

Illinois it was found that horses at heavy labor required from one and one-fifth to one and one-third pounds of grain and from one to one and one-fourth pounds of hay per hundred pounds of live weight per day in order to maintain their weight. Grain should be fed in three equal feeds, but the heavy ration of hay should be given at night. Some feed a heavy feed of hay at night, and about an equal quantity divided into the two feeds, morning and noon. We believe feed might often be saved by cutting out the noon feed of hay, feeding a light feed in the morning and a manger full at night.

## LIVE STOCK.

### How System Foretells Prosperity.

When visiting farms throughout the country one must be impressed with the consistent system that prevails where buildings and farms are up-to-date, and the almost total absence of system where the surroundings have the appearance of hard times. Recently, while passing through a stable that was quite modern, we noticed a record sheet fastened conveniently to the wall. Although the cows were grades and not a dairy breed at that, the sheet was there which told the value of each cow in dollars and cents at the end of the month. The question arose, was the barn, excellent silo, convenient stable fittings and all the other conveniences a result of good stock husbandry and the record sheet, or were the record sheet and barn itself evidences of system and good management on the part of the owner throughout all his farm operations?

System makes for efficiency, and there is nothing within the reach of farmers to-day that will accomplish so much. It is all very well to say this and that are trivial things and do not matter, yet the degree of indifference that stockmen show to the small things of the farm is exemplified in the whole herd and in its surroundings. Taking into consideration the growing of crops, harvesting and dispensing them day after day to steers for two or three years and further considering other expenses, it must be granted that the producer of beef gets a small margin as the producer of most any article of universal use. How can he then afford to neglect the leaks that so quickly drive a commercial concern to the wall, and force that industry to pay cents on the dollar?

It is a pleasing sight to see scales and a record sheet in the stable. In addition to their use in measuring value they indicate the existence of a system and promise ultimate prosperity.

### Cost of Feeding Pigs.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In reply to your request for experience in feeding hogs, here are some figures for you. These hogs were fed by a boy at our place in a "pig-feeding competition" last summer. Although he did not win the statement may be worth while for publication in "The Farmer's Advocate". I am giving you the amount of feed consumed by these four pigs, and it may be worked out at present prices of feed:

Four pigs six weeks old at \$4 each—\$16; 720 lbs. shorts; 520 lbs. chop, barley and oats; 150 lbs. oil cake; 800 lbs. skim-milk. At 26 weeks old these pigs weighed 680 lbs. Feed soaked 12 hours and fed twice a day.

Peel Co., Ont.

GEO. DOWNEY.

[Note.—Figuring these feeds at market prices at time of writing the feed would be worth about \$28, valuing the skim-milk at \$3. Adding this to the \$16 original value would make \$44, total cost besides labor and at 8 cents per lb. the pigs would bring \$54.40, leaving \$10.40 profit.—Editor.]

### Black Teeth in Pigs.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In your issue Feb. 11, page 229, your answer to a question about black teeth in pigs, I dispute. Have lost several youngsters by not removing them, whether black or wolf teeth. In the last litter the pig refused them milk before they were eight hours old, and the next day they seemed strong enough and broke off eight in each of the thirteen pigs, leaving no short teeth. Some neighbors have lost some too, but they just seemed to bother the last two or three years here.

Simcoe Co., Ont.

W. M. M.

[Our veterinary editor in reply to this statement reiterates that "black teeth" is not a disease in pigs, but avers that never will all people be convinced. Once in a great while one of these teeth may be so long, sharp and misplaced as to injure cheek or tongue and should be removed, but it is not a disease.—Editor.]

### Horns Vs. Profitable Gains.

Horns on cattle are becoming unpopular. This statement applies chiefly to the feeder kind that probably will be run together in lots of three or four to a carload in size. Horns, originally, served a purpose but that necessity for protection has long since passed away, and instead of being useful, horns on cattle are now a nuisance of the worst kind. Dehorning is a practice that may save many dollars to stockmen, and who is there that does not need to economize in the industry to-day in order to return the profits that satisfy? Generally stockmen like to run their feeder steers loose in a large box stall or yard, and that is where the horns are put to a use that decreases gains, and furthermore, when a man's eyes and face are in danger the arguments for dehorning stand indisputable.

The process at the start is simple indeed. It has been explained time and time again, yet during this spring we have noticed many calves that have been allowed to start horns which must result in nothing less than obstacles to their profitable finishing and that of their mates. A stick of caustic potash moistened and rubbed on the buttons some time before the calves are three weeks old will prevent their growth, and help to bring about a polled animal. The feeder prefers the animals without horns; they feed better, they ship better, and they reach the slaughter house in better shape. This is enough to warrant the raiser of beef cattle making liberal use of the caustic potash this spring.

### Dock All The Lambs and Castrate The Males.

Perhaps March and April are the two months when most of the lamb crop is dropped in Ontario and Eastern Canada. It is timely, then, to consider the question of docking the lambs. While the practice of leaving lambs run until sold with long tails is, we believe, not so prevalent as formerly, the fact remains that too many lambs are still allowed to run the entire summer undocked. Docking is not, under the best conditions, a

are not divided, but are crushed and healing is accomplished more slowly and the lamb receives a greater set-back. Cutting from below with the knife all that is necessary is to double the tail down over the knife and to cut through; the sharper the knife the better.

Lambs should be watched for a time after docking. If the blood continues to spurt from the wound and the flow streams away for any length of time, the youngster will soon be weakened. Very often a handful of flour or like material touched to the wound will cause a clotting of the blood and stop the flow. As a general thing, the very fat lamb bleeds most, and it is advisable to have some soft cord handy, and if bleeding is too profuse, tie this cord tightly around the stump for a few hours. This will stop the bleeding and save the lamb. In the case of older lambs, about which there is danger, it is well to tie the string before amputating the tail. As a precaution, the knife used should be sterilized in some antiseptic solution. This is not often done on the average farm, but it might save trouble later on, and is very little inconvenience at the time of docking the lambs.

At the time of docking all male lambs not intended for breeding purposes (and this should include all grades and scrub pure-breds) should be castrated. Thousands of dollars are lost annually by breeders persisting in raising "buck" lambs to feed off. Before cutting the tail, clip off the end of the scrotum and draw the testicles. It is a simple operation, and done at the time the lambs are docked does not set them back appreciably. Cutting the end of the scrotum ensures a free opening at the bottom and no later trouble ensues.

### The Value of Dairy By-products for Hogs.

Last week we answered a question regarding the value of skim-milk for pig feeding. Since then in looking through a new bulletin sent out by the Dominion Department of Agriculture and prepared by J. B. Spencer, the following came to our notice:

"So valuable are the by-products of the dairy viz., skim-milk, butter-milk and whey, that they are regarded by many farmers as indispensable in the rearing of young pigs, and it must be acknowledged that, although many feeders are rearing hogs profitably without these foods much better and cheaper results are possible when a limited amount of milk can be added to the ration. This is especially true in the case of pigs only recently weaned. Milk, being rich in ash and protein, is peculiarly adapted to the building up of the muscles and bony framework of growing animals.

"Better results are obtained from skim-milk or buttermilk when fed in conjunction with some cereal rich in starch, such as corn or barley, than when fed with other meals too rich in protein, such as gluten meal or pea meal. It has been found that milk is most valuable when fed in small quantities, viz., from 3 to 6 pounds of milk for each pound of grain fed.

"When feeding 2 pounds of milk per head per day, 163 pounds of milk effected a saving of 100 pounds grain.

"When feeding 3 pounds milk per head per day, 323 pounds of milk effected a saving of 100 pounds grain.

"When feeding 5.4 pounds milk per head per day, 533 pounds milk effected a saving of 100 pounds grain.

"When feeding 15.7 pounds milk per head per day, 734 pounds milk effected a saving of 100 pounds grain.

"When feeding 17.1 pounds milk per head per day, 882 pounds milk effected a saving of 100 pounds grain.

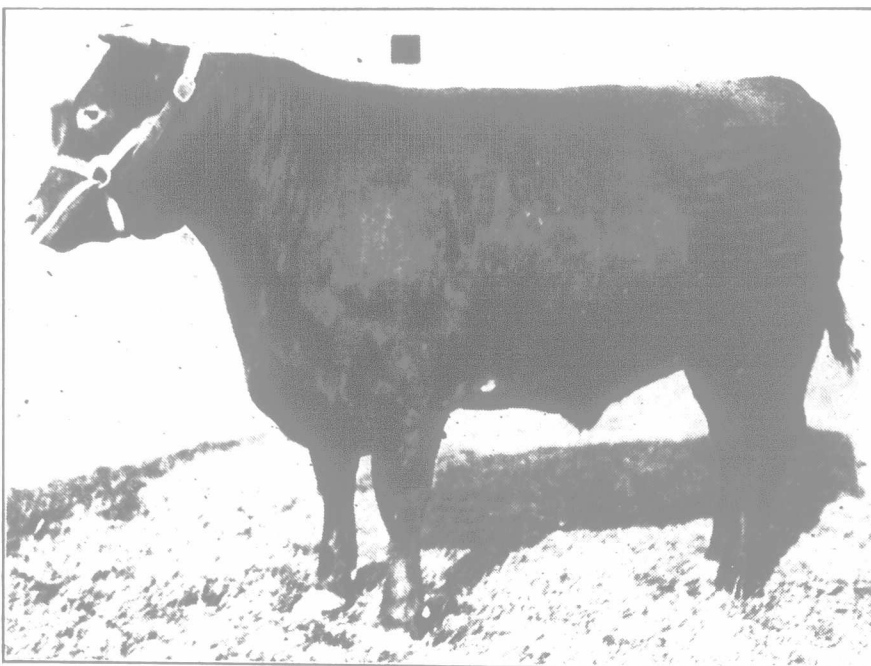
"As a result of a very exhaustive experiment conducted at the Wisconsin Station it was found that:—

"When feeding 1 pound corn meal with from 1 to 3 pounds separator skim-milk, 327 pounds skim-milk saves 100 pounds meal.

"When feeding 1 pound corn meal with from 3 to 5 pounds separator skim-milk, 446 pounds milk saves 100 pounds meal.

"When feeding 1 pound corn meal with from 5 to 7 pounds separator skim-milk, 572 pounds skim-milk saves 100 pounds meal.

"When feeding 1 pound corn meal with from



Would There Were More Steers Like This.

dangerous operation, and it should not be attended by any serious loss. Once in a while a lamb which has been allowed to run until six weeks or two months old, and has become very fat, bleeds to death when the tail is amputated, but where the proper care is given a lamb of this age should not die. However, it is not advisable to let lambs go until this age before docking.

All things considered, the best time to dock lambs is when about two weeks old. Many good shepherds "tail" their lambs earlier than this, some believing that a week is a good time. With strong, lusty youngsters, they will not be set back very much if docked at a week old, but with the general run of the lambs, twins, singles, and those having poor-milking dams, two weeks is the better age. At this age the lamb is in the best possible condition to withstand the shock, and it will not bleed, as a general thing, so profusely as if left longer. In docking the lambs, the best method we have found by practical experience, is to stand the lamb on "all fours" and with a sharp knife cut the tail from below upwards, allowing the knife to slip between the segments of the vertebra at about the second joint from the junction with the body. When cut in this manner, the knife does no permanent injury; it simply divides the vertebra, and the shock is not great. We have seen lambs docked by placing the tail on a board, holding the lamb on its rump and the operator removing the tail with a sharp chisel and a quick blow with the hammer. This is more injurious, because very often the vertebrae