

LIVE STOCK.

Beef Cattle Slowly Improving.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":
I purchase nearly all the cattle I feed, and do not find them more difficult to secure than formerly. Drivers bring them in large numbers every fall to sell to farmers for stall feeding. I would say that the quality has been improving slowly the past ten years. Most of the cattle brought here for feeding show more or less breeding.

In some sections cattle can be raised at less cost than with us in Wellington County. A steer 2½ years old should be worth \$40.00 to \$45.00. I do not think he can be raised for less.

Stall feeding is preferred in this section. We can grow grain, hay and roots, but our soil is not so suitable for pasture as in some other sections. A bunch of good steers, stall-fed, should make an average increase in weight of at least 50 lbs. a month, and should increase in value so as to pay the feeder \$5.00 to \$6.00 a month.

When feeding liberally we prefer the cattle tied up, as each animal is then sure to get its allowance. Hay, roots and mixed grain chopped is the principal feed we use; we feed three times a day, and water regularly. We commence with a light grain ration, keep increasing for six or eight weeks until a full ration is arrived at, which should be about one pound of meal for every 100 lbs. of the animal's live weight. Keep comfortable, warm, with good ventilation; use common sense in the management of the animals and all will go well.

Stockers are not raised for sale in this section, and very little finishing is done on grass. Our pastures are not as suitable for finishing as in some other parts of the country.

Wellington County.

G. B. HOOD.

Itemized Cost of a Stocker.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":
I might say that to sell good stockers or feeders is something I would never do, as I think it more profitable to finish them for the block. Of course there may be cases where it is advisable to sell as feeders, as, for instance, where a man has not proper feed or stables, or time or ability to finish them. The business of raising stockers has the advantage over dairying of requiring less work for the amount of food consumed, hence better where labor is scarce or for a bachelor farmer; or, it answers well where one has a pasture farm at some distance from his cultivated farm, so that his cows could not be driven to and fro every day. Probably one need not be so particular as regards carefulness of handling and time of feeding, hence better for a man who cannot be always on hand at just the right time to feed. The latter considerations apply also to the advantages of stocker-rearing for sale over finishing for beef.

Certainly it is better to raise and sell stockers than to feed practically no stock and sell the fertility of your farm in grain and hay; though in selling stockers you sell more fertility or fertilizing constituents than in selling any other class of farm stock, still you do return a large percentage to the soil and much vegetable matter in the manure.

I have calculated to the best of my knowledge and judgment the exact cost of rearing a calf and feeder under our particular conditions, but as I have never kept an exact account of these things, they may not be exactly correct. Objection might be taken to the price of some things, as, for instance, new milk. I have rated it at about its value for buttermaking. We will suppose the calf to be bred from beef-producing dam and sire, and to be dropped May 1st:

Fed 15 days on new milk, 6 qts. per day; 90 qts. at 2c.	\$ 1 80
Fed 15 days on half new and half skim milk; 50 qts. new, \$1; 50 qts. skim, 10c.	1 10
Fed 5 months—150 days—on 10 qts. skim milk per day; 1500 qts. at 4c. per qt.	3 75
Fed ½ lbs. linseed meal per day; 40 lbs., at 4c. per lb.	1 60
Fed 1½ lbs. ordinary meal per day; 225 lbs., at 1c. per lb.	2 25
Pasture, green feed, etc., for this period	1 00
This brings us to the end of October, when it should go into the stable for 6 mos.—180 days.	
Fed 2 lbs. meal per day; 360 lbs., at 1c.	3 60
Fed 10 lbs. roots per day; 30 bush., at 5c.	1 50
Fed 10 lbs. ensilage per day; 1800 lbs., at 1c.	1 80
Fed 4 lbs. clover hay per day; 720 lbs., at 1.3c.	2 40
Then 6 months' pasture, at 50c. per month.	3 00
Then 6 months' stable feed, as follows:	
Fed 15 lbs. roots per day; 45 bush., at 5c.	2 25
Fed 20 lbs. ensilage per day; 3600 lbs., at 1c.	3 60
Fed 5 lbs. clover hay per day; 900 lbs., at 1.3c.	3 00
No grain fed this winter.	
Then 6 months' pasture, at 75c. per month.	4 50

2½ years old for total cost of.....\$37 15
Such a steer should weigh about 1,100 lbs., and cost about 8½c. per pound, without counting labor or straw, against which I place the manure.

Simcoe Co.

A. W. P.

Molasses for Fattening Cattle.

Within recent years molasses has become one of the staple stock feeds of Texas. The cane molasses sold for feeding is the refuse after all the crystallized sugar obtainable has been taken from the concentrated juice of the cane. It is a thick, black mess, having somewhat the appearance of coal tar, but a pleasant odor and sweet taste. It runs on an average about 12 pounds to the gallon, or 170 gallons to the ton. The sugar refining companies in Texas offer feeding molasses, barreled, at 6 cents per gallon, and the same factories quote the molasses in tank cars at 2½ cents per gallon.

Molasses is essentially a fattening food, containing no digestible protein worth while, but a carbohydrate content of from 41 to 70 per cent. It has, therefore, been especially recommended for feeding in combination with cottonseed meal and hulls, which are excessively rich in protein. The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station has been experimenting considerably with molasses as a stock food, and their conclusions are thus summarized, in a recent bulletin by Profs. John A. Craig and F. R. Marshall:

1. In our experiments the addition of molasses to a fattening ration has always produced an increased gain.

2. Addition of molasses to a ration of cottonseed meal and hulls lowered the cost of gains.

3. When molasses was added to a balanced ration it gave larger gains and improved the appearance of the cattle, but did not lower the cost of gain.

4. There was no undesirable result from feeding yearling steers one gallon of molasses each per day, and there is good reason to believe that larger amounts might be used.

5. In one experiment the cheapest gains in each month were made by the lot receiving most nearly a balanced ration.

6. Molasses returned from three to thirty cents per gallon. The lower value was obtained when molasses was added to a ration already balanced, and when, in the early part of the feeding period, an unbalanced ration was fed the higher value was obtained.

Steers that Rob Their Feeders.

In a recent article by Prof. Fraser, strikingly illustrated by that great aggregation of thieving cows, we saw, writes Dr. A. S. Alexander, in the Live-stock Report, that many farmers are simply boarding "critters" for the fun of it, as they get no profit for the work and feed they expend in their maintenance. It now strikes us that what is true of dairy cows is equally true of feeding steers, for unless the latter not only put on plenty of flesh and fat in return for the good food they consume, but put it on in the least possible time, with the least possible waste, and distribute it upon the most profitable parts of their frames, they are robbers, stealing their feed and making the labor of their feeder of no avail.

To such a category belongs the long-legged, gaunt, brindle, long-horned steer that shows to be of fast running breed, for his underline is carried up at the flank like that of a greyhound, and, chased by a yellow dog, we are sure that he could emulate the timber-topping abilities of hunters such as Tim Blong used to ride at the Chicago Horse Show. Try to fill the hand with slack skin on such a steer and the feat proves impossible, for the hide of him is stretched tight over his "slats," like the skin on a snaredrum. And he is a snare in fact, and to be drummed off the farm as soon as possible.

Then there is the steer of dairy blood, from one of Prof. Fraser's 1,020 cows that failed to pay their board. He has cat hams, a long tail, big bones, a lank, lean body, showing as many "points" on which to hang one's hat as did Don Quixote's charger or one of ex-Governor Hoard's typical dairy-formed, nervous-energy-possessed milch cows. The woe-begone face of him well might indicate his echoing emptiness, elastic appetite for every good food in sight, and sorrow at the impossibility of filling that aching void or appeasing that gnawing and expensive hunger. In similar fashion, we might go on describing the idiosyncrasies of conformation and cussedness of a great variety of alleged feeding steers that cheat their owners. But what's the use? Two such as we have outlined serve sufficiently to draw attention to the great army of nondescript, worthless brutes eating high-class, expensive, nutritious food on a multitude of rich farms and transferring it into manure piles not too much appreciated by their owners. The manure is about the only profit from the feeding of such wasteful beasts, and does not nearly repay the owner for the expense incurred. The place of each of these feed-wasters might and should be taken by a good steer, bred to convert feed into high-class beef, carried upon the best parts of the carcass, and put there in quick time, at an early age, and with the slightest degree of waste. Such steers are to be had. They may be had if the owner of the farm but decides that he must have them, and then goes earnestly to work to produce his better

steers with these profit-paying, special-purpose feeding animals.

Of the man who this winter is feeding good feed into "skin," "canner"-type, robber steers, let us ask, "What's the use?" There is no profit in the work, and it would be far better not to feed at all than feed steers of the hungry, never-satisfied, never-fattened type. Sort over the steers in the feed-lot. Bunch up the good ones and weigh them. Keep track of the feed used daily and per week, and weigh again. This is as profitable work as weighing the milk of the dairy cow and testing its content of butter-fat. It will lead to an early detection of the robber steer, and the sooner he is found out and sold to supply the sinews of war to some foreign army, the better will it be for the farmer, and, mayhap, the sooner will come the end of the war by peaceful demise of the warriors.

British Pure-bred Stock Sales in 1906.

By W. W. Chapman.

For many years it has been my privilege to compile a summarized account of the leading auction sales of live stock in Great Britain for the information of Canadian readers. It is with great pleasure that the summarized account of the principal auction sales of live stock during the year 1906 has been prepared.

The British live-stock breeder has had a grand year, a year the like of which few now in the business can remember. His brother in Canada will be equally pleased with the excellent result that has been obtained.

The reference to the sales is made in the following order: horses, cattle, sheep and swine.

HORSES.

The result of a careful survey of the horse sales during the past year shows clearly that, except in the case of dispersal sales, a greater preference is being given by the vendors to the combination sales now held in the more convenient centers throughout the country. As a consequence of this there is greater difficulty in obtaining full averages of either the sales or for the different ages sold, because, as a rule, the sale reports of these larger sales give but the higher prices realized, ignoring those of the lower range of value.

THE SHIRE HORSE.—The best average of the year at a home sale was that realized by Mr. R. W. Hudson for forty head, i.e., £86 6s. 9d. It was at this sale that the best price of the year for two-year-old fillies was realized, 450 guineas. The nine of this age included in the sale worked out at an average of £134. Mr. H. Jagger's sale brought an average of £83 19s. for thirty-nine head; 300 gs. being made for a three-year-old filly.

Sir A. Henderson's sale resulted in an average of £80 8s. for thirty-five head. Here the best prices of the year for three-year-old fillies, 310 gs., and yearling fillies 260 gs., were realized.

Excellent averages were realized at the sales held by the estates of the late Mr. P. Stubbs, the late Mr. P. L. Mills, and Messrs. W. & J. Thompson. The respective averages were £68 10s. for forty-one head; £65 6s. 5d. for fifty-six head, and £62 12s. 7d. for thirty-eight head.

The best price of the year for stallions was 340 gs., for three-year-old stallions 140 gs., for two-year-old stallions 280 gs., for yearling stallions 220 gs., for colts 120 gs., for brood mares 510 gs., another making 400 gs., and for filly foals 200 gs.

THE HACKNEY SALES indicated a strong demand. Mr. A. Moreton realized an excellent average, with prices ranging from 140 gs. Sir Gilbert Greenall's average for fifty-four head was £58 15s. Mr. Lysaght secured £44 for seventy-seven head. Amongst the leading prices realized were 175 gs. for stallions, 86 gs. for yearling stallions, 650 gs. for brood mares, another making 350 gs., 100 gs. for three-year-old fillies, 200 gs. for two-year-old fillies, and 135 gs. for yearling fillies, whilst geldings made from 395 gs. downwards.

The demand for hunters and harness horses was a very keen one indeed, the former making, amongst other prices, 600 gs., 570 gs., 500 gs., 700 gs., etc.

CLYDESDALES made some notable prices; amongst those for stallions were 750, 400 and 295 gs.; for colts 145 gs.; for brood mares 515 and 290 gs.; for three-year-old fillies 140 gs.; two-year-old fillies 160 gs., and filly foals 105 gs.

THE SUFFOLK sales reported were very few in number. Amongst the leading prices for this breed were: Stallions 160 gs.; two-year-old stallions 76 gs.; brood mares 150 gs., and fillies from 64 gs.

CATTLE.

The record of Shorthorn sales this year is one that has not been equalled in the history of the breed, taking into consideration the large number of sales which have taken place during that period. It is true in the seventies some few higher prices and higher averages were made, but these were very much more limited in number. The top place in the average list is occupied by Mr. Duffie, at whose sale eighteen bull calves made the notable average of £304 15s. per head, with the top price of 850 gs. Closely following this comes the dispersed sale of the late Mr. P. L. Mills' herd, at which one bull and one head realized £155 19s. 5d.; the two best were 1,100 gs. for a bull, and 600 gs. for females.

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