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Greenville

Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Hyslop of Burlington spent Christmas at J. N. Tunis.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Clark and family spent Christmas in Dundas.

The School children's concert was a decided success, and great credit is due Miss Williams and Mr. Wills.

On Tuesday evening Mr. and Mrs. F. Hore entertained a number of friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Ofield are spending a week with friends here.

GIVE THEM A SALT BOX

Pigs and Other Live Stock Require Mineral Food.

Farm Animals Must Have a Body Builder—A Good Mineral Mixture Suggested — Combatting Field Mice.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

The feeds that we give our young animals are the body building materials, and are just as necessary to the young pig, calf, or colt as are bricks and boards to the carpenter engaged in building a house. House building and body-building are alike in that both depend upon the structural materials furnished. When we see a fine house we are at once impressed with the evidence that is before us, in good and abundant material supplied the workmen. When we see well-grown, fine and sleek calves and pigs we have the same thought—that abundant body-building material has been supplied. On the other hand when we observe a shack built of scrap lumber, or see a calf with its back up, pot bellied, under size, or a pig crippled and off its feet, we are at once struck with the thought that someone has not supplied the very necessary materials for body building or house building.

Need of Lime and Phosphorous.

Two materials that are necessary in growth and body building are lime and phosphorous. Young animals running with their dams on pasture will as a rule show no evidence of a shortage of these minerals in their development, since the milk of their dams is adjusted to the mineral requirement of the young. But as soon as the young animals become dependent on the feeds given them by man their case is different, and they are frequently very much neglected, in that a proper selection of feeds is not made for them. A calf or pig that is shut up tight in a pen has no choice; it is entirely at the mercy of the owner or feeder. Should the feeds supply all the requirement of growth, then all is well and good. If the feeds do not supply the requirements, then development cannot take place. With animals confined in pens the mineral food shortage is usually pronounced, unless some special provision is made to supply such. The effect of its absence is shown in unthrifty, crippled or dwarf animals.

Results of Experiments.

In an experiment recently concluded, where two groups of pigs were being fed the same grain ration, a remarkable difference was noted in one group that received in addition to the grain ration free access to a mineral mixture or salt box containing the following essentials to growth: Lime, bone meal, rock salt, and charcoal. The presence of the salt box in the one pen during the 124 days of the feeding experiment gave an average gain of 132.8 pounds per pig, while the pigs in the pen in which there was no salt box gave an average gain of 69.5 pounds per pig in the 124 days. The presence and use of the salt box was accountable for a gain of 63.5 pounds per pig. If young stock are out on good grass they can generally get what minerals are required for their body development. But the confined animal gets only what you give it, and the giving is indicated by the condition of the animal. If the animal does not thrive your giving has been misdirected or stinky.

Watch Your Stock.

Look at the pigs and calves on your farm. Are they "off their feet," "up in the back," "stunted," or "scrubby"? If so, then just take a look in the mirror when nobody is around and see the fellow responsible for the condition. When you recognize yourself as the stingy or neglectful feeder, proceed at once to the workshop and make a mineral-salt box, fill it, and see that the young animals never want for the essential bone and muscle building elements. The pigs and calves will be more apt to thrive, and they will also have a better opinion of you.—L. Stevenson, Sec., Ontario Dept. of Agriculture, Toronto.

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We thank you for your support and patronage during the year that is past and wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.