

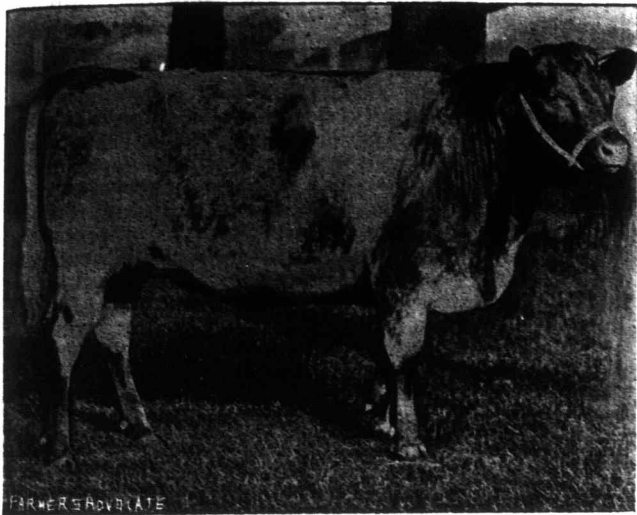
as the foal is thriving and is not being shown, there is no necessity for such feeding, provided the pasture is good. It is a maxim that has been proved times without number, with regard to the human species, that the most highly fed are not necessarily the best breeders. I can see no reason why the reverse should be the case with regard to animals. Perfect health, lots of exercise, enough of simple fare, are the best guarantees that a mare will breed well and successfully.

HORACE N. CROSSLEY.

"Sandy Bay Farm," District of Parry Sound.

### Feeding Mares and Foals.

I believe in feeding some grain to both dams and foals during the summer, whether the dam is required to work or not. When the dams are required to work, I feed the dam about three gallons of oats and about three gallons of bran per day, with all the good hay or grass they will eat at



SHORTHORN, CICELY.

BRED BY AND THE PROPERTY OF H. M. THE QUEEN, WINDSOR.  
Female champion at the Royal Show, Maidstone, 1899.

noons, and give them a good pasture at nights. Even when they are on grass it will pay to feed some bran when working. Always keep the foal in a good box stall when the dam is working—clean and well lighted, with no holes to allow it to get its head through, as it will be constantly fretting. Great care should be taken to allow the dam to cool, if warm, before suckling the foal. The foal should be taught to eat as soon as possible by mixing a small quantity of crushed oats and bran with a little sweet milk—just enough to wet it. Have a small dish for the purpose, and never take the dam away without giving it something to eat after it is two or three weeks old. A good way to start the foal to eat is by taking the dish and holding it up to its mouth with one hand, and getting it to nibble at it. In that way it will soon learn to eat. After the foal has learned to eat well it should be fed at the same time as the dam, in a separate box in another corner of the stall. And be careful to see that each commences to eat their own feed. In that way you may know just what each one gets. Some dams are cross when feeding, and will not allow the foal to feed at the same box. Others will, but it is very much better that they each learn their own place.

We have always fed our foals some grain, so that from experience I can hardly give an opinion, though I am led to believe that a foal fed with a fair amount of grain will develop better bones and muscles and have more ambition than one reared without it. With reference to grain-fed mares suckling foals being more likely to breed again than others, I would not care to give an opinion. I may say we have always fed grain, and we have very little difficulty in getting the mares with foal again.

My own opinion is, there is not much danger of foals getting too heavy on their joints if the dam is required to work. If the dam is allowed to run without being worked, and the foal is likely to get too fat and heavy for its joints, the best remedy I know of is to take some of the feed off both dam and foal. Get the foal as much exercise as possible without galloping. In cases of that kind, a great deal of judgment is required to know just how far you may feed without injuring the foal.

I would prefer to wean a foal at from seven to eight months old, when the welfare of the foal is the main consideration. By all means feed often after weaning.

JOHN GARDHOUSE.

York Co., Ont.

### Breed Mares are Better Not to Get Much Grain Until They are With Foal.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—We do not feed our brood mares much grain for three or four weeks after foaling, or, as a rule, they do not get much till they prove in foal. Mares are generally harder to get in foal if getting much grain. We feed rolled oats and bran, mixed with a little cut hay. We wean our foals at six months old.

D. & O. SORBY.

Wellington Co., Ont.

### Favors Grain Feeding Foals.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

DEAR SIR,—I have found by experience that a little grain while on pasture is beneficial to both mare and foal. In order that each shall get a proper allowance, I tie the mare in a box stall, leave the foal loose and have a separate box for its grain. As to the kind of grain, I prefer crushed oats and bran, about five pounds—half and half—twice a day for the mare. I start the foal on about a pound and keep increasing until after a while I give it all it will eat. I certainly think that grain-fed foals make better horses than those raised without. We have never had any difficulty in getting mares to breed, whether grain-fed or not. I don't think it makes any difference. I do not think it is best to have a breeding mare too fat. We have had no trouble with grain-fed foals getting too heavy on their joints if given plenty of outside exercise. We bring the mare and foal up in the morning and keep them in just long enough to eat their grain, then turn them out, and the same at night. We usually wean our colts at about five or five and a half months, but if the mare is not with foal I don't think it injures the foal any to let it suck longer. It is my opinion that in order to raise good horses we should avoid extremes—not keep them too fat nor too poor, but in good thriving condition from the time they are foaled until they are matured.

Oxford Co., Ont.

### Grain-Fed Foals Mature Early.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—We are at present feeding our brood mares about four quarts of crushed oats twice a day. We continue this during the summer, feeding in a manger low enough for the foal to reach the grain. We find they begin to take a little when very young. When mares are worked we give the foal all the crushed oats and bran they will eat while the dam is out.

We do not use any means of preventing mare from getting more than her share of feed until foal is old enough to tie up, when both are tied. While feeding, never tie dam and allow foal to be loose. We believe grain-fed foals will mature a year younger than those not being fed, as they continue to grow right along after weaning time. We do not think grain-fed mares are more likely to breed again than those not receiving any grain, but if too much grain is fed there is more difficulty in getting mares to breed again. We have had no difficulty with foals getting too heavy for their joints. Would say, breed to sires having a good quality of strong bone, and there will be little danger of foals getting too heavy for their limbs if allowed a fair amount of exercise. We wean foals at about five months, when mares are not required for work; if worked, it is better to wean at four months.

Halton Co., Ont.

I. DEVITT & SON.

### The Ideal Bacon Hog Once More.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I will not demean myself nor insult your readers by continuing the discussion on the merits of the Large White as a bacon hog in the pothouse style in which Messrs. R. L. Jarvis & Bro. appear to be so proficient, nor will I, as someone with a name like Solomon remarked, answer a — according to his folly, but give as brief a reply as possible to anything in their letter deserving of notice.

Messrs. Jarvis & Bro. must have a very poor estimate of the intelligence of your readers if they imagine that the slightest influence on the determination of the question of the merits of the Large White Yorkshire is likely to result from their recital of the fact that somebody had a few coarse pigs which were said to be Improved Yorkshires. This is very probable, as it is an admitted fact that several very inferior so-called Improved Yorkshire pigs have been imported into Canada. This is no proof that the Large White pig is of necessity a coarse pig, but a far better test of the quality of pigs of the breed can be furnished by Mr. D. C. Platt, of Millgrove, Ont., who has, or had, recently imported something like forty head of Large White pigs bred by me. Messrs. Jarvis & Bro., with no knowledge of the facts, may assert as long as they please that the Yorks., as they call them, are a large, coarse pig, but this will not affect the question in the slightest.

Messrs. J. & Bros. express surprise that I do not get some Englishmen farmers to say a word in recommendation of my pet York. The English farmers go one better, as they not only praise but buy my pigs and at prices that would frighten Messrs. J. & Bro. For instance, the public have bought of me nearly 200 boars, sows, and yelts for breeding purposes during the last three months and have paid me an average of over £6 per head. Actions speak louder than words.

I fail to see the force of Messrs. J. & Bro.'s remark about the probability of the Swede being a friend or relative—he is neither—nor as to the probable want of competition in Sweden. There was strong competition, and they would know if they had any knowledge on the subject that the Danish and Swedish pigs are as a whole infinitely better than Canadian pigs, and that this marked superiority is solely due to the Scandinavian having for many years bought numbers of Large White boars, and of what is of still greater importance, are still importing them and giving high prices for others.

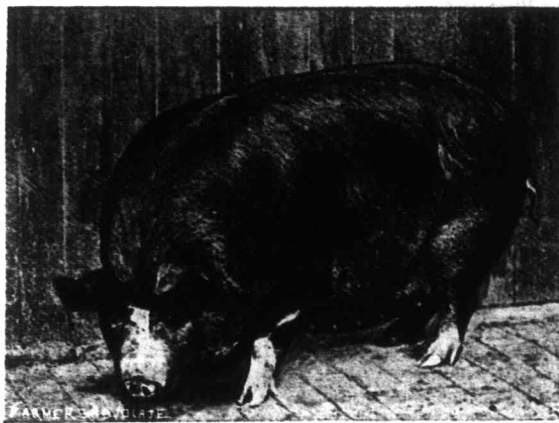
Messrs. Jarvis & Bro. complain that I did not give them recent evidence and from a good source as to the feeding and other good qualities of the Large White. Perhaps they will be content with the results of a trial which was carefully carried out at the Ontario College of Agriculture last autumn when pigs of the Large White, Berkshire, Duroc-Jersey and Tamworth breeds were tested for 112 days. The Large Whites made the greatest gain in a given time on the smallest proportionate quantity of food for gain and were highly spoken of by the managing director, Mr. J. W. Flavell, of the W. Davies Co. Of what possible value can the unsupported and wild assertions of Messrs. Jarvis & Bro. be against such evidence of truthful men who have no axe to grind nor pitiable jealousy to humor. In the course of the summer I hope to be able to furnish Messrs. Jarvis & Bro. with the opinion of the Large Whites as found by Mr. J. W. Flavell after a personal inspection of my head of 500 head, since that gentleman has arranged to come and see.

Holywell Manor, Eng.

SANDERS SPENCER.

### Shorthorns at the Royal Show, as Seen Through the Eyes of a Canadian Breeder.

Altogether, the Shorthorn exhibit at the Maidstone meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society, June 17-23, was good, some sections exceedingly so, and in some sections the standard reached was not very high. This latter was true of the first section—aged bulls; the number of entries was large enough (21), and all were in except one. We were very much at variance with the judges, and greatly disappointed when Brave Archer, the only good bull in the ring, did not get a place; a very thick roan, grand substance and good quality, without any very bad points, bred by Mr. Duthie, got by Scottish Archer, and exhibited by Sir J. Gilmour. The first prize went to Richard Stratton for Alto, by Excelsior, a big, coarse, rough bull, whose only redeeming qualities were a good masculine front and good coat of hair. Second went to H. R. H. the Prince of Wales for Stephanos, one of the same kind as was placed first. And third to Sir Lawrence Riby, exhibited by Sir Jacob Wilson; bull bred at Warlaby; plain, but good in the crops and heart. Mr. Willis' Bapton Victory was reserve number. In the two-year-old section the judges changed their type altogether, and then we were able to agree with them generally. The first went rightly to Mr. Geo. Harrison, Darlington, Yorks., for Count Beauty, bred by Mr. Duthie, and sired by Golden Count. He was rather too upstanding, but had a grand back, crops, loin and quarters, good depth of rib and good breast-girth. With a little less leg and better developed front, he would have been an easy champion in bull sections, for which he was reserve, being beaten by Bapton Emperor, the easy first in a grand string of yearling bulls. Bapton Emperor is one of those rare ones you see once in a long time, and with a little more finish behind would be a model; grand head and front, massive body throughout, magnificent flesh and hair, crops and heart perfect. He deserved and got the highest honors of the show. He was bred by J. Deane Willis, and was sold prior to the show to W. S. Marr, Uppermill, Aberdeenshire. The second prize in two-year-old section went to Mr. McClenan for Estimation, a very handsome red bull, a little off behind. We would have placed Bobt. Taylor, of Forfarshire, N. B., third, with Merry Merlin, a very thick roan bull by Tip Top, but the judges placed him fourth, and placed Matchless, by Captain of the Guard, bred and exhibited by Her Majesty, in third place. The latter was a genuine pony-built bull, with grand middle and a capital



BERKSHIRE SOW, PEEL JESSIE 6698.

Female champion at the Royal Show, Maidstone, 1899.

coat, but too effeminate in head and neck, and lacking behind as well. H. M. the Queen got second place in the yearling bull section with Royal Duke, a very handsome little roan, son of Prince Victor, and worthy of the place. Third prize went to Royal Jeweller, an exceptionally good-quartered bull, of very fine quality, but badly lacking around the breast. Bred by Mr. Briery and exhibited by J. Deane Willis.

In the aged cow class there were no really good ones. First went to Miss de Rothschild for Miss Belladrum 6th, a matronly-looking cow, bred by Lord Lovat. But for a little roughness behind, the second prize cow, Countess of Oxford 11th, shown by Mr. Hoskin, should have been first. Third place