

in those limits by those who are willing to be

Our agricultural societies ought to require every exhibitor of sheep, at their fairs, to state explicitly the day on which those sheep were stigmatized as two-penny tricksters. previously sheared, and whether they have been housed from storms, or fed anything but grass between the 1st of May and the 1st of December.

One more point I would call your attention to, which is barely alluded to in my recent report. We need better and more definite statistics of breeding flocks than we now obtain. If A tells me that he procures five pounds of washed wool per head, from a flock of sheep containing so many rams, ewes and wethers, he gives me a very indefinite piece of information. If he gives their respective ages, he vastly adds to the information; but it is still indefinite. To judge accurately of the value and profitableness of his flock, for wool production, I must know how much wool he obtains from amount of feed. Am I told that, as a general thing, it is not conveniently practicable to obtain this information?—Well it is at least easy enough to find the comparative product to consumption, as between different flocks. Speaking in general, sheep unquestionably consume in proportion to their weight. Those of the same breed and habits consume in the same proportion. Thus the several varieties of the Merino, daily consume about one-thirtieth of their weight of good hay in winter, and an equivalent of green feed in summer.

The flock, then, which produces most wool, in proportion to weight of carcass, is, other things being equal, most profitable. And between extremes of size, other things should be about equal, in a sheep kept mainly for wool production, and for the increase of its kind. Large size is not desirable *per se* in such sheep. By an invariable law of matter, small spheres or spheroidal bodies, like the carcass of a sheep, have more surface, in proportion to weight and diameter, than larger ones. For example, a round shot, two inches in diameter weighs 1.092 pounds, and has 11.50 inches of surface to one pound weight; while a shot eight inches in diameter weighs 69.889 pounds, and has 2.87 inches of surface to the pound. This enormous disparity, in proportionable surface, diminishes, as between larger spheres, but still it is a material one, between a sheep weighing one hundred, and another weighing one hundred and fifty pounds. Too small sheep, however, are objectionable, on several almost obvious grounds, (which I have not space now to point out,) and, all things considered, fair, plump, medium size, for the breed, is the best one.

#### RULE TO DETERMINE THE WEIGHT OF ANIMALS.

Butchers and cattle dealers buy cattle and swine often by estimated weight; and by much practice can judge, perhaps, very nearly the true weight. In this respect they have an advantage over the farmer, from whom they buy.

As it seems desirable that the buyer and seller should be on equal footing, I give you a simple rule by which to estimate the weight of cattle and swine. I gave the same once before in the Farmer, and invited those who had opportunity, (*viz.*, all farmers who are slaughtering their

winter stock of meat,) to test the rule by trial, and report the results. No one has responded, from which I infer that it is generally considered a humbug not worth the trial. I have since had opportunity to verify it in several instances, in two only of which has the actual weight by the scales, varied *four pounds* from the estimated weight by the rule. The one case, a very poor steer, fell short six per cent; the other case, a very fat hog, overran six per cent. I am satisfied that by applying this rule, no farmer need be in doubt as to the weight of any animal within twenty pounds, and with a little practice and observation, even nearer than this. I give the rule again, as follows: Multiply the length, (measured from the point of the shoulder to the extreme of the buttock,) in inches, by the square of the number of inches of girth and divide this product by five hundred and fifteen. For lean cattle deduct six per cent—for very fat cattle add six per cent. In the measurement of hogs, as the head makes part of the weight, a little more length must be allowed, *viz.*, measure forward to such point (as near as can be judged,) as that the head and neck, if evenly distributed over it, would make it the size of the body.

#### CHANGE OF PASTURES.

In an essay on Dairy Farming, by X. A. Willard in the Transactions of the New-York State Agricultural Society for 1861, the following remarks occur on change of pastures for cows—a subject on which there has heretofore been some difference of opinion among farmers:—

The practice, which obtains with some, of dividing the pastures into separate fields, and changing the herd, every week or two from field to field, is now generally disapproved of by our best dairymen.

Cows confined to one field are more quiet and contented—they will usually go over in the course of the day every portion of the field, selecting their food, and when filled they lie down to rest, and *manufacture grass into milk*.

All extra labor, excitement and gluttonous feeding, from an over stimulated appetite, lessens the quantity of milk. Everything about the "every day pasture," is familiar, and if food is abundant they have no thought beyond leisurely taking their meals, and reclining at ease on some favorite spot, ruminating or dosing over their "*knitlin work*," as Mr. Fish aptly terms it—no shadow of discontent clouding their peaceful, and seemingly happy existence.

But let a bite of grass in new fields be had, and all this is changed—they overfeed, and in consequence their health is more or less deranged; they tramp round in every nook and corner of the field, in search of dainties—become restless or discontented, and not unfrequently some of the more active and enterprising members of the herd, try fences and make excursions into fields of grain and prohibited crops.

We have seen herds with one or two unruly disposed members, though perfectly quiet and orderly while confined to one pasture, become so restless and discontented from a change to new fields, as to become exceedingly troublesome, and to cause serious loss.

There are other reasons—the cost of building and maintaining a division fence is a