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Farm Review and Forecast



Franklin Urges Big Increase In Haywood Sheep Flock

County Agt. Recommends 8500 Ewes

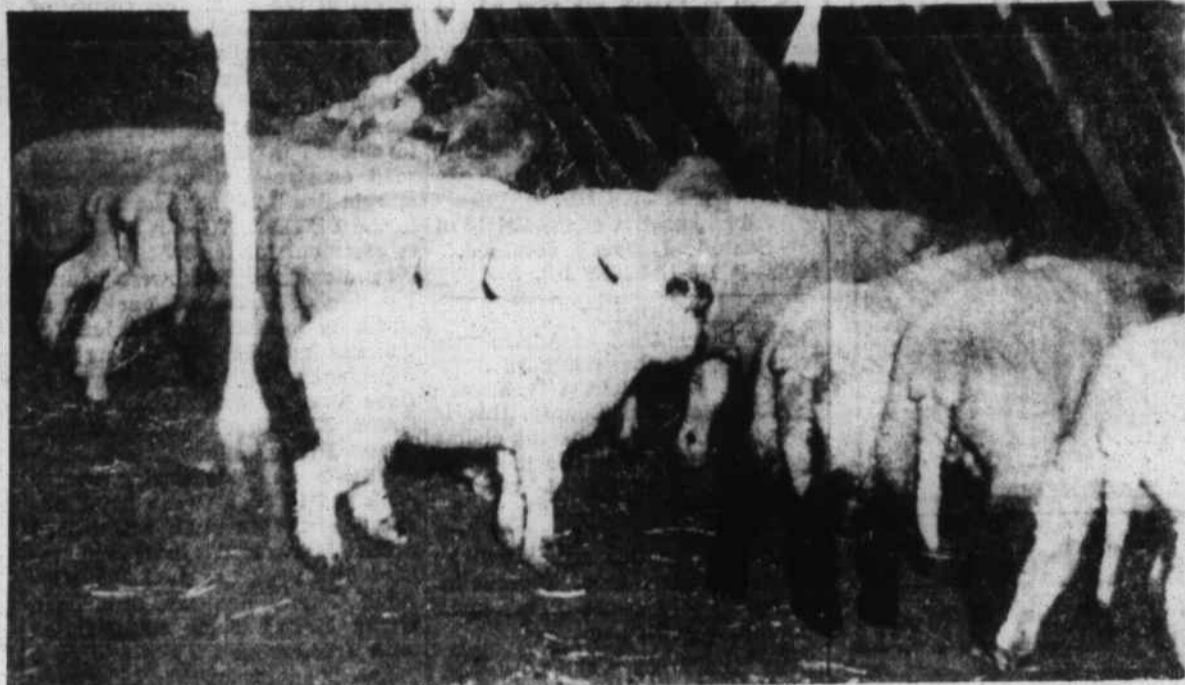
By WAYNE L. FRANKLIN
County Farm Agent

Today Haywood County has 2,457 sheep, actually less than it had in 1865. Sheep has proved over the years to be the most profitable of all livestock from the standpoint of investment. Almost every year since records have been kept on sheep, they have paid back the full investment the first year. Farm flock records for 1953 show that the average ewe returned her owner \$31.28. The cost of keeping the ewe for the year was \$7.38.

At present, county sheep growers are realizing approximately \$61,000 gross income from the 2,457 sheep. At a recent meeting held in Asheville some of the sheep growers agreed that Haywood County should set as its goal 8,500 ewes. This many ewes based on present prices of lambs and wool would gross approximately \$212,000 for the sheep growers. This 8,500 ewes could be added to our present livestock numbers without any change in pasture and cropland acreage. The only change that would be necessary would be the installation of better fencing.

Animal husbandry specialists from N. C. State College who have conducted experiments on feeding sheep and cattle say that one cow requires the same amount of feed and pasture necessary to maintain seven ewes. To compare this further, seven ewes returned the owner \$167.30 as compared to one cow returning her owner \$76.10.

Experimental work with sheep is showing that the western bred ewes are returning more per ewe



DINING ON ALFALFA are these 11 sheep being fed by Bill Platt in his barn in the Fairview community. Waiting his turn for a snack, one lamb waits patiently like a human being in a cafeteria line. (Mountaineer Photo).

with a larger lamb crop and wool clip than are native ewes. The cross breeding gives a hybrid vigor resulting in larger and fast growing lambs.

This year's western bred ewes will come from Texas and thus far are actually proving better than the Montana bred ewes for our climatic conditions here. These ewes can be purchased delivered to Asheville for approximately \$26 per head. Any one interested in purchasing any of these ewes should contact the county agent's office before March 15.

Many farmers say the reason they do not go into sheep raising is because of the loss from dogs. Perhaps this has been a good rea-

son in years past but we believe that now with the dog laws in effect in the county and dog wardens and also the fact that you can purchase protective insurance on sheep at a very low rate will justify prize where land and labor will permit.

Then, too, another point to consider as for losses from dogs is the fact that if you are the only person in your community owning sheep, you will naturally have all the losses but if several other people in the same community have sheep, then nobody will suffer much from dogs because everybody will be watching for stray dogs.

For those who are already in the sheep business in Haywood County, the following recommendations might be kept in mind. The first thing to remember is the profit with sheep depends directly on your lamb crop—the more lambs you raise the more profit you make.

- Before Lambing**
1. Grain feed ewes for 30 days before lambing. One-fourth pound per ewe per day of a mixture of equal parts rolled oats and cracked yellow corn, plus all the good quality legume hay she will eat will help avoid pregnancy disease. A good treatment for the disease is 2 ounces of molasses every two hours.
 2. Moldy hay or frozen silage may cause abortions.
 3. Dead lambs often result from ewes having to jump ditches, drag over high sills or wade through deep mud or get to water or shelter.

- During Lambing**
4. Lambing pens made of 4' x 4' panels set against the wall will protect new born lambs from trampling, allow you to give closer attention to the ewe and reduce disowned lambs.
 5. Check ewes often at night—one lamb saved per week will pay for your sleep. Give the ewe three hours on her own and then if she can't deliver her lamb, help her.
 6. If the lamb does not get up and nurse in 30 minutes, help him up and get some warm milk in his stomach.
 7. Have some iodine in a half pint milk bottle and dip the navel of the new born lamb in this to prevent navel ill later on.
 8. An electric heater, infrared light bulb, a jug of hot water or some hot woolen cloth will help revive a chilled lamb.

- After Lambing**
9. Separate the ewes that have lambed from those that have not and increase the feed for those that have lambed up to 1½ pounds

State College Answers Timely Farm Questions

QUESTION: How can I keep my income taxes lower?

ANSWER: There are many ways, but you must be alert at all times. First, sales of breeding, draft, and dairy animals can be treated as sales of capital assets (land). Such sales should be reported on Schedule D. Only half of the gains (income) need be reported as income. The requirements are that the animals must have been owned for one year and the animal must have been sold for draft, breeding or dairy purposes and not primarily for sale in the ordinary course of the farm business.

Secondly, when the sale of the farm includes the sale of the farmer's residence and he buys property within one year after (or before) the sale, which he uses as his new residence, the gain from the sale of the old residence may be excluded from the gross income provided the cost of the new residence equals or exceeds the sale price of the old one. Also, the elderly farmer who wants to retire often parts with a large share of his life's savings in income taxes by outright sale of his farm. The installment sales method (similar to buying a car on time) reduces taxes and maintains his investment in a safe place. The downpayment cannot be more than 30 per cent of the selling price. The seller thereafter reports total yearly payment during the year received and is taxed on only half of this amount.

QUESTION: Can I carry back and carry forward net operating losses on my farm?

ANSWER: With lower farm prices and two dry years, many farmers have come up with net operating loss at the end of the year. If you show a net loss on your return for the current year because of unprofitable farm operations, you can use this business loss to offset income in other years provided you do not have additional income during the year from other sources offsetting your farm loss.

Insect pests attack all major North Carolina crops.

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CHOW TIME for these sheep finds Bill Platt on a tree stump, sprinkling hay to his "boarders". Apparently not hungry are several lambs in the background. (Mountaineer Photo).

Everbearing Strawberries Popular In Mountain Area

By ROBERT SCHMIDT

It will soon be strawberry time in the garden. At the same time this is the last call for planting strawberries for next year's crop—if you are planning to build up a matted row or close bed.

Good plant makers such as the Massey and Albritton varieties may be set 24 to 40 inches apart in rows 3½ to four feet apart and will give a good stand of plants if they have sufficient moisture. Apply one-half gallon of an 8-8-8 fertilizer per 100 feet of row about 10 days before planting and thor-

oughly mix with the soil.

In the mountain area the everbearing strawberries are popular because they bear a crop of berries during the late summer at the height of the tourist season. The Superfection, Mastodon, and Red Rich are suggested everbearing varieties. In order to get a good summer crop of berries from everbearing varieties it is necessary to pinch off the early spring blooms. Otherwise, the spring crop will be fairly good and there will be some late fall berries but no continuous crop during the late summer. Everbear-

ers are not recommended for Eastern North Carolina.

In the eastern part of the state it is time to put a mulch on the established strawberry bed. This mulch is usually of pine straw but it may be of any short straw or material. All the space between the plants and between the rows should be covered with the mulch. The chief purpose of the mulch is not to protect the blooms and berries from cold but to keep them from getting sandy and to keep them up off the wet soil so that they are not so apt to rot.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture is reportedly considering storing some of its price support grain in ships of the Maritime Commission's "mothball fleet".

Dairy Promotion

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—Wisconsin farmers invested \$200,000 in the American Dairy Association promotion during 1953. The report of Wisconsin reports. This was a new record. The money was raised by a voluntary check-off of one cent per pound of butterfat on milk from June and July. This year's check-off became two cents per pound of milk or one cent per pound of butterfat on a round basis.

Country Mistake

DALLAS (AP)—Mrs. Ireland is treasurer of a Country Club. She prides herself on every one of the 150 members. At a party she spotted a man who she couldn't place. "I don't believe I know you," she said. Mrs. Ireland said. The woman beamed and said, "Well, I know who you are. You're Mrs. England."

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