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Your Sheep Business

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IS YOUR BUCK GOOD ENOUGH? What kind of a buck are you using? Now is the time of year to consider if he is good enough. The sire can make or break a flock. Fifty per cent of the character of the first generation depends on the ram; 75 per cent is determined in the second generation when two good sires are used. The third generation will carry $87\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of the blood of the three sires used. These figures emphasize the importance of the ram in shaping the kind of flock you will have in the future, both as to mutton and wool.

Too many lamb raisers trade bucks with a neighbor with little thought about the quality of the buck they are getting. The value of a good mutton sire will show up strong in the first year's crop to be sired. It will be noticeable in the uniformity of type and quality of the lambs. The lambs will be more blocky, shorter legged, have heavier fleeces, and invariably be more economical feeders, producing a thicker fleshed and more desirable carcass. Narrow-bodied, long-legged, open-fleeced lambs are indications of lack of breeding.

Now is the time to be using the right kind of buck. There are plenty of good ones available in the state and if you have a fair-sized flock the cost would be returned the first year by an extra quality on the lambs produced.

WORMING HELPS WINTERING. We come back to that story regularly. Many do not consider the advisability of worming their sheep at this time of year. The lambs have gone to market or are in the feed lots and we think our worries about parasites are over until next pasture season. Now, however, is an important time to worm the breeding flock. With the parasites under control, the flock will be more thrifty throughout the winter, making a better yield of wool and, I daresay, greater success at lambing time. So get ready to drench this fall. Do not wait until winter. Using bluestone and nicotine sulphate will cost less than one cent per head. If you do not have the directions, write us for Extension Folder 42. Do the job this fall.

FLUSHING MEANS MORE LAMBS. Another thing I want to urge again -- flush the ewes before you breed. Experiments have shown that a much higher lamb crop can be obtained by having the breeding flock in a gaining condition at the time they are bred. In other words, they should be increasing in thrift at the time the breeding season opens. If the entire flock is in this general thrifty condition, it means that they will breed more uniformly, a larger number of twins will be born, and you have the makings for a more profitable sheep business if you save the lambs that are born. If you breed early before the pastures dry up, any lush pasture like aftermath will do the job. If you breed late when the sheep are on dry feed, give each ewe a half pound to a pound of oats a day for two weeks before the breeding season starts. You will be surprised at the results.

The big job right now is to use the right kind of a ram, have the ewes in the right condition for breeding, and then control the parasites so that the flock will winter to best advantage.