

BUTCHER'S IDEAL OF SHEEP FOR MUTTON



Every Farmer Ought to Have Sheep.

(By J. C. DUNCAN.)
Now, is it possible for us to breed a sheep of the butcher's ideal type and still retain the vigorous constitution necessary in a healthy breeding animal?
I say no. Why? Because it is against the laws of nature. In our flocks we must have head and neck, brisket, shank and side meat in order to get that strong constitution that is necessary for the animal to possess for the development of the more expensive cuts of the butcher's ideal.
In order to bring the breeder and the consumer nearer one ideal it is necessary for us as breeders, to see that our mutton sheep come as near the butcher's ideal as is consistent, without impairing the constitution of our breeding flocks.
In order to obtain these results, we

must see that our mutton sheep possess straight backs and under line, with the ribs well sprung, and a broad, thick loin with full, round quarters.
As a rule, a sheep possessing these points you will find evenly covered with flesh or muscle from crops to tail.
A sheep that is unevenly covered with flesh or is lumpy along the back, always has a weakness of the muscles.
Therefore, we must educate ourselves to see that our mutton sheep possess the evenly covered backs of muscle or flesh, and having that "sensitive" touch known to all good judges with full, round quarters, thus endeavoring to get as much of the higher priced cuts as possible, without impairing in any way the constitution of our breeding flocks.

MEDIUM LITTER OF PIGS IS BEST PLAN

Idea of Selecting Sow to Grow Large Number of Young Is Not Good Practice.

(By A. J. LEGG.)
It is customary with hog raisers when selecting a brood sow, to want one with a large number of teats in order to accommodate a large litter of pigs. I had an inquiry from a customer some time ago for two sow pigs and he said that people told him that a sow should have 14 teats.

There are few sows with so many teats and really the very large litter is not in my opinion the most profitable one anyway. A sow with ordinary care cannot properly nourish more than 8 or 10 pigs and I am not sure that but 6 or 7 is better than 10.

I have had sows with 10 and 11 pigs but there are always some runts that do not grow fast. It takes just about all that the sow can digest to keep the pigs making satisfactory growth. The sows with 6 or 8 pigs will keep them growing rapidly and I believe as many pounds of pork as the large litters and there is not such a strain on the sow's system to provide food for the pigs.

I have a sow now with six pigs. She is getting moderate feeding twice a day and the pigs are growing rapidly.

This sow has raised 8 and 9 pigs to the litter heretofore, but she never grew so uniformly nice pigs before. Taking everything into consideration I believe that the medium sized litter is more profitable than the very large litter and that the idea of selecting a sow to grow very large litters is a mistake and a wrong standard to measure by when selecting brood sows.

IMPORTANT NOTES OF THE SHEEPFOLD

Animals Are Excellent Farm Cleaners, Weed Destroyers and Fertilizers.

As the country ages and the fertility of its fields becomes exhausted its appreciation of the sheep will increase.

Early maturity is an important quality to consider in selecting sheep.

Whether you are keeping sheep for pleasure or profit, your desires will be more fully met if your flock is of superior quality.

A strong sheep does not necessarily have to mean a large one; in fact, a majority of the strongest sheep are medium in size.

Every sheep owner should keep a purebred ram, but every man is not qualified to keep purebred stock.

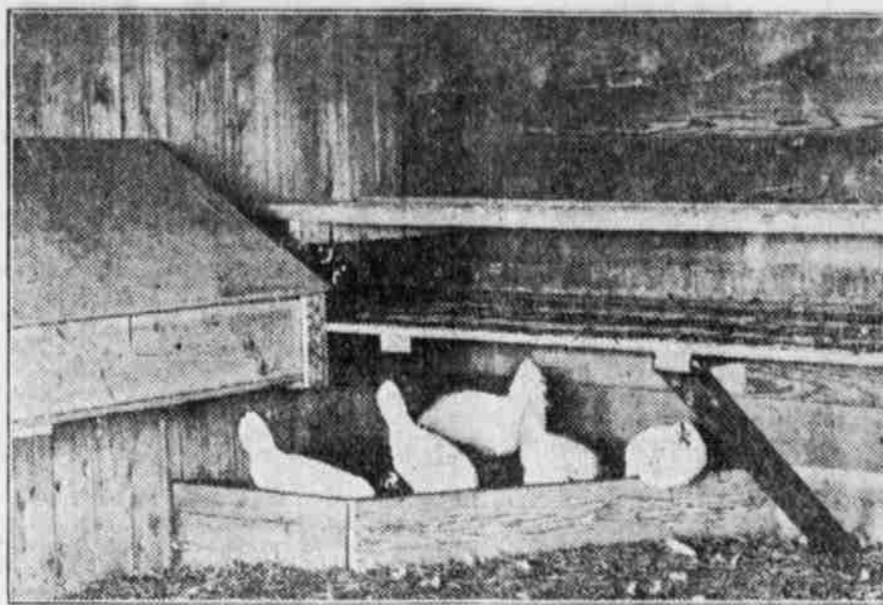
Everything possible should be done to bring the ewes to a vigorous, flesh-forming condition at the mating period.

Sheep are excellent farm cleaners, weed killers and fertilizers.

The man who desires large profits from his flock should afford it the best that good management will produce.

Nothing need be wasted on the farm where sheep are kept—tufts of grass, weeds and aftermaths and odd bits of feed can all be utilized and converted into wool and mutton.

HOW TO MAKE HENS LAY DURING WINTER



A Good Dust Bath.

(By MRS. A. J. WILDER.)
When fall is here and the price of eggs begins to climb upward, with the sure prospect of good prices all winter; then those who have given but little attention to the poultry during the rest of the year, will begin to ask "how shall I make my hens lay through the winter?"

It is uphill work to take a flock of hens that have been poorly cared for and are altogether unprepared and by caring for them after cold weather is already here, get them to laying before spring.

The time to begin preparations for a winter egg harvest is the spring, and the right start must be made by choosing for the parents of your laying flock, only those fowls that are strong and healthy and good laying stock.

By this care in selecting the eggs from which to hatch your next winter's layers, you give them hereditary tendencies to be good layers and good strong constitutions to help them develop quickly and enable them to



A Fine Flock Which Fills the Egg Basket in Winter.

stand the strain of early and heavy laying.

If this has all been done and the little chicks hatched, then winter eggs, or no winter eggs, depends entirely on your care for and feeding of these chicks to prepare them for their winter's work.

They must be fed well and a variety of food so that the whole body will develop properly.

WHERE HENS PREFER TO LAY

Like the Grouse She Naturally Seeks Spot Where She Cannot Be Surprised From the Rear.

A poultryman made an experiment with his fowls to ascertain their preference for a place in which to lay and found that more hens chose to lay in an open box in a corner not far from a window and three feet from the ground than in anything darker, higher, lower or differently constructed, says a writer in an exchange. One hen out of forty-one left all the boxes and stole her nest in a thicket; another selected a barrel on its side at the back of the house. The rest went for the greater part into corner boxes or corners of the chicken house without boxes.

He says: "I think the explanation of this corner idea is simple: The wild hen, like the grouse, naturally seeks a spot where she cannot be surprised from the rear, and the habit sticks to her descendants no matter how civilized. Anything she can go into and then face round with an assurance of safety on all sides except in front seems desirable to her. Going still farther into natural functions, the hen evidently wishes to be able to leave her nest with a dash for the open over the head of a formidable assailant if necessary, thereby tempting it to give chase and drawing it away from the eggs."

"So the nest should be at least a three-sided affair, and having a top is no disadvantage. The entrance should be in front. I deny the value of making a rear dark alleyway to the nests, as is often planned, for this means added labor, expense and trouble, since another opening in front is necessary for human access to the nest."

Keeps Fowls in Condition.
If a box of broken charcoal is kept before the fowls they will pick at it a great deal, and it is an excellent thing to keep them in good condition.

Bone and muscle must keep ahead of the fat but if only fattening food is given them they cannot grow bone and muscle, so feed them bran and cut oats or oatmeal and cut bone as well as coarsely ground corn. They must also have animal food in some form. Good sweet feed scraps are all right for this, or skim milk will take the place of meat.

Although they should be fed as much as possible to hurry their growth; they must not be fed enough to cause indigestion. They must be given the habit of eating a great deal of food but must also be given a good digestion, with which to handle it.

The ability to assimilate large quantities of food is absolutely necessary for a heavy layer.

As an aid in helping them to digest their food and in growing muscle, exercise is very important. If they are running on range with their mothers they will get exercise enough in keeping up with her, but if they are confined in houses or yards then let them scratch for the most of their food in some light, clean litter or some loose earth.

Keep them supplied with fresh drinking water and chick sized grit. Many chicks die or have their digestions ruined because they are not kept supplied with grit and water.

They must also be kept free from lice. No chick can grow when a swarm of these pests is drawing the life from its little body.

They must not be crowded in a coop. Overcrowded chicks will not grow well nor keep healthy. They must have plenty of fresh air and shade and sunshine both, so that they may choose which they please.

As soon as the young roosters show red in their combs, separate them from the pullets. Allowing them to with the pullets will retard the growth of both. If kept by themselves the young roosters will sooner be ready to eat or sell and the pullets relieved of their company will also grow up faster.

This is what is needed to make winter layers, a quick growth and an even all-round development, so that they will begin laying before cold weather. If they begin at this time they will lay all winter, if they are put into a comfortable house before they become chilled in the fall and are given the right kind of care afterward.

I have never failed to raise a flock of good winter layers, when I have cared for my pullets in this way.

POULTRY NOTES

Clean the poultry house every day.

Lime sprinkled about the poultry house is a good disinfectant.

Impure drinking water is one of the most common causes of sickness in chicks.

A well cared for flock of hens will pay a bigger dividend, than anything else on the farm.

Don't have too much poultry house furniture. It occupies space and affords a hiding place for lice.

As a general thing the fowls that have plenty of range and good variety of feed do not lay thin shelled eggs.

If some folks were fined for all the bad eggs they have sold there would be no profits for them even in the poultry business.

It is a good time of the year to whitewash the hen house, put new hay in the nests, also to look out for lice under the roosting poles.

A good grain ration to feed the laying hens during the summer months is composed as follows: One-half wheat, one-fourth oats and one-fourth corn. Buckwheat may be substituted for the oats if desired.

When the hen house is close and hot, and particularly if infested with mites and lice, who can blame the hen that has sense enough to hide her nest? Such a bird is to be commended and encouraged.

Time to Cull Out.
Culling out the young cockerels early, leaves a much better chance for the pullets to grow, and they will develop much faster and better.

For Formal or Informal Occasions



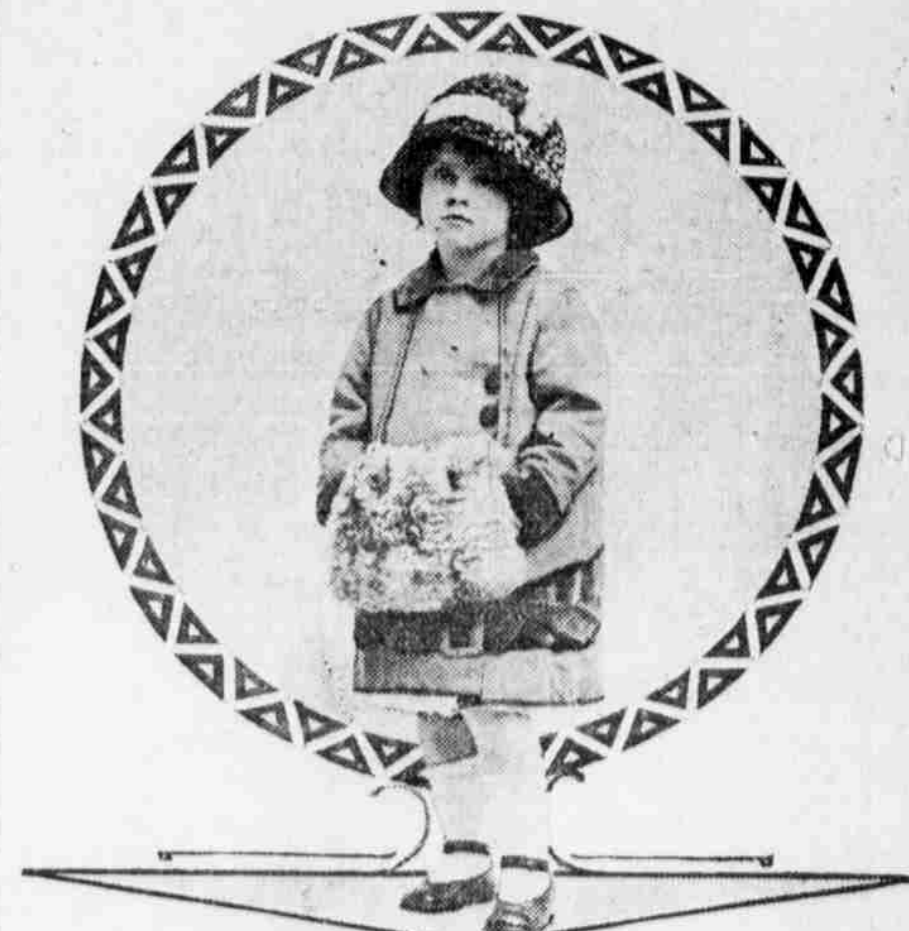
An afternoon gown which is elaborate enough for formal occasions and quiet enough for the informal will appeal to most women. Here is one which is novel and beautiful in composition and in which the wearer might feel at ease at an afternoon tea or an evening reception. It is conservative as to style, graceful in outline, and of a type which will outlive a single season.

Gray satin forms the foundation of the skirt, which is bordered at the bottom with two scalloped flounces, each about a quarter of a yard in width when finished, and bound with a narrow piping of the silk. The skirt escapes the ground by about three inches, measured from the middle of the edge of the scallops, and is comfortably wide, approaching two yards. This gives plenty of room even considering demands of dancing.

At the head of the second flounce scant festoons are arranged in the material. They are caught up with small bows of the fabric and are simply two shallow folds tacked to position. Extra width is allowed in the upper flounce to allow for this draping.

A tunic of voile, in the same color as the silk, reaches to within twelve inches of the bottom of the skirt, or may be made longer. It is laid in side plaits at the waist line and allowed to flare below the hips. A narrow hem finishes the bottom. Trans-

Ready for the Cold Weather



IN clothes for little girls as well as in those for womankind the "fur-cloths" (by which name the new plushes are called) will be found exceptionally good. They are woven more supple than ever, in a greater number of colors and in greater variety of design.

Plushes are used for coats, for neckpieces and muffs and for hats made to be worn by children, big and little. They answer all these purposes for grown-ups and furthermore are combined with cloth or velvet in street and visiting dresses or entire costumes.

For the little girl of three and upward the broadtail and chinchilla patterns are made into elegant little coats that fasten close about the neck. Besides its comfort the coat of plush has the greatest durability to recom-

mend it. Linings are made of figured crepe or silk showing small figures or flowers on a light ground.

Muffs and neckpieces, much to be preferred over those of cheap fur, and as inexpensive, are made of fancy plushes for the little ones. It is a pretty fashion to make these sets with a hat or cap to match, and they are simple enough in construction to be easily made at home.

A hat of mottled plush, in cream and white, is shown in the picture given here. It is faced with plain pink plush and trimmed with a flat bow of folded pink ribbon and a bunch of tiny roses. The same plush would make a delightful neckpiece and muff in which the wee wearer might be fortified against the coldest weather.

JULIA BOTTOMLEY.