

USES AND MANAGEMENT OF NEW PERMANENT PASTURE.

In a season of average rainfall a new permanent pasture of the type described, and sown in October or November as indicated, should be ready for a light grazing in the latter part of January or the beginning of February. Throughout the autumn, provided that rainfall is adequate and nor'westers are not too frequent, such a pasture provides useful green-feed, and if reserved for special purposes such as lamb-fattening or flushing of ewes and rams allows a reduction in area of feeds grown for these purposes.

It has been found that such a pasture on medium land, throughout the autumn period, fattens five or more lambs per acre without supplementary hand-feeding. With $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. wheat per lamb daily, eight to ten lambs per acre have been fattened. With a very light seeding of $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. rape per acre on this class of land eight to ten lambs per acre have been fattened, and it has been found that this thin supplementary crop does not, with proper grazing-management, harm the new permanent pasture. The fattening-period should not occupy longer than two to three months.

By spelling the new pasture depending upon the use to which it is to be put, late autumn feed, some winter feed, and spring lambing-feed can be obtained. Except in the case of fattening lambs or cull ewes, this pasture should, of course, be rationed at the rate of two or more hours per day as is good practice with green-feeds.

In the spring ewes and lambs should be put on in groups of several days lambing, or mobs of ewes and lambs may be put on breaks for several hours daily. At no time should the pasture be subjected to hard grazing for a lengthy period. This is important, particularly if the cocksfoot and clovers are to be given a fair start.

The permanent pasture sown in October, November, or December under average-rainfall conditions assists in the provision of the following: lamb-fattening feed, flushing feed, late-autumn feed, some winter green-feed, spring flushing-feed, and lambing-feed up to October or November following sowing. At this time the rye-grass begins to shoot to seed, and the whole or part of such a pasture may be shut up for a profitable seed-crop. If a high yield of easily cut seed is desired, shutting up at the end of September for medium and light land and the middle or end of October for medium to heavy land is necessary.

If not used for seed-production, the pasture may be grazed in the usual manner throughout the spring. Under ordinary grazing-conditions a payable yield of seed may be obtained by means of stripping.

Gentle or light grazing from October onwards allows the cocksfoot and clovers to recover after the closer grazing during lambing. By spelling the pasture from mid-November to about the end of December, a bulk of succulent grazing may then be obtained from the clover in the sward in late December and January at a time when it is most valuable for maintaining ewes and lambs in a thriving condition.

The rye-grass that shoots to seed during this "spelling" period, even if it is not stripped, need not cause any concern, because under Canterbury conditions, if the pasture and stock are to receive the best treatment, and if fat-lamb production is the object, some seed-stalks cannot be avoided—even with continuous grazing. If grazing in the first year is hard enough to prevent the growth of seed-stalks, then cocksfoot and clover development is very poor, the value of the pasture in January and February is lost, and fat-lamb production is proportionately retarded.