

few good sheep, and certainly in this day, when there are so many good breeders striving to excel, offering their stock at very moderate prices, there is no excuse for any farmer to still be growing scrubs. A few sheep can be kept on every farm with a very small outlay and with profitable results. It is only when one undertakes to make a specialty of the sheep business that expense becomes apparent and trained experience necessary. A few sheep will keep fat picking up weeds and brush along the fence, feed that would not otherwise be utilized. They not only do this, but they keep the farm clean, which is of even as much importance to the following crop as it is a benefit to the sheep themselves. By all means, every farmer ought to grow a few sheep which he would find a source of profit by producing two crops a year and without any apparent cost, as compared with the cost of producing any crop that is regularly grown upon the farm for sale.

Method of Castration.

A correspondent of a Veterinary exchange says: "The most successful method of castrating bulls is to take them when young—before they get to their feet, and while helpless, if you can find them at that age. But young and old, treat them alike. After a calf has reached from four to six months tie him firmly by the head. Have an assistant to hold him firmly by the tail. Stand behind the calf, and seizing the end of the scrotum, with a sharp knife cut one-third of the length of the scrotum off. The testicles will then hang in the "striffen" so you may take one at a time between thumb and finger and pull down until you can catch it with both hands and pull gently until you have drawn cord and "striffen" all out, leaving nothing to clog or stop the opening. Use a preparation made of one-half pint of lard, one-fourth pint of turpentine, and two tablespoonsful of salt. Mix well, take on the fingers a spoonful of the mixture and insert in the cavity, rubbing well around the wound, and you will never have to catch a calf to treat it, nor will you ever lose one from castration."

Selecting a Brood Sow.

The spring pigs are all farrowed and have a good start by this time, and it would be well to select your next year's breeders now. I select mine when about five months old, pen them in a separate lot and feed them somewhat differently from those I feed for market. I always cull closely, writes C. G. Fisher. Taking it that you have several litters of young pigs and gilts from which to make the selection of the future brood sow, I would not want to make the selection before they were three months old, at least, as by this time they will show the form they are likely to attain when mature, at least in a marked degree.

The sow must have intelligence or she will not make a good mother. You can tell this by the look of her eyes and the way she carries her ears. Many people pay too little attention to the eyes and ears of their brood sows, but I have noticed that a sow with a dull, listless eye is too careless to take the proper care of her pigs. She should have deep sides and fair length of body in order to have ample room for her embryo pigs. She should have deep sides, carry her depth well back in the flank and well let down in the crotch. She should have 12 well developed teats at least, well set apart. I prefer them well apart as the pigs are less liable to fight while suckling.

I would avoid a sow with extra large, heavy jowls, as sows of this type rarely make good milkers. Have the jowl of medium size and that carries the size well back of the

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shoulders. I should select from large litters, or at least from parents who have proven prolific, as they inherit this trait more from the dam than from the sire, although some sires are much more prolific than others.

The prolific sow is usually a good milker. Select a sow that shows the type of breed to which she belongs, but be sure she is fully as large and as deep bodied as is consistent with the type. I like to see a sow a little large in coupling, not narrow across the loin, but good and large and wide enough so that she does not seem lanky, even though a little thin in flesh. She must be quiet and gentle and if she is intelligent you can make her tame and she will not make a fuss if you happen to make one of the little fellows squeal while handling them. Teach her to know you are a friend to her and she will trust you; so much so that you can change her location, carrying her pigs in a basket, and she will follow you to her new home and make no fuss. Select your sow with a view to maternal qualities and not for her slick appearance. I would not have her rough, but I want her roomy and one that can convert her feed into milk when the occasion requires. Small quarters or a sharp back are objectionable in a good brood sow. I like to see the sign of a good dinner basket below.

The Wool Problem.

More attention is now being paid to the wool problem than has been apparent for many years. A great deal of it is due to the advance in many grades of wool which has taken place in the past few months. The demand for good wool is still strong, and bids for next year's clips are active, and buyers are anxious to make purchases, even at this early date.

As a rule buying clips in advance is risky in more ways than a fear that prices will go down. One year's

Colds

It should be borne in mind that every cold weakens the lungs, lowers the vitality and prepares the system for the more serious diseases, among which are the two greatest destroyers of human life, pneumonia and consumption.

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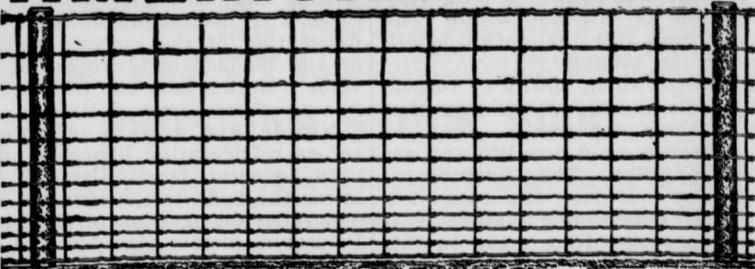
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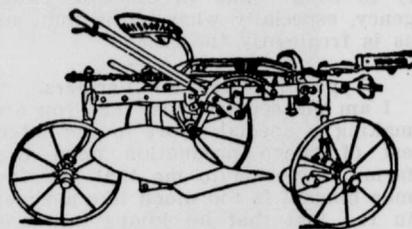
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