sheep and feed them highly enrich themselves and their land. How is it so many farmers in America keep no sheep?—*Rural New Yorker.*

"Granger Prices."

Many persons seem to think that the sole aim of the Grangers is to procure goods at less price than anybody else, and charge more for what they have to sell than anybody ought to pay. We are sorry that such a wrong impression has found a lodgment in the mind of any one. For it certainly is wrong. No such thing is the object of the order. There may be individual members who think and try to act in that way. But we know that such a course is wholly distasteful to the live members who are looking ahead and earnestly desire to see their class benefited by means of the order. We have been in intimate relations with very many of the leading spirits in this part of the country, and we have never had to do with a set of men who were more honorable and high minded, more desirous of living up to the motto "live and let live," than they. The mere matter of money getting and money saving is the least of their wishes. They are economical as all of us ought to be. They desire to get the highest prices they can for their produce, which no one can object to. They seek to buy as cheaply as possible, as who does not. But they are not by any means seeking through combination to overturn the laws of trade or to make the whole country contribute to their purses. Neither are they ranging themselves in hostility to the business men of the communities where they trade, for the purpose of ruining or crippling them. Such a thing is the furthest from their desires. Their aims are higher and nobler than this. The objects of their association are beyond and above the mercenary spirit they are charged with. We trust that all fair minded men will accord to them, as an order, better motives than those contained in the approbrious epithet, as bandied about by the thoughtless and uninformed, "Granger's prices."—*Indiana Granger.*

No Man Independent Who Owes Money.

The advantages of the cash system of business have been shown with peculiar perspicuity during the monetary crisis which is still upon us. Many men who were worth hundreds of thousands of dollars—and some who were worth millions—only a few months ago, now owe money which is over-due and which they are unable to pay. When or how they will be able to pay—if they ever are—the events of the future alone can determine. Some will work and worry through; others will be engulfed in the maelstrom of bankruptcy.

These debts may have been in what was considered a perfectly safe ratio to their property; but this latest experience shows that scarcely any ratio or amount of indebtedness is perfectly safe and consistent with the safety and comfort of the debtor.

"Owe no man anything," is a scriptural injunction which, like the other commands of Scripture, is well always to observe. There is no other safe rule.—*N. Y. Ledger.*

OUR YOUNG PATRONS.

Last week we asked our young friends to write us some letters, and promised to give the names of the first three who would write to us. Now, boys and girls, do you think wrote those letters? You want to know their names because you are sure they are the smartest boys and girls in the State. Well, we can't give their names because they have not yet written the letters. We give you another chance; let us see who will be the first for next week's paper:

Here are some more letters written to the *Western Rural*:

DEAR WESTERN RURAL:—I go to school. I have a dog named Prince. I have a calf. I kept her stabled all last Winter. I fed her corn, carried her as I would a stable horse. My brother has a calf—he works in shafts. He works as good as any of your buggy horses. He is quite a pet. His mother died when he was two days old. If you take hold of his horns, you will let loose; if you don't, he will butt you over. He has the turn of all pet calves. We live on 180 acres. I carry my pa's gun. I shoot squirrels, coons and anything of the kind. I shoot all of our meat hogs and all of my uncle's. I have heard so much talk of the *YOUNG FOLKS' RURAL*, I will try and make up a club if you will send me a copy of it.

WM. H. LONG.

Russellville, Ind.

DEAR WESTERN RURAL:—My pa is farmer and has forty acres. We have thirty-four head of cattle, three horses and fourteen head of hogs. The old sow will eat chickens. Don't you boys think she ought to be killed for that, for she has lots of corn to eat? I am eleven years old. I plowed some last Fall for rye and some last Spring for oats; but the snow is on the ground now so that's played out. I live close to Peoria, Kan.

J. C. V.

DEAR EDITOR:—My father is dead. Mother has a farm of forty acres. I have two brothers; Harry is seventeen, he is blind and is in the blind asylum at Jacksonville, Ill. He is learning the broom trade. He can read with his fingers almost as fast as I can with my eyes. My other brother's name is Jesse. He is thirteen. We have a kitten we call Scoot. I am fourteen. I spent my last New Year's and Christmas sick with the measles. We have a dog we call Ring. We had two sewing machines on trial; the Domestic and the Victor.

EFFIE SMITH.

Shabbona Grove, Ill.

DEAR EDITOR:—I am nine year old. I live on a farm of eighty acres, a mile from town. I have three brothers and one sister. My oldest brother is nineteen and my sister is the youngest. My aunt lives with us. She has a sewing machine. Good bye. EDDIE.

Stark Co., Ill.

Couldn't Spell It.

"What is it, Katy?" asked the teacher, as she noticed the tiny, uplifted hand. Katy sat with slate and pencil before her, evidently very much perplexed.

"Will you please tell me how to spell tankan?"

"What is the word?"

"Tunkan! I don't know how to spell it."

"Tell me what you wish to write," said the teacher, puzzled in her turn.

"I want to write, 'I love my teacher more than tankan (tongue can) tell.'"

A SMALL boy has sent an Albany paper the following information: "A fadais ago we lost our cat. She got drowned in Mr. —'s well; but nobody knowed she got drowned in the well, and so Mr. —'s fokes and Mr. —'s fokes, and all the nabars besides, drinked outen the well just the same. They drinked mor'n they evir did afore I gess—cause the water tastid so sweete. I went 2 the well fur water tother da and I seed the cat in 2 the well. She was ded. She was afloatin a round drowned. Me and Billy —fisher out with a hook and line. She smelt orful. But the nabars doant drink any more water outen the well now. Wat I cant understand is whi tha doant. Tha oughten B moar willin 2 drink the watir wen the cat is out than wen she is in. I think so. ures trooly. N. B. this is a tru fact."

DURING President Lincoln's administration one member of his cabinet was strongly disliked by his little son, Tad. When Mr. Lincoln was ill with the varioloid, the offensive secretary sent his card in and asked for an interview. Tad was present and heard his father decline the request, saying he was ill. "Papa," said Tad, "let him come in and catch it."

PARTIAL SUSPENSION.—That condition of a bank in which the receiving teller is on duty, but the paying teller has gone around the corner to "see a friend."—*Chicago Times.*

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