

Farmers' Column.



Give fools their gold & knives their power. Let fortune's bubbles rise and fall. Who sows a field or raises a flower. Or plants a tree, is more than a fool.

How to Take Off a Hide.

In taking off a hide or calfskin, never cut the throat crosswise in the least. Slit the skin from the brisket to the tail, and from the brisket to jaw; then cut around each leg to the hoof. Slit the hind leg from the hoof up directly over the gambrel, and the forward legs in the front, directly over the knee, to the top of the brisket bone. This leaves the hide or skin then in the proper shape for finishing.

Skin the head and legs carefully to avoid cutting them; then, commencing at the head, draw off the skin without any further use of the knife, thereby avoiding the holes and cuts that almost spoil so many calfskins. Some farmers use a windlass to draw off the dairy skins, and others use a horse; but one or two men can do it a great deal more quickly and easily.

When taken off, lay the hide or skin flat on the floor in a cool place where the sun cannot shine upon it, and cover it with salt—rather fine salt being better than coarse salt. Do not roll it up, but let it remain in the salt until you take off another; then place that one upon the other, salting freely as before, and so on until you get enough to make quite a pile; then commence another pile in the same manner. Do not be afraid to use salt freely; what the skins do not require will shake off and can be used again.

If you prefer to dry out your skins before selling them, be sure that they are thoroughly cured with salt before drying them, and then that they are thoroughly dried before being baled up for shipment.

Never dry out a skin without having it salted as described to preserve it from moths and other injuries on the hair side, which are liable to occur if the skins are not properly salted before being dried out.

If your skins remain on hand very long after being dried out before delivery to the tanner, even if salted, watch them carefully to detect any indications of moths or worms on the hair side, and if any are discovered, wash the skins vigorously with soap and water, and if they are not wholly eradicated from the entire lot of skins, as they often work serious injury in a very short time.—Leather Review.

Influenza in Sheep. In reply to a Michigan correspondent, we would say that influenza in sheep is not infectious. It is often supposed to be, because it depends upon conditions that are apt to exist over a wide range of territory, and hence many sheep may be affected at the same time. It is an inflammation of the membranes of the nose and bronchial passages. The eyes are red and watery, more or less fever is present, there is a marked weakness, and the system generally is out of order. The animal has no appetite, the nose runs, and there is cough, indigestion, and impaction. After cold and damp weather, it is observable frequently, and is always more severe on low, wet, undrained land. When sheep are upon such land, and are attacked, they should be removed to higher and dry land.

When possible they should be given oil meal. Again we desire to say that oil meal is one of the best things in the world to feed to sheep. It is not only a good food, but it is good medicine, as it acts as a tonic and keeps the bowels and digestion in order. If oil meal is fed, feed it with oats, or rye, or buckwheat. If the disease assumes a severe character, give the following purgative: Epsom salts, half ounce; ginger, one drachm. Give it in a little water, say a quarter of a pint. If a flock is affected, mix the medicine in bulk according to the above prescription, and, taking a horn, administer a quarter of a pint to each animal. If any are very seriously affected, they will need something to allay the fever quickly, and to stimulate. In such cases administer the following: Tincture of aconite, ten drops; solution of acetate of ammonia, one ounce. This ought to be given every five hours; but the aconite should be decreased by one drop at every dose until not more than five drops are given.

Sometimes the eyes are so much inflamed that they require treatment, and should be washed with a solution of one grain of sulphate of zinc and twenty drops of laudanum in an ounce of water. When the disease has disappeared, feed loosening and very nutritive foods, such as bran mash, boiled oats, and a little corn mush occasionally. The stimulants will need to be kept up in some shape, and in the food sprinkle a little powdered ginger or gentian, or administer in honey, if the medicine is not readily taken by the animal in its food. Keep well sheltered while treating the animal with this disease.—Western Rural.

Agricultural Notes. Take extra precautions for the safety of your sheep from the incursions of vicious dogs. The use of commercial fertilizers in which plant food is concentrated in small bulk has had one good effect in educating farmers with regard to the fallacy of considering bulk the criterion of values in manures.

The fruit trade of Boston proposes to have nothing to do with returning peach baskets in the future, and asks for a cheaper basket, which need not be returned. The expense and annoyance of returning baskets makes quite a reduction in the profits of the business.

Peter Henderson, in the American Garden, begs leave to tell a lady correspondent who had made inquiries on the subject, "that the vendors of 'yellow' fuchsias, 'blue' dahlias, 'blue' roses, etc., are not color-blind as she had very charitably supposed, but 'moral' blind.

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