

about and take the most agreeable position, it is of course not necessary that the floor be level, and perhaps better that it should not be.

The sides of the stalls should be smooth, and if the horse is disposed to rub his tail he may be prevented by fastening strips of plank six inches wide to the partition, about three feet from the floor. In a narrow stall there might be danger that the horse would injure his hips upon these planks, but he will soon learn to avoid them in rising.

The common form of rack and manger for primary stalls is on the whole not very objectionable. When the hay and straw are cut, the rack is quite unnecessary, and if one be used, it would be much better to set it in a vertical position than inclined, as is usual. The horse would feed more easily and be less annoyed by dust. The edge of the manger should be protected by a strip of board iron, both that it may not be destroyed and that the horse be not tempted to acquire the vicious habit of cribbing.

The best mode of fastening a horse in a stall is the English one of attaching a light weight to the end of the halter, and allowing it to run up and down under the manger, which should always be boarded in front from the floor up. By this arrangement the horse enjoys sufficient liberty, and yet has no chance of getting cast by stepping over his halter.

### Soiling Farm Stock.

The Mark Lane *Express* publishes the following remarks from Mr. Mechi:—"The longer I farm, the more I am convinced of the superior economy of soiling farm stock. It is cheaper and better to bring feed to the animal than the animal to the food, because in the latter case he is permitted to trample, excrete, and lie upon it. One of the largest and most successful farmers I know, has no cumbersome, obstructive hedges to impoverish him: he has always folded his sheep and cut the grass for them—one man, a lad, and a horse chaff cutter being on the field, there feeding the sheep with green grass, chaff, mixed with cake, &c. He has always been among the very best root and corn growers of all my acquaintance. Green tares, clover, &c., are all passed through the chaff cutter for my horses and cattle, the corn is ground, and the roots pulped. One trial will prove the fact, and put money into the pockets of my agricultural friends. My sheep and lambs are close folded, and have no more food than they clear off. I old moved twice a day—one fifteen feet iron hurdle to every five sheep. Lambs have the first bite, and are followed by the ewes to clear it all up—tares, clover, and Italian rye grass."

"Is not mildew often caused by too thick sowing and consequent laid crops. My wheat crops from a bushel of seed per acre drilled, are all I can desire; and even two pecks per acre are undistinguishable from the rest of the field."

Messrs. Orendorf Brothers, of McLean Co., Ill., recently had at Chicago a lot of 81 hogs, fed by one of them, the average live weight of which was 513 pounds; and a lot of 60, fed by the other brother, the average weight of which was 509 pounds. They were Poland China hogs, and were seventeen months old.

### Points of Excellence—Ayrshires.

The New York State Agricultural Society furnish their judges of Ayrshire cattle with the following points of excellence in the Ayrshire cows, with the appendix accompanying in the case of the bull.

#### POINTS OF EXCELLENCE IN AN AYRSHIRE COW.

**Head**—As in the other breeds, small; the face long and narrow; the muzzle and nose variable in colour. .... 4

**Eye**—Placid, and not strikingly large. .... 2

**Ear**—Of full size, and of an orange colour within. .... 4

**Horns**—Small, tapering, with an outward and upward turn, and set on wide apart; the face somewhat dishing. .... 2

**Neck**—Of medium length, clean in the throat, very light throughout, and tapering to the head. .... 4

**Shoulders**—Lying snugly to the body, thin at their tops, small at their points, not long in the blade, nor loaded with muscle. .... 6

**Chest**—Must retain sufficient width and roundness to ensure constitution. The lightness of the fore-quarter, and the "wedge shape" of the animal, from the hind-quarter forward, arising more from a small, flat, and thin shoulder, than from any undue narrowness of the chest. .... 12

**Crops**—Easily blend in with so thin a shoulder, and prevent all hollowness behind. .... 4

**Brisket**—Not overloading the fore end, but light. .... 4

**Back**—Should be straight, and the loin wide, the hips rather high and well spread. .... 3

**Pelvis**—Roomy, causing a good breadth at what is termed the "thurl" or "round bone," and between the points of the rumps. .... 4

**Quarters**—Long, tolerably muscular, and full in their upper portion, but moulding into the thighs below, which should have a degree of flatness, affording thus more space for a full udder. The flank well let down, but not heavy. .... 6

**Ribs**—Behind springing out very round and full, affording space for a large udder, which by Ayrshire breeders is considered very essential to secure the milking property; the whole carcass thus acquiring increased volume towards its posterior portion. .... 8

**Rumps**—Nearly level with the back, projecting but little. .... 4

**Tail**—Thin in its cord, of full length, light in its hair, and set somewhat further into its lack than would be admissible in some other breeds. .... 1

**Legs**—Delicate, and fine in the bone, inclining to be short and well knit together at the points. .... 3

**Udder**—In this breed is of more especial importance, as the Ayrshires have been bred almost exclusively with reference to their milking properties. The great feature of the udder should be capacity, without being fleshy. It should be carried squarely and broadly forward, and show itself largely behind. As it rises upward, it should not mingle

too immediately with the muscle of the thighs, but continue to preserve its own peculiar texture of skin—thin, delicate, and ample in its folds. The teats should stand wide apart, and be lengthy, but not large and coarse. .... 12

**Hair**—Soft and thick, in the phraseology of the country, woolly. .... 4

**Colour**—Varies; a dark red, a rich brown, a liver colour, or mahogany, running into almost a black; those very much broken and spotty at the edges on a white ground are the favourite colours at the present time. The light yellow is, however, a colour sometimes found on good cows; but those pale colours are objected to from an impression that such belong to animals of less constitution. .... 1

**Carrriage**—Should be light, active, and even gay; this latter appearance is much promoted by the upward turn of the horn. .... 1

**Quality of Handling**—Will show the skin to be of medium thickness only, moving freely under the hand, and evincing a readiness in the animal to take on flesh when a drain on the constitution is no longer made by the milk pail. .... 6

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#### POINTS OF EXCELLENCE IN THE AYRSHIRE BULL.

The points desirable in the female are generally so in the male, but must of course be attended with that masculine character which is inseparable from a strong and vigorous constitution. Even a certain degree of coarseness is admissible; but then it must be so exclusively of a masculine description as never to be discovered in a female of his get.

In contradistinction to the cows, the head of the bull may be shorter, the frontal bone broader, and the occipital flat and stronger, that it may receive and sustain the horn; this latter may be excused if a little heavy at the base, if its upward form, its quality and colour, be right. Neither is the looseness of the skin attached to and depending from the lower jaw to be deemed other than a feature of the sex, provided it is not extended beyond the bone, but leaves the gullet and the throat clear and free from dewlap.

The upper portion of the neck should be full and muscular; for it is an indication of strength, power and constitution. The spine should be strong, the bones of the loin long and broad, the genital organs large, and the whole muscular system wide, and thoroughly developed over the entire frame.

**SHEEP FARMING IN SCOTLAND.**—Sheep farming is an extensive business in Scotland. In June last there were 6,700,000 sheep in that country, and of these 4,500,000 were on regular mountain sheep farms; the remainder were on arable lands. In the Lowland hills about two acres are required, on an average, for each sheep, and each farm grazes from 500 to 2,500 animals. The Highland sheep farms comprise from 1,000 to 25,000 sheep; the common size, however, runs from 4,000 to 6,000. Highland sheep farming is regarded as a more speculative business than Lowland, the weather being more severe. In the Lowlands the principal stocks are of the Cheviot breed, while in the Highlands the large proportion are the hardy black-faced sheep.—*Turf, Field and Farm.*