



Your Sheep Business

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Letter No. 3
March 30, 1939

LAMBING TIME. For the first three or four days after lambing the ewe should be fed little grain and after that gradually brought back to full feed. She should have water from the start. She must have a liberal quantity of good feed to produce milk as well as to continue to grow her fleece and maintain her body. Bran or oats are excellent feeds for the first few days. Corn silage at this time is also good. The amount of grain will range from one to three pounds per head daily, depending upon the size of the ewe. Legume hays are the best roughage. The udder should be watched and milked out, if there is more milk than the lambs are taking. After three to four days the lambs should take all the milk. Swollen udders can usually be cured by painting with tincture of iodine twice a day.

CARING FOR THE LAMBS. Lambs born before the pasture season opens should be given grain separate from the ewe. Provide a trough in a small pen that only the lambs can enter. Lambs fed grain will make excellent gains and be ready for the market by the time pastures dry up in summer. This feed for the creep should consist of a good quality of hay - such as clover or alfalfa hay - and all the oats they will consume. Once on good pasture, the lambs will make little use of the grain.

NAVEL INFECTION. This disease is a filth infection entering the navel cord soon after birth. Symptoms are lameness and the swelling of the hocks and knees when the lambs are two to three weeks of age. It is better to prevent than to try to cure. Control consists of keeping the lambing quarters as clean as possible immediately after birth. The navel cord should be cut off leaving about a four-inch stub. This stub should be dipped in tincture of iodine daily until it dries up. Using a large mouth bottle for the iodine will disinfect the cord right to the belly.

SORE EYES IN LAMBS. This trouble, often occurring in young lambs, is due to a pus organism which is common everywhere. Treatment should be given at once or the eyes will become white and blindness may result. Bathing the eyes with a boric acid solution once or twice a day or putting in a few drops of a 10 per cent solution of argyrol usually proves effective.

SCOURS OR DYSENTERY OF LAMBS. There are many causes for scours in young lambs, especially during the first forty-eight hours of life. Strict sanitation in the lambing pen is important. Cold, wet weather favors this ailment. The udder and teats should be washed clean. Ailing lambs and the ewe should be separated so as to prevent the spread of the infection. Scours sometimes occurs from overfeeding the ewe or from changes in the ration. If necessary, this ration should be corrected. The ewe's udders should be examined to see if it is caked or swollen. For scours - give one to four teaspoonfuls of castor oil, depending on the age and the weight of the lamb.

TRIM YOUR LAMBS. Be sure to castrate and dock. The best time for this is around 10 days of age. It will mean a better price for them. Buck lambs are discounted \$1.00 and thin, long-tailed lambs grade as culls on the market.

Write us at any time concerning your problems.