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Your Sheep Business

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We have discussed internal parasite control a lot. Many sheep raisers have already put control plans into practice with good results. There are, however, many more producers who are still doing nothing to control worms and will lose lambs this year or will have lambs that will not do well and be unprofitable. With the prospect for good prices for this year's lamb crop, good management is desirable to assure that all lambs possible are raised from the flock and that these lambs are marketed at weights and finish that will bring top returns.

Parasite control and ample feed are necessary in good management. Many producers have already treated their flock with phenothiazine this spring. Thus they will go to pasture free of infestation and will not contaminate the pasture. The lambs this way will not become infested with worms when they start eating the grass.

These producers have made a good start toward a program of control which, if followed, will give them satisfactory control of worms and insure thrifty lambs. Their follow up will be feeding free choice, during the pasture season, of the phenothiazine salt mixture (1 pound of phenothiazine to 9 pounds of salt). Some lambs may still show infestation by midsummer as indicated by unthrifty lamb. Where this does occur, the flock, especially the lambs, should be treated with the old copper sulfate nicotine drench or with phenothiazine.

On those farms where no treatment was given before now or before going to pasture, the chance for excessive worm damage can still be lessened. Individual doses of phenothiazine given to all the flock, except this year's lambs, will lessen materially the spreading of worm infestation on the pastures. This will protect the lambs to a high degree from becoming heavily contaminated. Here again the salt mixture should be fed free choice through the pasture season. Here again the lambs should be watched for indications of worm infestation and treated as mentioned before.

The phenothiazine salt mixture should always be protected from sun, wind, and rain by feeding inside a shed or in a covered trough when fed in the open. Exposure to sunlight changes the composition of phenothiazine, and it is too expensive to have it lost by wind or rain.

The season is late, but there is still time on many farms to provide some supplementary pasture for the lambs during July and August when pastures usually become short. Where an abundance of pasture is doubtful because of the acreage available or the type of pasture being used, an annual pasture crop such as rape or sudan grass can still be seeded. These supplementary pastures will assure ample feed at a time when feed might be scarce and will enable the lambs to continue rapid growth and finishing.