

LIVE STOCK

The Demand for Fall Lambs.
(Henry Stewart.)

The increasingly prevalent demand of the markets for what may be called luxuries, in spite of the unavoidable extra cost of them, furnishes a very profitable business in the production of these choice products. Times and seasons no longer count in this respect. Hence it is worth while for all those whose conveniences permit them to engage in the production of these things, to study the conditions under which the supply of them is demanded, and met, in the markets. But it is a matter of convenient location more than anything else that controls this business. A dressed lamb put up in an attractive manner and neatly and cleanly wrapped or packed, sells on sight, while one that is carelessly dressed and shipped or exposed for sale, goes a begging for purchasers. Any one who wishes to enter this profitable business should visit a city or large town market and interview a dealer, and see for himself first what is wanted and how it is wanted. It may appear as a surprise to many interested that a lamb of 40 pounds' live weight, or a little heavier, making no more than 6 or 8 pounds a quarter dressed, should be salable to the extent that would make it bring as much more in the market as its dam would. But it is so, not only with lambs, but with other market products. A little chicken, which is only large enough to be broiled whole for a single person's meal, sells for more than the hen which hatched it will bring. The fact is that there is an ever-exhaustive demand in the markets for all kinds of luxuries, including in this term things which are in advance of the season, and the early lamb is one of the most popular of all such products.

And there is a fashion in it too. It is scarcely known by those farmers who rear these lambs why one with a black face and legs is most popular in the markets, but it is so. The reason is probably because quite a number of years ago when the market was first supplied with them, the lambs were of the Shropshire breed, pure or of common native ewes and a South-down or Hampshire ram; the latter preferable because of the more conspicuous and deep color of the black points, and when the exacting consumers are once suited with anything, especially marked, they adhere to the marks thinking these are an infallible criterion as to the quality; and of course it is the part of wisdom for all producers of whatever product it may be, to consult the wishes of their customers without a question. Nevertheless it is very certain that the Dorset ewes bred to the same rams, will bring, more certainly, both as to appearance and season, the most desired lambs in every way except as to the black points.

These, however, may be got if desired by the breeder, by using Dorset ewes along with a Hampshire ram, and if only the male lambs are sold, and the best of the cross bred ewe lambs are kept for the flock, it will require only a few years to get a flock just right for this lamb business, permanently.

It is a point, long well known to breeders, that any desired habit may be fixed on a flock quite easily by successive steps, each taken in advance of the previous one. Hence, any kind of ewes may be brought to a breeding condition at any desired season of the year by gradual change of treatment. As for the rams, they will accommodate the ewes at any time of the year these may be in season. For this reason it is very little trouble for one desiring to get into the Christmas or Easter lamb business, to do so if the proper way is taken. This is, preferably, to keep Dorset ewes and mate them with a Hampshire or a dark-pointed Shropshire ram; feed the ewes liberally on rich feed—any ex-

cept cottonseed oil meal—with four times the quantity of corn meal and bran in equal parts added; and good grass pasture. Feed the ram as well, and let him run with the ewes, marking him on the brisket, so as to detect the ewes he may have mated with; and as they are mated, remove them to another pasture; increasing their grain ration a little; and keep a wether in this pasture with them. A close daily watch should be kept on these ewes, and if it is perceived to be necessary by the conduct of the wether, they should be turned back to the breeding flock again.

These notes are made from personal experience with a flock of mixed ewes, all, however, of very good quality, and having Shropshire blood in them, and pure Shropshire rams. The ewes from this were, in a very few years, brought to mate in time to bring lambs in time for the Easter market, and there was a gradual hastening of the breeding time, so that the lambs sold by the pound gradually came to bring \$15 each instead of \$10 at the start. And there was no hothouse business in it, either, the only extra care given was clean, warm, airy housing at nights, as soon as the weather became cold; and in the daytime a well sheltered shed, when this was desirable. Quite often the lambs would begin to eat in the creeps provided, a little of the mixed grain food kept in the shallow flat troughs which were provided for them. This was made of corn, oats and bran, equally mixed, and ground very finely, along with—at first—a mere dusting of cottonseed meal. The ewes got a pint a day of the same feed.

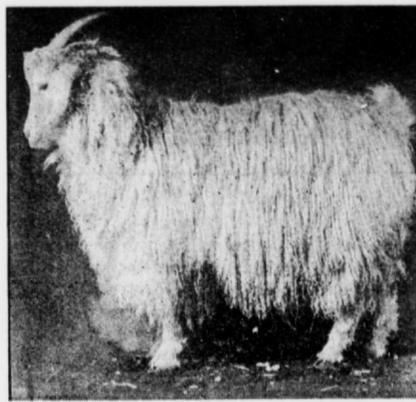
More Grazing in Reserves.

When the sheep and cattle grazing privileges on the forest reserves were apportioned last winter among the various stock men, D. B. Sheller, United States forest superintendent for the northwestern district, including Washington, and a good part of Oregon, Idaho and Montana, found that the demands of the stockmen were increasing and that there were many thousand head more demanding grazing room than for which land could be provided.

Mr. Sheller has decided to make a early portions of the state on the Cascade range, extending from the north-careful investigation of the Washington reserve, which is the most northerly limits of the Rainier reserve north to the British Columbia line, with the view of ascertaining how many of the surplus cattle and sheep could be pastured there. This examination will be made as soon as the superintendent disposes of routine business now demanding attention, and if the condition of the reserve warrants, a considerable number of cattle and sheep will be apportioned to this reserve next season.

The Sheepmen and Organization.

The western range cattlemen have succeeded in perfecting a general working organization at Denver known as the Cattle Growers' Interstate Executive Committee. This committee is composed of three representatives of the organized cattlemen of each state and there are indications that the Corn Belt Meat Producers' Association, which is becoming a very strong organization in Iowa and Missouri, will co-operate with the committee in its efforts to secure some practical results in the railroad transportation problems in the way of better service and lower rates. This is a subject in which the sheepmen are equally interested with the cattlemen and they should be stirring themselves to strengthen their organization and get in line for co-operation. Complaint has been made that the sheepmen have been weakening their efforts by scattering their efforts. They are trying, in some sections to give financial support to both the National Live Stock Association and the National Wool Growers Association. The American



Sheep Breeder claims the cattlemen have practically abandoned the National Live Stock Association to the sheepmen and asserts it is now up to them to decide what they are going to do. The publication named believes they will eventually find that the most practical results can be obtained through their own organization, the National Wool Growers' Association. This association can be made stronger in every way. It will have the co-



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