

THEIR FLOCK A PRIZE-WINNER



THE HON. F. J. FAIRFAX and the shepherd, Mr R. A. FRASER, of Mindrum.

SECOND PRIZE in the class for large flocks (over 100 ewes: class 12 of cross-bred ewes in *Farmer and Stock-Breeder's* national lambing competitions has been won by the Hon. P. J. Fairfax, of Mindrum, Northumberland. His 478 half-bred ewes reared 894 lambs, giving a percentage of 187.03.

Shepherd is Mr R. S. Fraser, of Fernie, Mindrum, who has been with the flock for the past eight years. Mr Fraser has been with sheep all his life and a shepherd in his own right for 33 years. He is a familiar figure and prize-winner at sheepdog trials throughout the county. Both his father and grandfather were also shepherds.

Mindrum is a 1,100-acre mixed stock farm specialising in cross-bred lambs and a suckling herd of Angus cross cows. Crops grown include barley, oats, sugar beet, potatoes, swedes and turnips. Hay and silage are made for winter food.

The beef herd consists of 112 Irish-bred cows which are crossed with an Aberdeen-Angus bull. The resulting calves are suckled on their mothers and sold in October. There are also 30 heifers of similar type to the cows and these are due to calve in 1957.

The ewes live on grass for nine months of the year and usually go on to turnips at the end of January. At lambing time the ewes are all brought to a field close to the farm where a lambing shed is put up each year on clean ground. Lambing takes place about mid-March, so that the spring flush of grass coincides with the lambs' time of most rapid growth.