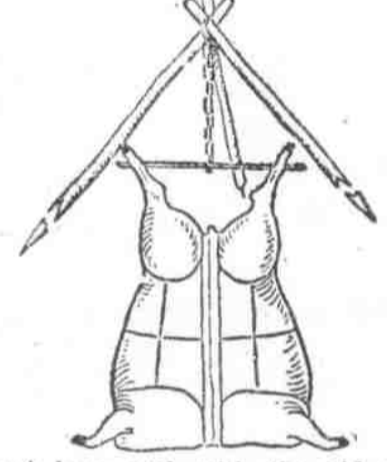


FARM TOPICS

An Important Matter.
The seeding of wheat is one of the most important matters connected with growing the crop. The preparation of the seedbed should be thorough. A large yield can only be secured when the wheat receives a good start. One of the farmers who received a prize for an extraordinary yield was asked to explain the cause of his success. He remarked that, while he used both manure and fertilizers, he always harrowed his land twelve times. Many farmers may not consider it necessary to use the harrow as often as stated, but there is no doubt of the fact that thorough harrowing of the soil will greatly assist in increasing the yield of a wheat crop.

Robbing Farms and Families.
The American Sheep Breeder says that it is quite possible that an ounce of mixed food, such as corn and oats ground together, with an equal quantity of wheat middling or bran, will add an ounce or more to the weight of lambs after they are four weeks old, if given daily in addition to other proper food, and as they grow older this amount may be increased, with nearly a corresponding increase in weight gained. To exchange a pound of grain, costing about one cent, for a pound of lamb worth fifteen cents seems to be a trade that almost any farmer would be willing to make, but we have seen those who boasted that they never bought any grain. They did not raise lambs or chickens, sold but little and bought less and saved money, but we would not have accepted their farms and the money they had accumulated and agreed to make the farm as good as it was when they received it. Such farmers are usually robbers, robbing the land of its fertility, robbing their families of the comforts of life, and their children of the pleasures of youth and nearly all that is desirable in life, unless the children forsake the farm and establish a home where they may earn more, expend more and enjoy more of life.

Cutting Up a Hog.
After the hog has been killed and cleaned, cut down on each side of the backbone with a sharp hatchet, then with a few cuts with the knife at the lower part loosen the leaf lard, pull it upward and take it out. Begin at the



Breast bone and with the aid of a knife take out the ribs. Run a knife down between the lean and fat meat of the backbone. By the aid of splints spread the hog to its full width and allow it to hang until it has thoroughly cooled. The accompanying diagram will show just how the carcass is cut. If the animal is a very heavy one cut the sides apart, then take off the shoulder, then the side meat and finally the ham. By taking it down in pieces in this manner I can handle a heavy hog myself.—E. Esterley, in Orange Judd Farmer.

How Lamb Feeding Has Changed.
In speaking of the changes that have taken place in the raising and feeding of lambs the Sheep Breeder says that it used to be that the ewe reared the lamb, and on nothing more than the pasture provided. Now the bulk of the lamb crop goes to market before the end of the first year, and with less than a year's feeding we get all the profit made by the ancient method of three years. But this feeding is a scientific process, and is based on new information, and equally on new introduced foods. For instance, we now feed our lambs on rape, one of the most valuable of all green fodders and one by which more growth is made at less cost than from any other feed. At the same time we have cottonseed meal, which is the cheapest nutriment we can supply to a feeding animal, and which, if mixed in equal proportions with bran to dilute somewhat its excessive concentrations, we may begin to use when the lambs are a month old. All that needs to be done is to provide a separate pen into which the ewes cannot enter, but the lambs may creep and furnish it with a shallow feed trough, and once the lambs find their way into it they will feed themselves and grow and make such a solid frame, to be afterward built upon by the rape feeding, as gives as much growth in nine months as used to be made in twice that time.

In order to protect the inscription in the ancient temples and tombs from the fumes of torches and lamps the Egyptian Government proposes to install electricity.

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