

LIVE STOCK

SHEEP PORTRAITS.

Varieties of Sheep Differ as Widely as Races of Men.

Here are two pictures of breeds of sheep which are strikingly different.

The first illustration shows a Shropshire ram that took first prize at the Royal Society exhibition of 1891. The Shropshire finds much favor in the west-

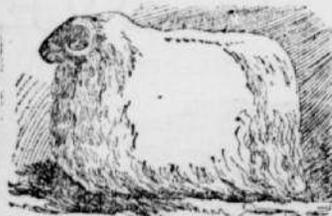


ENGLISH PRIZE SHROPSHIRE.

ern sheep districts at present because of its hardiness. In Canada it is also popular. The Shropshire's best point is probably that it yields a large quantity of good mutton. But its woolly merits are worth counting on as well. The average weight of a fleece of the improved Shropshire is seven pounds of long, not overfine wool, which pays very well.

In the second picture is a unique animal of the sheep family.

It is an illustration of a black faced mountain ram of a breed akin to the black faced Scotch sheep, the oldest breed in Scotland. The Scotch sheep



BLACK FACED MOUNTAIN RAM.

are the hardest domestic breed in the world, also the most intelligent and cunning. The phrase, "as silly as a sheep," does not apply to them. Their mutton is of choice flavor, and they can take care of themselves almost equal to a Texas steer. The fleece, while very long, is light in weight and rather coarse in texture.

Breeding from Crippled Mares.

In answer to a question from The Rural New Yorker on this subject J. S. Crosby writes from Greenfield, Mich.:

In my lumbering operations in this state I find it quite difficult to get such draft horses as I need. We imported from Canada and sent directly to the woods about forty head of grade mares, Shires and Clydes. They had been bred in Canada and were half, three-quarter and seven-eighth bloods, etc. All purchased and brought here were as good specimens as we could find in Canada, and cost from \$175 to \$240 per head there. We put them in the woods at work at the heavy business of lumbering.

When we have used them two or three years, if they become injured or debilitated, we send them to our farm and put them on grass until they are in perfect health, although not sufficiently strong for the heavy work in the woods. They are then bred to the stallion and used about the farm for light work until about four months before foaling time, when they are again turned loose and allowed to run until they drop their foals. They require no treatment except a run at the grass and a little condition powder as a tonic.

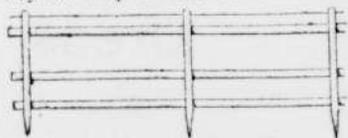
We have found that it is almost impossible to get a mare with the heaves in foal. If a mare is injured in the legs or if she has flesh wounds or other injuries that prevent her from doing hard work, she may be in just as good a shape to breed as though she did not have these wounds or injuries. It is our experience that one seldom sees on the colts from perfectly sound and strongly bred stallions from the Shire or Clyde breeds any blemishes like sidebones, spavins or other troubles that cause lameness. We have never had any unsatisfactory colts from the above mentioned treatment of the breeding question. One is perfectly safe in breeding mares to perfectly sound stallions with properly shaped feet and leg bones. Of course the mares must not have blemishes from such causes as ringbone, sidebone, spavins or other like blemishes and we would never advise breeding a mare that has the heaves.

PASTURE FOR SHEEP.

Henry Stewart tells how to provide fresh fields and pastures new. Experienced shepherds know that

"fresh fields and pastures new" are necessary for any flock whose welfare is considered. The restless disposition of a sheep is one of the main reasons for the peculiar management required.

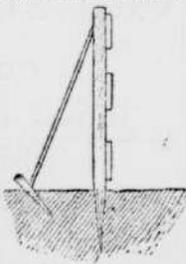
Confine a flock in a field and after a few days they will begin to explore for ways of escape to other fields, and soon



FENCE PANELS OF LIGHT POLES.

show the effects of their restlessness and dissatisfaction in a falling off of condition. The experienced shepherd, therefore, provides for this necessity by dividing the pasture by means of portable fences, or removing the flock to another field, where in a few days they begin to show a desire to return to the former pasture. Hurdling sheep is most largely practiced where land is high and the area restricted. Henry Stewart describes in Country Gentleman his own plan. He says:

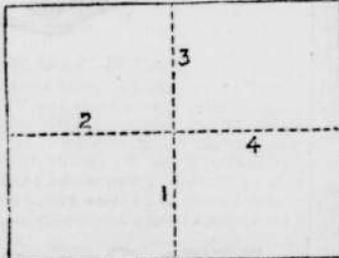
My plan has been to provide light hurdles or portable panels which may be readily taken down and set up again, and so give the sheep a change before they become restless. A discontented sheep makes the whole flock like itself, and a falling off in condition is an immediate result. These panels may be made of light poles sawed down the middle and put together as shown in Fig. 1. Holes are made in the ground by a pointed bar, and the stakes being set in them are driven down



PANEL OF LIGHT BOARDS.

with a heavy mallet. The ends are wired together. By disposing of the panels in a skillful way some trouble may be saved in moving them. As, for instance, by opening fence number one (Fig. 3) the sheep are turned into the second lot, and so on through the whole four, when they come to number one again. By this time each lot grows up again and has a new, clean growth for the flock. A wire should be stretched at the top of the panel which will keep the sheep from jumping over, a habit to be discouraged and prevented most carefully, and is far more easily prevented than cured.

A panel of light boards is also shown (Fig. 2), which may be used when the poles are not easily procured. I have made plantations of Norway spruce on



the north side of fields for the purpose of getting a supply of these poles, and by planting closely it will be only a few years before the poles will be large enough for use. The shelter thus afforded by the groves is also most valuable to any sheep farm as well as for any other, and the cost is a mere trifle.

When soiling is practiced, only small lots are required, and such crops as rape, oats and peas, white mustard, turnips, clover—and in the south, cow peas scarlet clover—or fodder corn anywhere, may be grown for the flock. But for the sake of the health of the flock these small lots must be frequently changed and plowed and sown with any one of these crops for pasture, as long as it may last. By such a method of feeding, a flock may be made an accessory to any kind of farming, especially on a dairy farm, where the sheep will follow the cows and gladly pick up what they have left. For the rearing of early lambs, this method of soiling the ewes will be found a great economy, and all the more as this pursuit is necessarily carried on in localities where land is of high value.

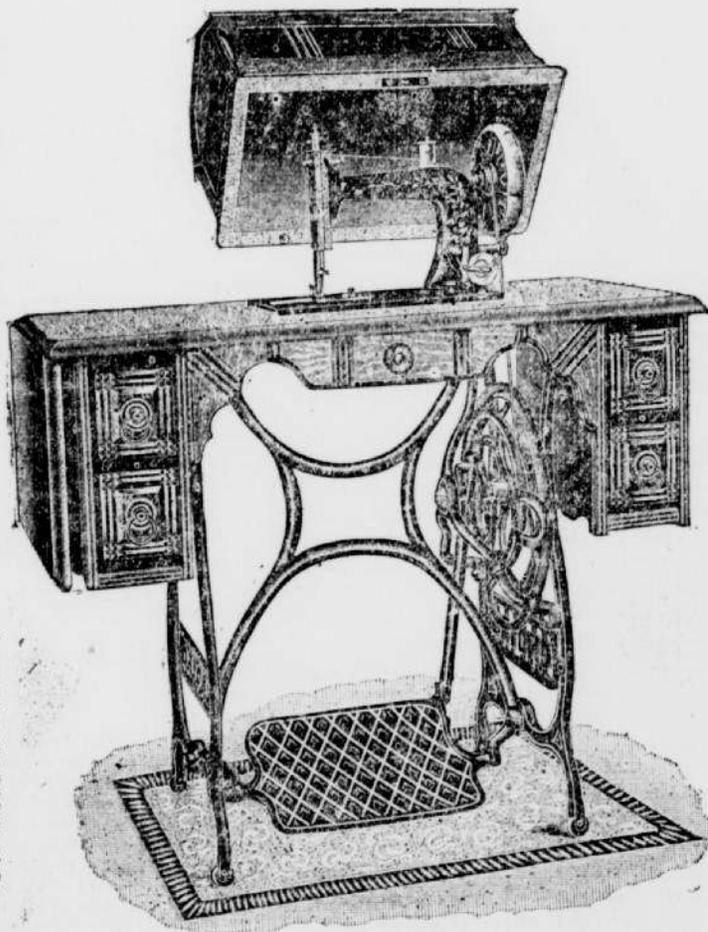
Bee Paralysis.

Bee paralysis is becoming so common of late that it threatens to be quite a serious affair. From quite a number of sources comes the report that common salt is a specific remedy. Ernest Root says that in the home yard, where the grass was kept down with salt, no cases appeared, while in the outyard, where no salt was used, there were two cases. I have almost always kept the grass down with salt in front of my hives, and have never had a case in my apiary, says the editor of The Beekeepers' Review.

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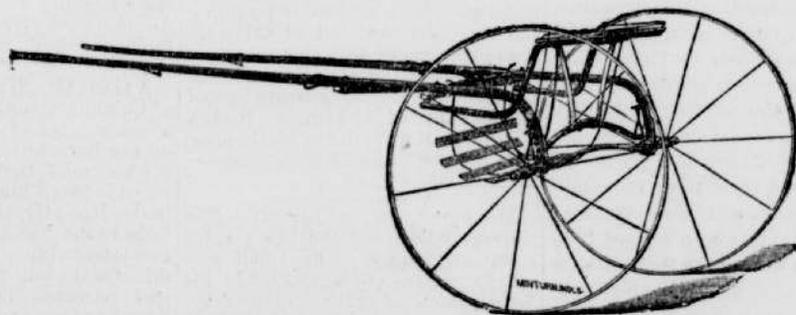
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