

role in carrying over flocks to the end of a long and dry summer. Scarcity of drinking water can prove more serious than poor pastures in forcing owners to dispose of a large part of their lamb flock long before reaching a commercial age. The best safeguard for lack of drinking water is the reconstruction of deserted cisterns and the digging of new ones in grazing areas, in a way similar to the current CDF project in Bethlehem district.

This project is part of a more comprehensive scheme of cistern reconstruction in rainfed areas (see project no 6.2). Consequently, no further financial obligations would be needed.

#### 11.4 Promoting commercial fattening of lambs.

Sheep raising could be substantially expanded by reducing early slaughtering of young lambs. Instead, it is proposed to provide sheep raisers and other interested entrepreneurs with the requisites needed for fattening lambs to an average of 40-50 kg. Such projects achieved a remarkable success in the early seventies when they were fostered by the Department of Agriculture, which then provided farmers with production credit and technical assistance. The proposed project is essentially a reactivation of its earlier version.

Interested farmers and other entrepreneurs would be provided with medium-term loans to cover construction costs of needed sheds. They would also receive production credit facilities for covering part of their operational costs. Fattening of lambs would commence in January and extend through May. Farms could be utilized until the following January in raising

broilers or fattening calves. It is reasonable to assume, therefore, that a fattening project of a reasonable size (eg. 100 lambs plus three successive flocks of broilers of 3000 each) would be viable enough to support a full-time college-level graduate. As such, this project should be viewed as a practical option for absorbing a limited number of potential emigrant graduates.

Loans for construction purposes would be provided by the PACC upon recommendations by resident representatives, whereas operational loans would be advanced if needed, by the Agricultural Development Corporation.

#### 11.5 Prolonging the lambing season by hormone injections.

It has been demonstrated successfully that it is possible to manipulate the onset of the (fertility) heat period and raise the frequency of twin births in ewes by using injections of certain reproduction hormones. By so doing it is possible to spread the lambing season throughout the entire year instead of restricting it to only a few months and at the same time produce a larger number of lambs. The economic returns from this innovation are potentially very great, but its widespread dissemination in the West Bank is impeded by inadequate extension and veterinary services.

It is proposed to adopt a program aimed at introducing the new technology on a wide scale. This would require launching a vigorous extension program involving all concerned groups such as the Veterinary Department, extension staff, voluntary agencies and cooperative societies. The cost outlay for the needed campaign would be covered by the Agricultural