

MN 2000
VSBL 19

BULLETIN ROOM
LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY FARM

Your Sheep Business

W. E. MORRIS

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
DOCUMENTS
EXTENSION ANIMAL HUSBANDMAN

University Farm, St. Paul, Minnesota

Letter No. 19
September 19 1941

OCT 12 1976
ST. PAUL CAMPUS LIBRARIES

This has been a bad year for parasites in sheep. We have had many complaints about lambs not doing well, scouring, and showing a generally unthrifty condition. Much of this can be attributed to parasites, without a doubt. Better treat the lambs right away if they are going to be ready for market without having to go thru a considerable period of dry lot feeding.

I would use the nicotine-sulphate bluestone combination as described in our Extension Folder 42. This pamphlet can be obtained at any county agent's office, or by writing direct to the Bulletin Room, University Farm, St. Paul. I would treat lambs that have not been doing well a second time, three weeks after the first treatment. This should clean them up in good shape so they can finish off rapidly. I would treat the breeding flock at the same time and clean them up for winter. After the breeding season it would be all right to treat the ewe flock with phenothiazine, particularly if you think that you have nodular worms in your flock. This comes much higher in price than the other treatment; the material would have to be ordered. I would use the phenothiazine which comes in the emulsion form. It can be diluted with water according to instructions, and given according to the manufacturer's directions as to dose.

RAMS--Sheep raisers are thinking about the rams they are going to use this fall. On September 29 we will start out with a ram truck in southeastern Minnesota and will cover the southern part of the state with county ram sales and exchange days. At the same time in northwestern Minnesota, county exchange days are being held which offer an opportunity in these areas for men to secure good rams.

With lamb and wool prices where they are today, and with the prospect that they are going to remain that way for a time, a man can well afford to put some extra money into the right kind of a ram. The ram is easily half the flock. A good ram can establish uniformity in the lambs. He will get faster-maturing lambs, lambs that have better carcasses and appeal to the packer buyers. He can improve the fleeces both in weight and quality.

We are, as I have said, approaching the breeding season. We can influence the size of our lamb crop at this time. That is the thing that I want to call to your attention again. Those who plan to breed soon are in a position where they have good aftermath in meadows or grain fields to turn their breeding flock in. This flush pasture will result in an improvement in the thrift of the ewes. The man who breeds late cannot supply this flush with green pasture, but must resort to feeding some grain to accomplish the same purpose.

A pound of grain per ewe, fed for a couple of weeks before the ram is turned in, will result in this change in the thrift of the ewe. Have them stepping up in thrift rather than standing still or declining. This rise in thrift makes ewes more fertile. It results in their coming in heat nearer together. Because of the greater thrift, it results in ewes being settled early and results finally in more twins being born. In other words, a bigger lamb crop is produced as a result of this rise in thrift accomplished by extra feed for a two weeks' period before breeding. We call this flushing. I have seen this accomplished in large flocks. If this can be accomplished in big flocks, it can be accomplished to a higher degree in the small flocks.