

Breeder and Grazier.

Advantages of Keeping Stock Well.

We are afraid to feed our stock. "So much feed and so valuable!" These are the thoughts. And so the hay is spared, and the grain withheld. The result is, the certain running down of the stock, when the feed is the very thing we seek to convert into profit; the more we can use the better—the greater will be our profit.

"But so much hay will be fed! and I'll only have my cows in the spring!" Less would still give me my cows. I get my milk and they go into pasture the same as though I had fed away my hay and my grain; and I would have to buy, besides! And thus poor farming is continued. But such a dairy of poor, weak cows will do but little more than what a good dairy will do, while this, if kept up to the highest point, will produce a still greater difference; for the great feeders consume the raw material, and produce a proportionately large quantity of butter and cheese and beef. Your well-kept cow will yield, as we have said, double, and more than double the quantity of milk that it otherwise would, and it will be richer.

Does any one question this? If so, it is because he has not tested it. But let him inquire into the matter, and all doubts as to the benefits to be derived from liberal feeding will at once vanish. It will then be perceived that it takes only a certain amount of feed to keep a cow—to keep her the year through. If she has less, she will run down, and she must have the deficit restored to repair the loss, or else she will do poorly; the machine for converting feed into milk being weak and out of order, it cannot perform the work which a stronger machine in good running order would do. You get four, five or six pounds of butter per week from your cow. Had a little more hay or grain been added, the condition of the cow would have been kept up, her strength would have been maintained, and all her organs well conditioned and in full vigorous operation, and the result would have been seven, eight, nine, ten, or as we have known, twelve and fifteen pounds of butter per week. This we have seen demonstrated in many cases. We have seen it in single cows as well as in whole dairies, and we are seeing it daily. Every reader, we will venture to say, can see the same, if he will only inquire, or test the matter.

Well, how much difference does this make in a season? From five or six (as an average) to nine or ten pounds. It makes nearly half; it is therefore nearly doubling the butter or cheese. Will the little difference in hay or grain balance this? Is it more than a trifle compared with the increase of product which now gets all the benefit?

Then there are other advantages besides in keeping stock well. The theory is, that it is the only true one, to feed all your stock well eat, and of the best kind, short of that which would result in the laying on of fat, which young stock and milch cows are apt to do. A little feed laid up in fat is no harm as it will be there ready to supply any deficiency that may result from any mishap or untoward circumstance that may arise, for fat in the system is food laid up in store.

In thus feeding freely, you make away with your feed but comparatively little faster than you would if you scrimped your stock, for it takes the same quantity of food to keep at a certain point whether that be a high condition or a low one. You gain, in your feed, only what the cow loses in declining from one condition to another; then it costs just as much to keep them there as in the better condition; provided always you do not over-feed or waste. Feed as much as can be well digested, and as much as will be eaten under such circumstances.

We see dairymen, that is our best farmers (and they, certainly, are not the tools), feed—how? What quality of stock do such men keep? You go there to see the best stock. Do you ever hear them say it does not pay to keep the best—not necessarily blooded stock, but stock kept in the best condition? No; you never hear them say this. They will tell you you must keep up your stock if you would realize profit by it, both sheep and cattle, as well as horses, hogs, poultry and all. They have much stock, and they make it pay—to a great extent they have accumulated their means in this way. But the poor farmers have poor stock, and it is keeping poor

stock, for one thing, that keeps them poor; and the probability is, that, as the keeping of such stock betrays ignorance, other business connected with the farm will be conducted accordingly.

The proper way then is, to inquire into the matter and see, and then act upon the result. This is the simple way in which people generally succeed, and not by proceeding hap-hazard. Remember! animals are machines for passing food through, with a view to realizing a profit thereupon.—*F. G. in Live Stock Journal.*

Balking.

As to the matter of "balking," no general direction can be given, or rule established. If the education of the colt has been conducted in accordance with the principles I have in previous pages laid down, he will not balk. Balking on the part of colts is, for the most part, the result of the trainer's ignorance or passion. Yelling and whipping on the part of the trainer or driver, over-loading, sore shoulders, or ill fitting collars, these are the causes that make horses balk. But if you have a horse or colt that balks while I can not, without a personal knowledge of the subject, tell you what to do, I can tell you what not to do—never whip. If he won't go, let him stand still and think it over. He will very often think of it, and after a few moments' reflection, and a few passes of his head, go on of his own accord. Or, if this does not answer, get out of the waggon and pat him, and talk to him kindly. A horse is very susceptible to kindness, and I have known more than one quite vicious horse gentled into good behavior by a few pats from a lady's gloved hand on the moist neck and veined muzzle. Sometimes it is well to loosen a strap or start a buckle. I have known the act of mere unchecking and rechecking the animal answer the purpose. It took his attention off in another direction, you see, changed the current of his thought, and broke up his purpose and determination to resist. For this same reason, an apple, or a bunch of grass from the roadside, or a handful of oats, or a few kernels of corn, will often accomplish what an hour of beating would never effect. The truth is, a man must govern himself before he can hope to govern lower animals. A man flushed with passion his brain charged with heated blood, and eyes blazing with rage is not in a condition to think clearly; and it is just this *thinking clearly* that is, above all else, needed in directing and controlling horses. Hence it is that contact with horses, and an actual experience in teaching them, is one of the finest disciplines a man can have. He grows to love the cult he is teaching, and no nature is utterly depraved in which is going on the exercise of affection, no matter how humble the object of it may be. His employment makes it necessary for him to think, and this keeps intellect, which might otherwise have no development alive. The language of the stable is not, as many pious and ignorant people imagine, all slang. Care and anxiety are felt in the groom's room, and consultations held, upon the issue of which the health and safety of valuable property depend. Plans are formed, and methods of procedure adopted, upon which fame, and vast sums of money, come and go. Faults of nature and practice are corrected, and the trainer discovers, that, in schooling his creatures, he is being schooled himself. Thus, as in all other branches of honorable industry, the horseman discovers that he is the point from which his current goes forth and another enters in. He bestows, and he receives, he educates, and is educated; and the life which so many thoughtless people despise, closes, as in the case of Ilram Woodruff, the upright in heart and act—with honor, and a fame which can fall only when kindness toward animals, and integrity among men, are regarded as of no account.—*From Mr. Murray's Book on "The Perfect Horse."*

An Hour with the Blooded Cattle.

To any person who has an eye for beauty and symmetry of form in the animals of God's creation, it will richly repay to drive to the stock farm of Robert Milne, Esq., of Lockport, in this country, on purpose to see some of the finest specimens of thorough-bred short-horns to be found in this or any other state. Having been formerly engaged in the same line of business for a few years, we recently visited the hospitable home of Mr. Milne, for the express purpose of looking at his large herd of bovine aristocracy. After partaking of a sumptuous dinner with Mr. Milne and his excellent family, we repaired to the barn-yard and pastures, and feasted our eyes for an hour upon the "straight-backs," the low, full "briskets," perpendicularly straight legs, the "lining out" from the

point of the hip, the full flanks, the gentle eyes, the delicate horns, and even to the well balanced and beautiful tapering tails.

Mr. Milne is, we believe, the pioneer breeder of short-horns in Will County, having been engaged for a number of years actively, in his efforts to serve the public interest, as well as his own in the improvement of the stock in the west. His herd at present numbers about 50 head, all herd-book animals, whose pedigrees are clear and unquestioned. Taking into consideration the large number of this herd, it is the best round lot of Durham cattle we have seen in the state, belonging to one man. There is not a scallawag or inferior animal in the herd; great uniformity, and uniformly good, is the strong characteristic of the herd. Much the larger number, of course, are cows and heifers, many of them superior milch cows.

Mr. Milne has lately added materially to the value of his herd by an importation of two animals from Scotland, one of each sex. The bull calf is a deep, rich red color, soft coat of hair, well grown of his age and very perfectly formed, and is without a most beautiful animal. Mr. Milne has resided at Lockport for thirty years, and is known by a large circle of acquaintances throughout the state, as a man of the strictest integrity and honor, and, consequently those who purchase of him for breeding purposes are not disappointed in the quality of the stock from exaggerated and high-wrought descriptions.

In Mr. M.'s barn cellar we observed an item of general interest to all farmers and feeders of stock, especially dairymen. Some large bins were well filled with mangel-wurtzel beets, 5,000 bushels of which were raised on ten acres of ground the last season. This vegetable is highly nutritious, and forms a large part of the winter's food for this valuable herd of cattle. Farmers! try a half acre of it next year.—*Joliet Sun.*

Hints on Feeding.

This is an all-important matter to look to. There are not many turnips or roots grown in the United States, or oil cake available for feed; therefore something must be sought as a substitute, and you must set up an engine to shell and grind corn, and cut hay. Mix the cut hay with the corn meal, and linseed or flax meal, and other feed stuffs, and steam all together, and you have a good feed that cattle will thrive on. Some people say Nature has prepared all feed for animals. That is a mistake. Man is set on the face of Nature, and must prepare and make the feed in a proper form for the animal to digest it, so that its blood and body may be kept in good order, or the animal would soon become ill-shaped and diseased. For instance, feeding on corn, in the ear or shelled, will soon prove this idea true. The blood becomes too much heated, and disease presents itself. How many cattle are troubled with foul, a disease in their feet, difficult to get rid of as long as they are allowed to stand in wet litter and are fed with dry corn? Why not grow more flax or linseed, and use it freely in steamed food? Then you might expect to see your cattle taking on flesh in good and perfect order.

Cleanliness is the point next in importance. The animal should lie on a clean, dry bed of straw, and by setting the animal up from the channel of the footpath you obtain this, the channel carrying off all liquid, which is drained into the tank, and is highly useful for enriching the pastures for summer feed and expelling some of those weeds which low over-run them.

There is one point I would here notice in the Short-horn cows—that is, garget or spoiled bags, owing mainly to suckling their calves. They should be carefully followed, and all milk remaining after suckling be taken from them, and their bags rubbed dry; and should the animal be out of order, it should be attended to immediately, for bad results sometimes follow where a little attention in time would have set it right.

Good usage is of great importance in raising fine stock, and the countenance of the animal soon indicates whether good or bad treatment is practiced. I have known bad treatment used in the attempt to subdue an animal, but it always failed.

BRASS TIPS ON CATTLE'S HORNS.—Will you, or some of your subscribers, inform me how to put brass balls upon the horns of cattle? Can they be put on with the expectation of remaining, when the horns first appear? J. L. A. Canton, Miss. [Screw them on with any kind of a wrench that will fit the button. If the horn is slender, the point which protrudes through the button should be cut off. They are not usually put on until the animal is at least three years of age. We do not remember seeing them on any animal younger than that.]—*Country Gentleman.*