

Preparations which when administered to poultry internally would destroy all external parasites enjoyed a brief vogue in the rural sections of the country. Their doom was sealed, however, by a court case in which the jury returned a verdict sustaining the Government's contention that lice and mites would not be removed from poultry by adding to their drinking water a weak lime-sulphur solution.

Government officials maintain a constant surveillance over traffic in remedies for livestock and poultry to prevent frauds against the agricultural interests. Individual buyers, however, can greatly advance their own interests by carefully considering the labels on the remedies they propose buying before they hand their money across the counter.

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**L**AMBS Born Twins Are More Profitable than Singles, Figures Show Sheep raisers throughout the United States are depending more and more on the meat of the lambs produced, as a source of return from their flocks.

This is true of the range sheepman as well as the farmer who keeps a small flock of sheep. The natural tendency of ewes of the English mutton breeds to produce a certain percentage of twins is quite a desirable trait to some producers while others maintain that single lambs are stronger, grow out faster, and can be marketed earlier and at greater weights. Sheepmen of the latter opinion are in favor of producing singles and often dispose of the weaker of a pair of twin lambs immediately in order that the other lamb may have the benefit of all the milk produced by the ewe.

Much may be said on either side of this question. Some ewes are not able to produce milk enough to develop twin lambs satisfactorily. If both lambs are left with such ewes both will be stunted and possibly be less valuable at marketable age than one of them would have been had it received all the ewe's milk. On the other hand, some ewes in the flock are almost sure to lose their lambs at lambing time or within a few days thereafter. Since these ewes will be in better condition for breeding the next fall if they raise lambs, the twins which are not doing well can in this way be divided.

#### Weights of Twin and Single Lambs

Even under the best of management the twin lambs do not look so plump nor develop so rapidly while young as do singles. However, after they are older and depend more on feed other than their mother's milk the twin lambs often develop quite rapidly and in some cases become larger than the average of the single lambs. (Fig. 114.)

Data compiled from the Government's purebred Southdown flock at Beltsville, Md., for the eight years from 1921 to 1928, inclusive, show that the average weight of twins at the ages of 3 and 6 months was less than the average for single lambs. The average of all single lambs at 6 months was 72.5 pounds, while the average of all twins was 63.4, or 9.1 pounds less. Yet the fact that lambs are usually raised largely on pasture and cheap feed and marketed before stored and harvested feeds must be used makes the advantage of 126.8 pounds live weight of lambs per ewe in the case of twins a considerable one when compared with the 72.5 pounds per ewe, for those producing singles.

If the single lambs would bring 15 cents a pound on the market, they would average \$10.87 per ewe, whereas the twins even at 13 cents a pound would bring \$16.48 per ewe, a difference of \$5.61. This is more than 50 per cent greater return than from the production of single lambs.

#### Ewes with Twins Give Greater Net Returns

A pair of twin lambs, although smaller, will consume more feed than a larger single lamb. Figuring the annual maintenance of the ewe at \$8 and the cost of feed and pasture at \$3.60 per lamb, there would be a total cost of \$11.60 associated with raising a single lamb, and \$15.20 with raising a pair of twin lambs. Estimating the value of the fleece at \$3 (7½ pounds at 40 cents) the ewes producing a single lamb would

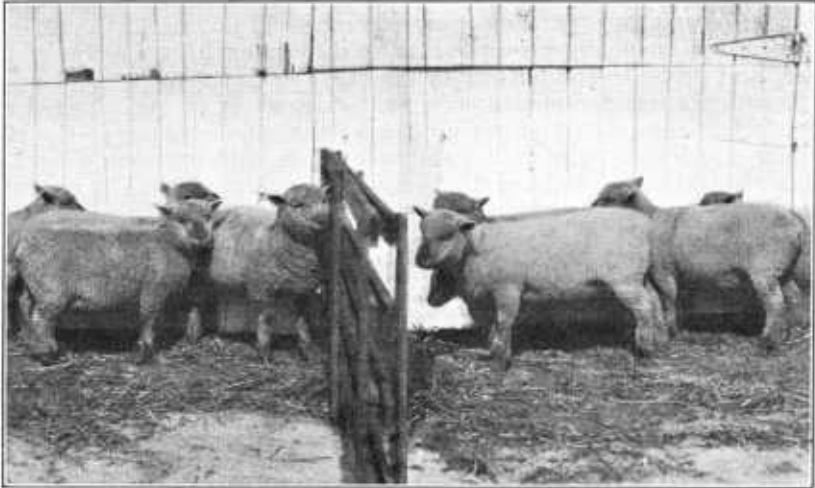


FIGURE 114.—Lambs to the left of the hurdle were singles receiving all the milk produced by their dams. Those to the right were born twins and raised as such; that is, two lambs nursed one ewe. All were approximately 6 months old when photographed

produce a total return of \$10.87 (value of lamb) plus \$3 (value of fleece), or \$13.87, from which the cost of \$11.60 would leave \$2.27 net profit. In the same manner, adding the fleece value of \$3 to the value of the two twin lambs (\$16.48) we get a total return of \$19.48. Deducting the cost of production and maintenance (\$15.20) leaves a net profit of \$4.28. This figure is within 26 cents of being twice as much net profit per ewe as in the case of ewes raising only single lambs.

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**L**AW Administration  
by Department Raises  
Some Unique Problems

On every hand the officials of the department are confronted with questions of law or legal controversies. These matters are handled by a staff of lawyers. Many of the cases considered are unusual, while others might be regarded as routine, although most of the latter develop unique points of law or fact. The legal field of the department is very