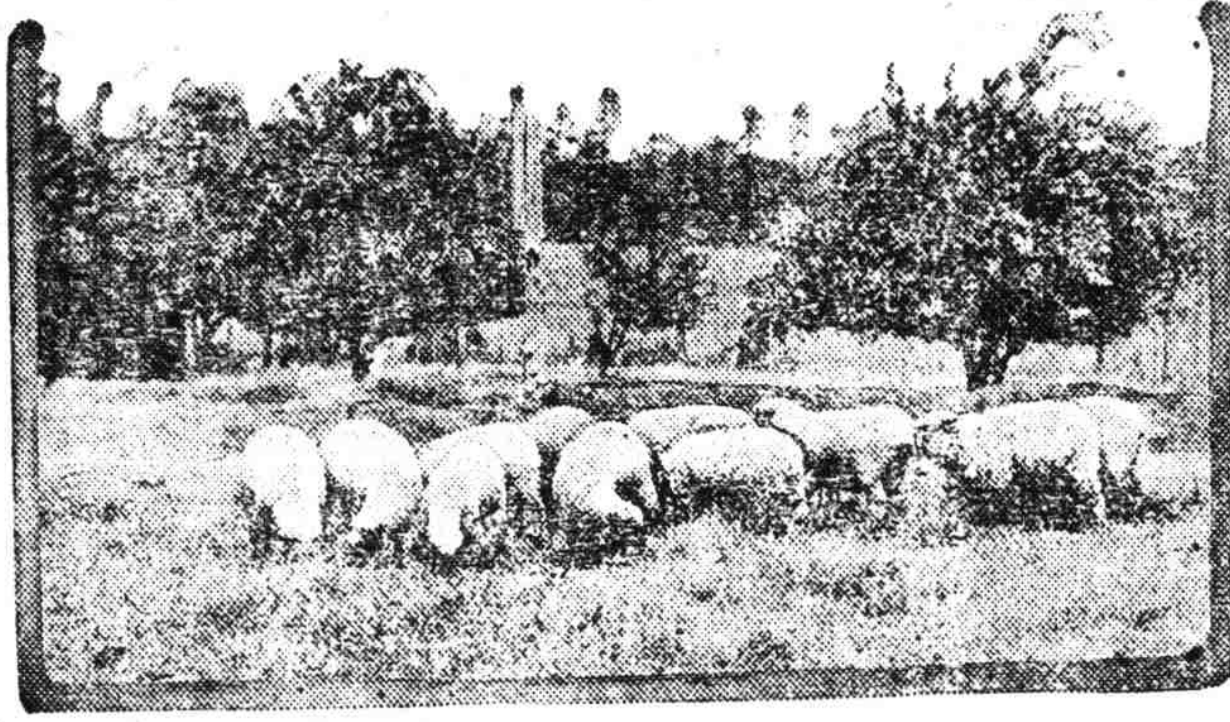


EVERY STOCKMAN SHOULD SAVE EWE LAMBS



Ewe Lambs Selected for Breeding Purposes From Edgecombe Test Farm.

R. S. Curtis, Animal Husbandman, Animal Industry Division, West Raleigh.

There has doubtless been a time in the history of the world when the sheep industry of the United States was in such a deplorable condition, and never a time when the production of wool and mutton were as important. There is today a world shortage of 53,000,000 sheep, and this condition has arisen during one of the most critical stages in the history of this country. Before the declaration of war there was a material shortage in meat products and the emergency which has arisen makes the condition the more critical.

We will not only need all of the meat products which can be produced from lamb and mutton, but the needs of the government in supplying the soldiers with clothing is going to make unusual inroads into the supply of wool at hand. Wool at the present time is selling as high as 80 cents per pound in the grease, and the chances are favorable that it will go still higher. Under present conditions this means that the wool clip from an average breed sheep is worth around \$5. There is no other farm animal which produces such a by-product and still leaves the animal for reproductive purposes to replenish the breeding stock.

The census taken of livestock in North Carolina in 1900 showed that we had 300,000 sheep, and the census taken in 1910 showed a sheep population of only 200,000 or a decrease of 33 1-3 per cent. Such a condition is critical, as it not only means that we are helping to deplete the supply of meat and wool, but we are taking from the farms an animal which, when properly handled, will return the largest percentage on the money invested of any farm animal.

The slogan of every stockman should be to save the ewe lambs suitable for breeding purposes. It is a crime to allow them to go to the shambles. This is so fully realized that prominent livestock and kindred organizations are making every effort possible to divert the female breeding stock to the farms. For example, the Philadelphia Wool and Textile Association is transporting large numbers of western sheep into the east for the purpose of re-establishing the sheep industry on the eastern farms, where at one time this industry flourished.

If one-half of the farms in North Carolina maintained twenty head of breeding sheep this would mean a sheep population of four million head, or approximately twelve times the number which we now have. It is a conservative estimate to state that there is sufficient waste land on half of the farms of this State to carry this number of sheep. The amount of feed which it would require to keep this number of sheep would scarcely be appreciable. On the Iredell test farm in this State twenty head of sheep have been maintained for several years. The wool from these twenty breeding ewes has just been sold for \$5.00 per head, which is more than sufficient to pay for the cost of keep, leaving the lambs clear profit.

When the good pasture is available the wool will pay for the cost of that permanent pastures can not be provided in all sections of the States is not an obstacle to sheep production since temporary pastures are very much better and there is no section of the State where such cannot be grown. The chief reason for using temporary pastures is to retard the development of stomach worms which is one of the two chief troubles in lamb production.

The other obstacle, or at least what is commonly supposed to be an obstacle, is the dog. This can be controlled by the use of corrals where sheep are kept at night. There is really more in the fear of the dog than the actual damage which is sustained. The writer is of the opinion that if farmers interested in sheep wait until adequate dog laws are passed that the sheep industry will lag hopelessly. Before a dog law can be passed it will be necessary to have a large number of interested stockmen bring pressure to bear on their legislators. If an attempt is made to pass a dog law there is really no argument at the present time, since there are not enough sheep owned by a sufficiently large number of stockmen to back up the issue. Even though we had a law at the present time sheep should be corralled at night, since there will always be some dogs which may prey on the unprotected flock. Conservation of the breeding animals is the one point which needs prompt attention, and the dog and intestinal worm problems should not stand out as barriers when an industry is facing extinction.

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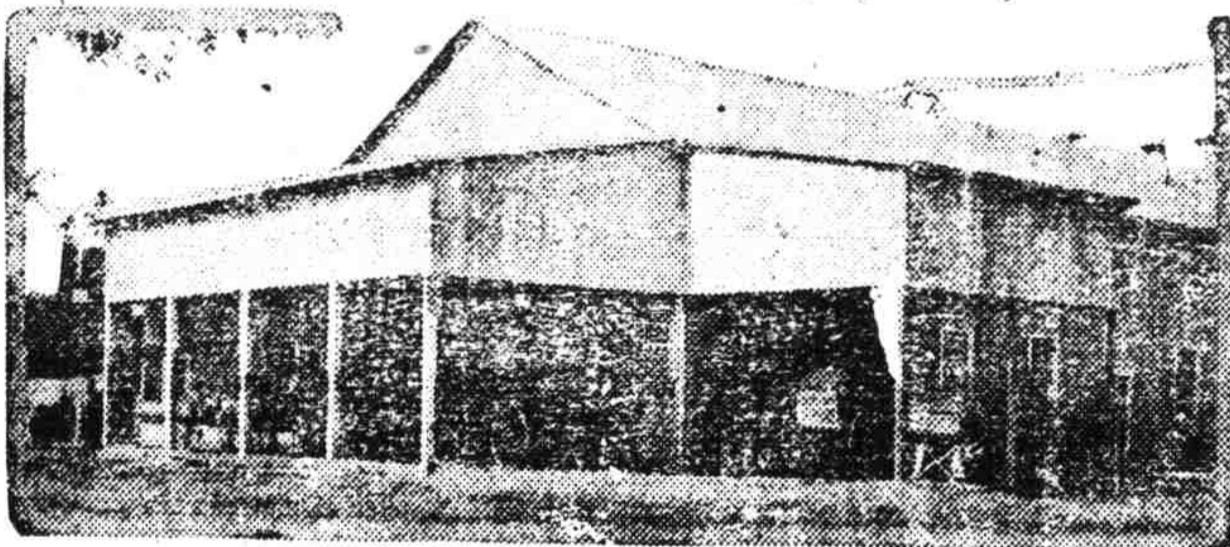
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POOR GINNERIES CAUSE N. C. FARMERS GREAT LOSS



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North Carolina had a total of 2,874 ginneries in 1916; of this number 2,514 were operated and 360 idle. The average number of bales ginned by each of these active establishments was 293 bales, which is less than half the number of bales ginned by the average active ginney in most other states.

The large number of so-called ginneries in North Carolina are relics of ante-bellum times. A goodly number of them are truly relics and worthless. These relics have been handed down from the old self-contained large plantations of years ago. The use of these old, out-of-date outfits at the present time is as uneconomical as picking the lint off by hand was when these old establishments were in vogue.

The improved ginning of cotton is the source of a great loss to our farmers and I feel sure that they do not appreciate the gains that would be theirs should they have their cotton ginned at a modern gin.

A misconception among farmers that is partly responsible for this condition is the fact that they feel that the lowered grade is more than offset

by the increased weight. They fool themselves. The buyers make allowance for the loss that is sure to occur in weights by paying less for the cotton. The buyer who handles many bales from many farmers is in better position to judge how much green cotton will lose than the farmer who only raises a comparatively few bales. You can rest assured that the buyer will protect himself. As an example: Mills are at present paying about 10 a pound, or \$5.00 per bale, more for old cotton than new.

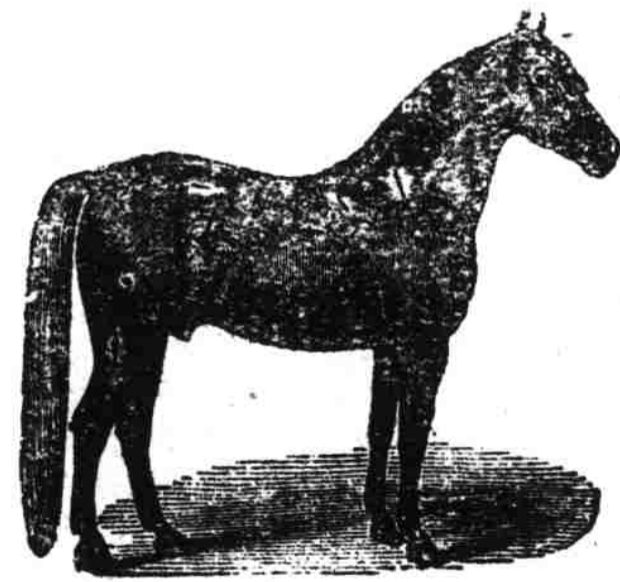
The ginning of cotton at old style ginneries that fail to get out all the leaf and dirt possible has always been uneconomical and unprofitable. The farmer who has felt that he was selling dirt and leaf for the price of cotton has fooled himself only. He has been pitting his necessarily limited knowledge against that of the spinner who was and is able to tell to the ounce how much waste a bale of cotton contained.

O. J. McCONNELL, Cotton Grading, Raleigh, N. C.



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