



Encouragement in the production of sheep such as these is being urged in Tennessee.



Strip cropping with corn, lespedeza and spring oats in rotation checks soil wash and builds up the soil.

## Vigilance Best Remedy Against Loss of Lambs

CONSTANT vigilance is the remedy against loss of animals during the lambing season, and immediately thereafter, according to C. C. Flanery, University of Tennessee Extension Service specialist, who advises, among other precautions, early morning and late evening visits to flocks.

"At least the loss will be small," he explained, "if proper precautions are made. Last year we raised an average of 103 lambs per 100 ewes—compared with 80 per 100 ewes in 1920."

Objectives of production of stocker ewes, wool and feeder lambs, as set forth by Mr. Flanery, are to help provide a market at home for hay and grain produced, to provide a method of using the range land nearby, to better advantage, to encourage farmers to sow small grain for winter feed and to provide a uniform method of production and marketing which may interest more growers to raise a few sheep.

### Program Outlined

A program, to be followed in the principal sheep producing counties of Tennessee this year, has these main points:

Saving a few ewe lambs each year until the flock is sufficiently large.

Use of a good, registered ram that will improve the native sheep.

Control of internal and external parasites. Drenching every 30 days from April 1 to October 1 is recommended.

County listing of prospective sheep producers to distribute flocks to better advantage.

Encouragement of sheep exhibition, particularly by younger farmers.

Field meetings, shearing, dipping and other demonstrations.

### Old Sheep Country

"From the earliest period of which any record has been kept," Mr. Flanery said, "the range, or marginal counties of Tennessee have raised sheep and lambs for home consumption. The wool has been used for clothing and mutton has been used to eat, and in addition, there were sheep to sell to the basin counties and other states."

"Certain counties in the above mentioned soil areas are proven stocker ewe producing territory. Parasites have never seriously interfered with the production of sheep because the land is seldom overstocked, usually drains well, the terri-

tory is large and the elevation is often high. The people, too, are lovers of sheep."

"In restricted areas, cliffs and bluffs as well as deep hollows and dense forest, there appears to be the necessary protection in bad weather. Foot rot is unknown and scab is seldom, if ever, found. This makes sour wooded lamb areas especially inviting for the production of stocker ewes and feeder lambs."

Flanery pointed to the need of improving the quality of native sheep in such sections. He also suggested a "definite plan of marketing" as one of the best ways of stimulating the production of sheep in this area. He warned that the dog menace should be studied and advised winter enclosures so that better attention could be paid lambs, marking and other sheep problems.

## Mules Provide Loan Collateral



These Kentucky Mules furnish the security for a loan to produce corn and hogs.

E. L. and M. C. Shaw, brothers, farm near Cayce, in Fulton County, Kentucky, are two of the 9,000 Kentucky and Tennessee farmers who financed crops and livestock last year with loans from production credit associations.

The twelve production credit associations in Kentucky and the ten in Tennessee loaned over \$3,300,000 in 1935, and at the recent annual meetings of these associations, farmer-members planned a sizeable increase in loan business for 1936.

The ten head of mules in the picture are part of the collateral offered by the Shaw brothers on a \$1,000 loan obtained from the Jackson Purchase Production Credit Association at Mayfield, Kentucky.

## Lespedeza—Ammunition To Combat Soil Robbers

LESPEDEZA is the answer to the problem of soil that is being robbed by the washing away of its most productive layers and continuous cropping without regard to soil improvement.

Experiments show that approximately sixty-three tons of soil erode from an acre of land in one year on a ten per cent slope. This is the most productive part of the soil and carries away about twenty times as much plant food as one crop would use. By growing lespedeza on the same slope and type of soil, it has been found that the loss was reduced to less than one ton per acre.

Lespedeza is the ammunition to use if you want to kill a pair of destructive birds with one shot. Lespedeza is not only a crop that will hold the soil in place, but it is one of the best soil improvement crops. It has a wide range of adaptation and will grow on many types

of soils.

From an erosion and fertility viewpoint, it is the most important soil-saving crop that has been introduced into the South in the past few decades. It has been the salvation of many farmers and will be for many others if grown and properly managed on their farms.

Following are nine "don'ts" to observe in growing Lespedeza:

1. Don't plant seed of unknown quality and origin. Plant only seed which has been tested and found to be of high quality.

2. Don't plant seed which contains obnoxious weed, especially dodder or Johnson grass.

3. Don't wait too long in the spring to seed lespedeza. Lespedeza should be seeded early enough for it to start to grow immediately after the last hard, killing frost.

4. Don't fail to plant plenty of seed. For Korean, thirty-five to forty pounds per acre should be seeded for the best hay crop, twenty-five to thirty for the best seed crop. For other varieties plant five to ten pounds less per acre.

5. Don't cover seed too deep. This is one very common mistake. If the ground is mellow it is seldom necessary to cover seed at all. This is especially true when seedings are made in small grain. When seeding on hillsides, there should be contour marks of some type made, either by drill furrow, drag harrow, or other farm implements giving similar results. These contour marks prevent the seed from drifting during heavy spring rains. If this practice is not observed, the seed will drift in spots, resulting in an uneven stand.

6. Don't fail to overlook the value of lespedeza in your permanent pasture mixture. Don't fail to use at least two varieties in this pasture mixture, preferably Korean and Common, certainly Korean and one of the other varieties. Korean gives much earlier grazing than the other varieties. Either Common, Tennessee 76, or Kobe will give much later grazing during the fall of the year.

7. Don't graze lespedeza too early where it is seeded alone. Give it an opportunity to become well established.

8. Don't be misled by the idea lespedeza will not reseed itself in a pasture. It is almost impossible to graze lespedeza so closely it will not reseed itself.

9. Don't permit lespedeza to grow to maturity when being harvested for hay. Lespedeza should be harvested for hay while in early bloom. In great many cases both the hay crop and seed crop may be obtained if the hay crop is harvested early in the season before the blooming stage.

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