

glad to have a report of the experiments and the results given to the public through this paper.

Until such experiments are made, and the results made publicly known, those who endeavor to conform their practice to the best ascertained facts, or best established rules, will plant early. Experiments have already been made in sufficient number and with sufficient accuracy, to make it almost a settled matter that potatoes planted as soon as the soil is mellow and dry, will yield a more abundant and sounder crop than the same kind of potatoes on the same or similar soil, when planted 10, 20, or 30 days later. The most satisfactory of such experiments which have been reported to the public are those of Mr. H. H. Eastman, of Marshall, Oneida Co., N. Y., a summary of whose various experiments in potato culture may be found in the vols. of *The Country Gentleman* and *The Cultivator* for 1855. For the sake of those who have not these vols. at hand, we may say that to test the question of early, medium, and late planting, one plot was planted in 1852, on the 18th of May, another on the 23rd of May, and another on June 8th, and these plots yielded respectively at the rate of 142, 131, and 100 per acre. The experiment was again tried in 1853, and resulted as before in favor of early planting. While those planted May 9th yielded 104 bushels, those planted May 30th gave but 70 bushels, and those planted as late as June 18th gave only 45 bushels per acre.

Previous to the invasion of the rot, potatoes were generally planted in June; but the old rule must now be laid aside, and the new one at the head of this article substituted in its place, in order to secure the best crops."

HEREFORD CATTLE.

To the Editor of the Agriculturist.

Owego, Tioga Co., N.Y., March 31st, 1856.

DEAR SIR,—As your paper frequently contains the praises of Short-horn Cattle, and exhibits *portraits* showing enormous size, allow me to send you the *actual weights* of some of the prize Herefords, and prices obtained for them. The following is an extract from a letter to me from Wm. Heath, Esq., Ludham Hall, England, dated March 10th, 1856, the well-known winner of Prizes at Smithfield and Birmingham Cattle Shows:—

"Since receiving your letter, I have been staying in Shropshire and Herefordshire, so thought would put off writing to you until my return. You wish to know the weights of some of my prize Herefords. A two years and ten months' Steer (four quarters, beef only) weighed 92 stones (1280 lbs, 14 lbs to the stone), winner of the Gold Medal given for any breed of all ages in London, 1850. A four years old and eight months' old Ox, 134 stones (1876 lbs), winner of £30 in London, 1851. One three years and nine months' old, 126 stones (1764 lbs), winner of second prize of £15. The next Hereford I showed was at Birmingham, 1853, two years and eleven months' old, winner of the Gold Medal and £30. I brought him home again, and showed him the following year in London; he won the first prize of £25, and, had he had justice done him, would have won the Gold Medal, 1854. I showed at Birmingham a Hereford the same year, winner of the Gold Medal and £30. This is very singular. These two animals were twins bred by Mr. Thomas Carter, Dodmore, Ludlow; the former weighed 129 stones (1806 lbs), the latter 133 stones (1862 lbs); their ages, when killed, were three years and eleven months. I bought them the end of October for £50, sold them, December 1854, for £120: they won me in money £75, and the two medals are worth £40 for old gold. These two Herefords made me in all £245. I showed a Heifer, winner of first prize of £10 at Birmingham, four years and ten months' old, weighed 96 stone (1344 lbs). I showed in London this year, winner of first prize of £25, sold him for £65, three years and eleven months, weighed 128 stones (1792 lbs). A Steer I showed in the young class in London, 1854; he had not a prize awarded him, which, in my opinion, he should have had; so I had him brought home again, though blamed by several people, but I said if he was not a good one I could not get one. I showed him this year at Birmingham, won the Gold Medal and £30; sold him for £67 10s; he weighed 136 stones (1906 lbs); was three years and eleven months old. You see he was a good one at last. It is no use having