

Stock.

Feed on Time.

In caring for live stock which are stabled, few factors play as important a part in the health of the animals and the economy of feed as regularity of feeding and watering. It has been proven by actual experiment, that milch cows and fattening steers, if fed at the same time each day, will give from five to ten per cent. better returns for the feed consumed than similar lots which receive their allowance at irregular intervals. The reason for this is easily understood: The digestive organs require rest, and where the ration is consumed at the same time each day, the organization soon becomes so fixed in its system of digestion that assimilation or absorption of the nutritive elements in the food takes place with less expenditure to the vital forces of the body than when no definite period for rest is allowed. It may be difficult on many farms where labor is scarce to carry out a fair degree of regularity in feeding, but it is undoubtedly worth while putting forth a great effort to do so.

The Range Steer.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

In a recent article your special correspondent in England says: "It should not be forgotten that the Canadian ranger is a grass-fed animal; that he is wild, and that he has a long, rough, harrassing railway journey before reaching ship-board." Seeing I was a stockman in the Old Country before I came to Canada, I have concluded that the range animals in Canada's West are reared very similar to the cattle on the hills at home, they only being fed when severe weather or a storm makes it absolutely necessary. At all other times they find their own food, until sold in the fall at two and a half to three years old, to be finished by the grain farmer. I cannot see why Ontario feeders cannot do the same with our Western stock.

It is, perhaps, worthy of mention in this connection, that a bullock from the old place at home, finished by a grain farmer, took the premium prize at Smithfield some twenty-five years ago. He was a Shorthorn-Galloway grade, and weighed over 3,000 pounds. MITFORD.
Cochrane, Alta.

Feeding Steers at Indian Head.

At the Indian Head Experimental Farm, ten steers are being fed this winter to determine whether a reasonable amount of daily outdoor exercise injures or assists in flesh formation during the fattening period. Five of the steers are turned out for two hours daily, the others are kept in all the time. They are all fed as much roughage, in the form of Western rye grass, as they will eat; thus the exercising ones have an opportunity to profit from the additional appetite which outdoor air creates; yet, as the meal ration in both cases is identical, this advantage, if such it may be called, is slight. The ration of meal consists of two-thirds barley and one-third wheat, small wheat or inferior grades being used. Six pounds per steer per day is the amount fed for the first month, but this is increased at the ratio of two pounds per month during the whole fattening period. The steers are at present in thrifty condition. One of them, a short time ago, weighed 1,680 pounds, and although he was then the heaviest, yet there are other big fellows of good feeding type. This is a very interesting experiment, and our readers will hear a full account of the results when the test is completed.

New Tuberculin Test Regulations.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Ottawa, Jan. 23, 1903.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of Jan. 20th, asking for information as to the new regulations in regard to the testing with tuberculin of animals imported from Europe. The system hitherto pursued having been found very unsatisfactory, the Minister has decided to allow importers to make their own arrangements re testing in Britain. All cattle arriving in Canada from Europe will now be tested after they have been sufficiently long in quarantine to settle down and become accustomed to their surroundings, the test to be conducted under such conditions as will ensure fair play to the animals and their owners, as well as to the officer making the test. Any animals which react will be permanently ear-marked, and may then be removed from quarantine at the expiry of the usual period without further restrictions, save that they must at no time be offered for export to the United States, so long as the regulations at present maintained by the Government of that country continue in force.

Under this system, this department will assume no responsibility for the testing of animals in Britain. Importers will naturally find it greatly to their advantage to have all animals purchased by them in Britain carefully tested, as otherwise the percentage of ear-marked cattle will doubtless be very large. I have the honor to be, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

J. G. RUTHERFORD,
Chief Veterinary Inspector.
Ottawa.

Judging by Score Card.

In placing live stock in the show-ring, a good judge must have a clear conception as to what constitutes a perfect animal of the class or breed with which he has to deal. He must also be familiar with their different points and be able to estimate their comparative value, and that nothing may be overlooked, he must do his work systematically. It is to impress these important factors of live-stock judging upon the mind of the beginner or student in the school of judging that the score card plays a useful part. The contention that it should accompany the practical judge in the ring is all buncombe. When anyone has been trained to use it for a time, the different points, their comparative value, and the other lessons which it is intended to teach, become so implanted in the mind of the judge that they are unconsciously made use of in actual practice.

At the judging school which will open in Winnipeg, Feb. 20th, the score card will be explained and the students will be given an opportunity to use it in the placing of animals which will be brought in. The following scale has been arranged for beef cattle:

BEEF CATTLE.

Scale of Points for Steers.	Perfect score.
GENERAL APPEARANCE:	
1.—WEIGHT—Score according to age.....	5
2.—FORM—Straight top line and under line; deep, broad, low-set	10
3.—QUALITY—Firm handling, hair fine; pliable skin; dense bone; evenly fleshed.....	10
4.—CONDITION—Deep, even covering of firm flesh, especially in regions of valuable cuts	10
5.—STYLE—Active and vigorous, but not restless; showing strong character	5
HEAD AND NECK:	
6.—MUZZLE—Broad, mouth large; jaw wide, nostrils large	1
7.—EYES—Large, clear, placid	1
8.—FACE—Short, quiet expression	1
9.—FOREHEAD—Broad, full	1
10.—EARS—Medium size, fine texture	1
11.—HORNS—Fine texture, oval, medium size.....	1
12.—NECK—Thick, short; throat clean	1
FORE QUARTERS:	
13.—SHOULDER VEIN—Full	2
14.—SHOULDER—Covered with flesh, compact on top, smooth	2
15.—BRISKET—Advanced, breast wide	1
16.—DEWLAP—Skin not too loose and drooping	1
17.—LEGS—Straight, short; arm full; shank fine, smooth	2
BODY:	
18.—CHEST—Full, deep, wide; girth large; crops full	4
19.—RIBS—Long, arched, thickly fleshed.....	8
20.—BACK—Broad, straight, smooth, even.....	10
21.—LOIN—Thick, broad	8
22.—FLANK—Full, even with under line.....	2
HIND QUARTERS:	
23.—HIPS—Smoothly covered; distance apart in proportion with other parts.....	2
24.—RUMP—Long, wide, even, tailhead smooth, not patchy	2
25.—PIN BONES—Not prominent, far apart.....	1
26.—THIGHS—Full, deep, wide	2
27.—TWIST—Deep, plump	2
28.—PURSE—Full, indicating fleshiness	2
29.—LEGS—Straight, short, shank fine, smooth	2
Total	100

Smithfield Dressed Carcasses.

Summarized reports of butchers, regarding the carcasses of cattle and sheep purchased by them from the recent Smithfield Fat Stock Show, are published in the London Live Stock Journal. These cover about 70 cattle and 33 sheep. As a rule the reports on the cattle are particularly favorable, though there have been the usual disappointments, the butcher finding an excessive proportion of fat to lean. The sheep are not so well spoken of by the butchers. There are few remarkable figures under the heading of percentage of carcass to gross live weight. The best is 72.13 (Mr. J. Thorley's), Shorthorn steer; Mr. J. C. Williams' Devon steer gave a percentage of 71.32; the King's Shorthorn steer 71.10, and His Majesty's Devon steer 70.00. Among the sheep, the highest percentages are 69.78, for Mr. J. T. Hobbs' Oxford Down wethers, and 69.26 for the Earl of Ellesmere's Southdown wethers.

Prevention of Milk Fever.

Mr. Geo. Rice, the noted Holstein breeder, writes the "Farmer's Advocate" as follows:

I notice a statement in your Nov. 20th issue, page 827, under the head, "Care of cows after calving," that may be interpreted wrong by many and do much harm. The article reads "Care should be taken to restrict the allowance of cold water for two or three days after the calf is dropped." Now, many will go and "restrict" the cow from water; and that is just what should not be done at this time. She should not have cold water—that is, not under 50 degrees—but it is the best of practice to give a cow all the water she will drink, moderately warm. The act of parturition causes thirst; it also causes constipation, and a liberal quantity of water, warm or moderately so, helps move the bowels.

I am continually getting letters asking what to do to prevent milk fever. Milk fever has no terrors for me now, because after three years' freedom I feel I have a treatment that is a preventive if followed in its entirety. This is my practice for all, as in the case of a cow that calved two days ago, which was very fat and flush, would weigh 1700 before calving; a case calling for heroic treatment. I gave her several doses of carboic acid, twice daily for 3 days a week before calving, 25 drops pure carboic in 1 pint of water and mixed on bran. When I saw she was near calving, I gave her 2 lbs. Epsom salts; she calved in 6 hours after getting the salts (just right). After calving she was very thirsty. I gave her 15 lbs. warm water; in half hour warm bran mash made very sloppy, to which I added a handful of common salt. I determined to run no chances, but made her drink all the water I wanted her to, and that is a lot. One hour after calving she got 20 lbs. or so more of water, in another hour 25 lbs. more, and an hour later another large pailful, the chill taken off it all. I had 100 to 125 lbs. water in her five or six hours after she calved, and, with other treatment, my mind was quite easy about her. As a matter of fact I went from home the next day, and felt perfectly sure she would be all right. There is virtue in plenty of water; nature craves it, the bowels need it and are kept moving when on a light diet.

[Editorial Note.—It does not seem to have occurred to our friend, Mr. Rice, that this cow might have come through the ordeal of calving without all the dosing she got, and that the drugs given her might all have been saved. We quite agree that it is well to give nature her way by supplying plenty of water, not cold, and not warm, for that is nauseating, but with the chill taken off, but even this would have been considered heresy by some theorists a few years ago, who insisted that water should be almost entirely withheld for several days, as a safeguard against milk fever. Why not let nature have her way all through the crisis, and surely the swallowing of doses of drugs is not her way. Our observation teaches us that where nature has her way fully, there are few, if any, cases of so-called milk fever. Left at liberty, the cow will lick her calf dry when born, this process, doubtless, inducing a healthy circulation of blood in both herself and the calf, and the liquid taken in the licking process likely serving to loosen the cow's bowels, and, in perhaps 9 cases out of 10, she will turn and eat the afterbirth, probably to prevent constipation. Then the care of the calf and nursing it keeps her interested and contented. Left at liberty, the calf will take a little at a time of the colostrum or first milk, which has in itself the medicinal properties needed to relax its bowels. Supposing the cow had calved on the range and there was no one near to milk her for days, would she be likely to die of milk fever as the result of not being milked? If so, the ranching business would surely be very unprofitable. We never hear of milk fever under those conditions, though cases of spoiled udder do sometimes occur, owing to the calf neglecting a quarter. We know some dairy farmers who claim that it is good practice to take the calf away from its dam as soon as born, not letting her even see it or suckle it once, and we are strongly suspicious that those who practice this plan are, as a rule, those who have the most cases of loss from "milk fever." In a long experience with cows of the beef breeds which were allowed to suckle their calves, and some of them heavy milkers and in good condition, the writer cannot recall a solitary case of milk fever, and there was no dosing with salts or other drugs. Nature just had her own way, and we have an idea that she knows a little better how it ought to be done than all the theorists. An English dairyman, keeping a herd of 100 cows, many of them heavy milkers in high condition, was quoted in this paper some time ago as stating that he has not had a case of milk fever in seven years, and he gave it as his opinion that the secret lay in allowing the calf to suck the cow for three or four days and never milking her out clean till after that time. This may be only a notion, but it is nature's way all the same, and this man has had seven years' exemption with it. Mr. Rice