

CASTRATION OF LAMBS

Like Docking, It Is Now an Absolute Necessity.

These Operations Not Dangerous If Carefully Done—How to Do the Work—Both May Be Done at the Same Time.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

VERY substantial benefits arise from the early castration of lambs. First, they make more weight at an earlier age—castrated lambs are more quiet, and so make better gains. Second, they are more easily managed—both sexes may run together at all times without the danger that the females will be bred. Third, early castration results in the production of a better carcass, as it prevents undue development of the head, neck, and the front quarters. As stated before, buyers severely discount uncastrated lambs to an extent ranging from \$2 to \$5 per hundred pounds in comparison with castrated and docked lambs of the same age.

Castration is not dangerous if a little care is taken, and can be performed by any careful person who will follow directions. Lambs should be castrated when they are from 7 to 14 days old. Choose a bright day; do not castrate lambs on a damp, chilly, or rainy day. Select from the flock all lambs that are to be castrated and fence them off so that they can be caught without undue excitement. Never worry or chase lambs before performing the operation. Provide a clean stall or pen for them to go back to after the operation is performed. The operator's hands must be clean and the knife disinfected.

The lamb should be held against the body. Cut off one-third of the lower end of the scrotum, or bag, so as to permit good drainage. Then expose the testicles, and with the left hand force them out, holding them in this position by a firm grip between the thumb and fingers, which are held close to the abdomen of the lamb. Next, grasp the testicles firmly between the thumb and fingers of the right hand, and draw them out with the adhering cords. The work should be done quickly, but not roughly, and the testicles and adhering cords should be drawn out with a steady pull. The wound should then be washed with a good antiseptic, such as a weak carbolic solution, or a creolin or lysol preparation.

When lambs are older than three weeks before the operation is performed the cords should not be pulled out but severed off with a knife back of the testicle. The scraping is done to prevent excessive bleeding. Lambs should be kept quiet after they have been castrated. It is best to perform the operation in the morning, so that they can be watched during the day and attention given any that become too weak from loss of blood.

Lambs can be docked at the same time that they are castrated. When care is used both operations can be performed at the same time and labor saved, as the lambs will have to be caught only once. It should be a uniform practice to dock when the lambs are from 7 to 14 days old. The lamb's tail renders no substantial benefit to the animal. Its presence is injurious because of the fifth that accumulates around and beneath it. Moreover, lambs are more attractive and look neater and deeper in the leg and twist if the tail is docked. When the tails are left on females they are apt to fail to breed.

The two preferable ways of removing a lamb's tail are by using a sharp knife or the docking irons. One man holds the lamb while the other performs the operation.

When docking with the knife the operator, by feeling on the inside of the tail, first locates the joint to be cut, which is about 1½ inches from the body. He should then push the skin on the tail back towards the body of the lamb so as to leave some surplus skin to grow over the stub. The cut should be made quickly with a sharp knife. If any lamb should bleed too much, a piece of cord may be tied very tightly on the stub of the tail close to the body, to stop the bleeding, but the cord must be removed in a few hours or the tail will slough off.

When hot pinners or docking irons are used, no danger need be feared from loss of blood. Old sheep can be docked successfully in this way. The pinners should be heated to a cherry-red heat, not hotter, and the tail seared off at from 1 to 1½ inches from the body. The wound will be seared over and no blood lost. When the irons are used at proper temperature the wound will heal satisfactorily, but probably not so quickly as when the knife is used. The wound is also sterilized and needs no further attention. When the lambs are in a pen near at hand, with one man to catch them and another to hold them, from 9 to 12 lambs can be docked without heating the irons again. The lambs should be watched for a few days to see that they are recovering from the operations satisfactorily.—Condensed from U. S. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1134.

A Good Lawn.
A good lawn is best made of 80 per cent. Kentucky blue grass and 20 per cent. of white clover and red top. The red top and white clover are temporary grasses and soon give way to the blue grass. They do give a good quick lawn.

Good deep rich soft and pure Kentucky blue grass seed makes good lawns. Weedy lawns are a result of poor soil or sometimes too small shade. Spade up weedy patches, put in well rotted manure and if need new soil and re-sow with Kentucky blue grass; add a little clover and red top.

Sub-Editor—"A correspondent wishes to know why they whitewash the inside of a hen house."
Editor—"Tell him it's to keep the hens from picking the grain out of the wood."

An Irishman who was posting a letter was told at the counter that it was overweight. "Over what weight?" asked he. "Over three ounces," said the clerk. "You'll have to put another stamp on it." "Get away!" said the Irishman, with a grin. "Sure if I put another stamp on it, won't it be heavier still?"

A cute observer remarks that the man who stops his paper to economize is like a man who goes barefoot to save his shoes.

MEDICAL

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(Copyright.)

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The greatest of financiers need credit. They keep their resources employed and at times are in need of ready cash. The same thing is true at times of men of smaller means. The credit system, as it is used sometimes, especially in the smaller communities, is abused and works a serious hardship upon the business men of the town. Some merchants, to avoid the loss that results from such abuse of the system or possibly to enable them to sell goods at a lower price than their competitors, operate strictly on a cash basis, but the great majority of merchants in every community give those customers who are responsible and honest the privilege of a charge account and the chances are that some sort of a credit system, properly safeguarded, will always continue to be a feature of legitimate trade.

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