

## STOCK & DAIRY

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### A SOUTHDOWN FARM IN ENGLAND.

"The excellence of English farm stock is owing, more than anything else, to the perfect adaptation of locality and soil, and the raising of the most suitable fodder crops. This is strikingly apparent in a description of a Southdown farm devoted to Southdowns, belonging to Mr. Wm. Ridgen, of Hove, near Brighton—one of the most successful breeders of this favorite class of sheep. This estate of 700 acres has been managed by the present occupant for 33 years; it is supplied with gas, and with water from an adjacent reservoir. There are 20 cows kept for milk, which are fed in stalls the year round. Large crops of grain and straw are grown for sale and for feed to fattening bullocks in stalls. The flock, which number 300 ewes, is however the main feature of the farm. For them large quantities of roots, cabbages, kohlrabi, scarlet clover, rape, and other green crops are grown; so that there is a constant succession of fresh feed. During the day the sheep are folded upon these crops and at night are penned upon stubble fields. The situation of the farm is such that green crops are always to be had. It is a gentle sloping chalk "downs" or smooth expanse bordering upon the southern shore of England. Thus the sheep have a very equal climate with mild sea breezes and pastures ever fresh and green. No ewe over four years is retained, and great care is exercised in choosing rams and selecting ewes for breeding. There are no fences upon the farm, and a shepherd with his dog accompanies the flock at all times. The male lambs are castrated when ten days old, fifty of the best being reserved for rams for breeding. This flock is renowned for its excellence, and rams from it are "let" for a yearly sum of \$150. The secret of this excellence is, however, acknowledged to be simply "a frequent change of food," and this conclusion is the most notable part of the whole story."—*New York Tribune*.

### THE EARLY MANAGEMENT OF LAMBS.

The season of lambing is one requiring the most watchful care of the shepherd, so that he may assist the ewes that are not doing well, and nurse the weak lambs that do not take kindly to the dam; when once the lamb has sucked there is but little further danger, unless it becomes chilled. If the ewes do not have milk at once, as is sometimes the case, a little new milk with a trifle of white sugar and a little water added, placed in a common nursing bottle with a rubber nipple, will be found of great value. The dam may also have a warm mash of oatmeal, or if this cannot be had, one made of good bran. Some ewes have twins or triplets, and do not afford milk enough for the lambs. In this case it is well to raise one or even two of these on cow's milk, as cossets, which is easily done, since there are no farm animals so easily managed in this respect as lambs. They soon learn to eat and drink, and make fine carcasses when killed.

When the lambs are from five to eight days old, they should be docked tolerably short. It not only adds to the appearance, but prevents the accumulation of filth, which detracts from their saleable value. The ram lambs should never be allowed to get more than two weeks old before they are castrated. From ten to twelve days old is the proper time.

A lamb is caught by an assistant, and the operator, which is similar—makes an incision in the bottom of the scrotum large enough to allow the testicles to be passed through. Separate one at a time from the spermatic cord by a scraping stroke with a knife not too sharp, since this does not cause so much blood to flow as when a clean cut is made. Some persons jerk the whole testicle and cord out; but this plan, although, from the shock, prevents the effusion of blood to a great degree, is unnecessarily cruel, and not to be recommended. Use no salt nor wash to the wound. It is as a rule, unnecessary. When there is considerable bleeding it may be stopped by injecting into the orifice, with a small syringe, a little tincture of mastic or tincture of muriate of iron. It is especially necessary that lambs should be castrated young, since they are more quiet, fatten better, and make superior meat when killed and are, if sold while lambs, fully as saleable as the ewes.

From the weaning time until there is a full supply of grass, the flock should be liberally fed upon the best hay, and not less than a pint of corn or, better, meal per day; and if you have carrots or sugar beets to give in addition, so much the better. Give what they will naturally eat of hay, grain, and roots, and furnish all the water and salt they need. Sheep especially like to drink a little and often. Make an inclosure that the lambs may enter, but which will keep out the ewes, supplied with a trough of meal for the lambs.

### KIDNEY WORMS IN HOGS

In regard to rubbing "pores" open one of the inside of a swine's fore-legs, and then filling them with lard, you ask, "What good purpose is served by such a process?" Let me say, I understand that their secretions are not wholly soluble in water—even with the addition of soap—but that they may be in lard, or soft grease of any kind. In the same way, when our hands get pitched or tarred badly, we use lard in combination with soap, the two acting together as a solvent better than either separately. It is the same with grease heals in horses. It is almost impossible to remove the secretion with soap and water but if after being washed, a mixture of one part verdigris and ten parts lard is rubbed in and the scabs fall off in a few hours. And, by the way, the mixture I have made is one of the best and safest of all applications for grease heels. All this is nothing.

And now about feeding arsenic to hogs. Hogs, like dogs, vomit readily, and, therefore, no dose will kill them, except in unusual conditions of the stomach. To feed a teaspoonful of arsenic is the shearest folly. If Mr. G. desires to kill kidney worms, let him feed five grains at a time, once a day, for a week. Under such a course the system becomes arsenical, just as after the use of small but repeated doses of calomel the system becomes salivated. In the state of salivation or arsenicization, the tendency of the poisoned blood is to accumulation in inflamed centres. When there are worms about the kidneys, there the poisoned blood will go; and the kidney worm being one of the lowest order of organization, has a light hold of life, and very readily dies under even the least unfavorable conditions.

Swine are universally effected with kidney worms and other kidney inflections in all warm countries. Soldiers in the South during the war told me it was rare to find a hog not more or less effected. Probably it was that liability to disease which took them out of the category of safe food in all Mahomedan countries.—[*Cor. National Live Stock*.

### SUGAR BEETS FOR FATTENING SWINE.

Jonathan Talcott gives a statement in the *Boston Cultivator* of an experiment performed on a Suffolk pig where sugar beets were largely employed for fattening. The animal was about a year old, and the feeding on boiled sugar beet, tops and roots, began on the 16th of August, and was continued thrice a day until the first of October, after which ground feed was given, consisting of two parts of corn and one part of oats, three times a day, till the animal was slaughtered, the meal being mixed with cold water. The result was on the 16th of August, when the sugar beet feeding was begun, that the weight was 60 lbs.; September 1st, 390 lbs., October 1st, 450 lbs.; November 1st, 550 lbs. This is the substance of the statement given, by which we perceive that the increase the last of August, when fed on boiled sugar beets, was at the rate of two pounds per day; the same rate of increase of the same food continued through September. When fed on ground corn and oats, made into cold slop, the gain for the next fifty days was less than a pound and a half per day.

### HOW DISEASE IS CAUSED.

A man in a country village allows a drain from his pig sty to run close to his house till it becomes a bog of putrid filth and the noxious gases from it taint continually the air which he breathes. It ran there perhaps in his father's time before him. Therefore why should he be at the expense or trouble of making a fresh drain, or removing his pigs? At last he is prostrated with fever, and has a narrow escape of his life. The woman who nurses him takes the infection, and leaves a young family motherless. The fever, very likely, spreads to half a dozen other houses, cuts off a man here, and a woman there, and several children all round—besides those who take the disease, and recover. Who is in fault?

### COTSWOLD SHEEP.

From a paper read by R. G. Hill, Esq., of Elmore, Vt., before the farmers' meeting at Morrisville:—

In shape, the Cotswold should have a straight, flat back; broad, deep chest; short legs, with a fine, small head. Avoid large, coarse-boned sheep; they will not feed with profit. The fleece should be long and open, soft and fine with a good lustre; they should be well woolled all over with an even and heavy fleece. When young they should have a heavy foretop, and the skin a light pink.

No stock will better pay for good keeping and care than these sheep, but great care should be taken not to feed to high. No farmer should let his flock get wet after it becomes cold, for many a disease is contracted in the fall by exposure, which shows itself in spring. If nature recovers, it is with great effort, and the profit of the sheep is much reduced. The whole flock should be got up every night after it becomes freezing weather, and a little good hay fed them. To drive up a flock of Cotswolds is but little trouble; a small child can do it. The Cotswold sheep need only to be fully understood to become as indispensable to the farmer as pork. There is no other meat as healthy. The wool will pay for keeping, as when kept they will shear from ten to twelve pounds unwashed wool. This wool is free from oil or gum, and will always bring from 15 to 20 cents per pound more than common wool. There is a growing demand for a good combing wool, and the manufacturers assure me that if there were many times as much first quality of combing wool raised in this country as there now is, it would be as high as now. And I am confident that nowhere can they grow a finer and higher lustered combing wool than here in Vermont.

And here I say it is not best to let them get much wet before shearing, as it is very important that combing wool should be open and free from cost. These sheep are particularly adapted to our small farms. They cannot be kept in large flocks like fine wools, so we have no fears of competitions from Australia or Texas, where one man with three or four natives will attend a thousand or more. Our climate agrees with them; keep them dry and they will pay no regard to the cold.

Now my experience is, one-third of a farm, stocked with Cotswold sheep, will yield a greater profit than two-thirds of it stocked with cows. It takes about the same to keep six of these sheep as a cow. Grade Cotswold wether lambs are worth at weaning \$10 per head to grow up for mutton.

This price paid for sixty of these lambs, if kept three years and then sold, after deducting the money invested with interest, will show a much larger profit than the average dairies of ten cows, after deducting the necessary expenses of care of the dairy, over and above that of the sheep. On this basis a flock of sheep, half wethers, the rest ewes would yield a profit of more than twice that of the cows. I have made my estimate from my own experience of six or eight years. This covers a period in which thousands of sheep should have been slaughtered for their pelts, while their pelts would scarcely pay for the slaughtering.

Great care should be taken in selecting bucks. It is an erroneous idea that the farmer cannot afford to buy a full blooded duck,—he certainly cannot afford to do without one, even if he has but a small flock. A buck should be kept in good condition at all times, and never allowed to run with the flock.

The ewes should be in a thriving condition at coupling time. Ewes will thrive and do well on good hay; however, a few roots daily are beneficial. If my hay is good, I feed no grain until after weaning; if not very good, one gill of oats a day. When intending to feed grain, we should begin when we commence feeding hay. If we have fed no grain to the ewes before weaning we should not commence until the lamb is a week old, and then increase gradually. I feed potatoes and shorts after weaning.

It is a very easy matter to make the lambs gain a pound a day, but it is much safer for them to grow not more than one-half of that for the first three months, particularly early lambs. I have had ewes to grow two lambs, a pound a day each, but when a March lamb grows thus, it is very tender, and is a fit subject for paralysis, and is liable to rheumatism. The lambs should be fed a little grain every day in winter. It is very im-

portant that they should be kept the first year.

I would not advise any farmer to have anything to do with these sheep unless he can take proper care of them. If he lets them shirk for themselves from the time they can find a bear spot in the spring, till they cannot find one in the fall, or as long as they can live, he had better keep nothing but the poorest scrubs, as they will take to the woods for shelter and take care of themselves, which these sheep will not do.

In raising a flock of Cotswold sheep it is—as with many other affairs—the neglect of seemingly small things often cause serious consequences. To show the importance of being careful I will just mention a circumstance:—Last fall some of my sheep were frightened so that they ran some fifty rods; one large fat lamb dropped dead. They should never be frightened, nor driven faster than a walk. The first few years of my keeping sheep I lost many by disease, but for the last five years I have not lost over two per cent. by disease. I occasionally lost one by accident,—occasionally find one dead in the pasture without finding a cause. For a number of years, they have not averaged one death a year in the spring, when sheep are most liable to die of disease.

To show the difference between the Cotswold and the common coarse woolled sheep, turn a small flock of each into a small pasture of 50 acres and see the result. The Cotswolds will find their way over perhaps not more than half the lot during the season, just enough to get what they need. In the fall they, are so fat they can hardly go, and I have occasionally had one drop dead, when I could find no other cause but over-fatness. The other flock in the meantime have travelled this lot over as often as once a day, and if there is a gap in the fence they are sure to find it, and do not always stop to find a gap, but go over the top of the fence without ceremony, and off they go; and now for a chase to get them in again. They have kept in just good running order; they have not taken one half as much flesh as the others, and will not sell for more than two-thirds as much per pound; while at the same time they have consumed more feed.

I can handle my sheep as I can handle my cows. I can go myself along and drive any one of my full-blood sheep to any part of the farm. I do not have to get up my sheep at weaning time, but with a small boy go into the pasture of seventy-five acres and separate the lambs for their mothers, and drive them half a mile to the house.

The lambs should be taken from their mothers in August, and the wether lambs kept gaining until the winter after they are three years old.

In the three shearings you will get from 25 to 30 lbs. of well washed wool from each sheep. They will then weigh from 200 to 300 lbs. each. This mutton will bring from 8 to 12 cents live weight. The ewes should have their first lambs when two years old; the last one when four, and very early, so the lambs may be weaned the first of August; the ewes then put into good feed will get as you can wish with but little grain. These will average 200 lbs. or more.

It is necessary that we should be constantly studying the demands of the market. The scarcity of heavy mutton makes it always in good demand and at a good price, and the demand is fast increasing.

### HOG CHOLERA AND CHICKEN CHOLERA.

A friend who has spent the last year in Canada, in the nearer and remote neighborhood of London Ont., tells me chicken cholera there is almost, if not quite, unknown. He has farmed in Central Illinois, and is of the opinion that the almost sole use of corn is the cause of chicken cholera. I find his opinion largely shared by a number of observing farmers of my acquaintance. Corn if the analysis are to be relied on, contains less of the phosphate and more of the fatty matter than any other of the cereals, and it is the poverty of of corn in the first, and to the excess of it in the last, that myself and friend empirically concluded produces the cholera, as it is called, in hogs and chickens. Where corn is so common and abundant as on Illinois farms of every kind, it is impossible to prevent chickens from getting corn at will, and where they have this opportunity they will eat nothing else of the grain kind. So of hogs. But it is noticeable that it takes several years and two or three generations of corn feeding to break down the constitution so that the ex-