Live Stock for the Common Farmer.

At the recent Agricultural Convention held under the auspices of the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society, G. E. Morrow, of this paper, delivered an address on Live Stock on Wisconsin Farms, of which the following is a brief abstract:

The condition of farming in the West, and in Wisconsin and the Northwest as fully as in any other part of the country, for the past few years, as is well known, has been far from satisfactory. There has heen a general feeling that too exclusive attention has been given to grain growing, and connected with this has been a general increased interest in relation to stock raising and feeding. For this Wisconsin and the Northwest has some disadvantages, chief of which are the facts that the winters are long and cold, and there is more liability to droughts than in some other sections. There are, however, some advantages. The soil is fertile and grass and other forage grows with great rapidity. The difference in length of Wisconsin summers and those two hundred miles south is less than is generally supposed. The climate is healthful and the dry, bracing air of winter, although cold, is better than the damp, cheerless weather of some supposed to be more favored spots.

The rearing and feeding of live stock, gives work on the farm throughout the year, and thus enables the farmer to more steadily employ an important part of his capital. The growing of small grain exclusively gives hurrying work during a part of the year and leaves the farmer comparatively idle during the remainder. Live stock use up profitably much of the coarser products of the farm largely wasted in exclusive grain growing. The animals can get a good living from land which would otherwise give little or no profitable return. Keeping live stock greatly increases the quantity of manure made on the farm, and enables the farmer to better adopt a system of rotation of crops. Being able to ship live stock or animal products greatly helps Western farmers in meeting the great transportation question. Breeding, rearing and feeding animals tends to higher intelligence and better farming. Few things will tend more to give boys a love for farming than interesting them in breeding.

As nothing succeeds like success, a stronger argument in favor of giving increased attention to live stock than a feeling that this ought to be done, or arguments to show that it would be profitable, is found in the abundantly proven fact that stock raising has paid well in Wisconsin and other parts of the Northwest.

But if money is to be made, the stock must be good stock. By good stock is meant that which is well adapted for the purpose designed. In the market reports we read that one steer sold for seven cents, another for three cents a pound. One is better adapted for the designed purpose than the other. The purposes for which we desire animals are best accomplished when they are far removed from their "natural" condition. No natural or wild animal is so well fitted for meat, milk or wool production as when it has been subjected to the influence of man. "Like produces like" but with exceptions and modifications, and so by selection and careful treatment we develope the characteristics we wish, and repress those we do not desire, bearing in mind that no animal can be perfect, and that special development in one direction is usually accompanied by lack of development in other directions, and that a characteristic which has descended through several generations is much more likely to be reproduced than one in which the animal differs from his ancestors.

Thus we see why the pedigrees of animals are valued. These are partial histories of families and furnish evidence, more or less conclusive, that for generations past the ancestors have or have not had the same general character as has the individual in question. The character of the more immediate ancestors is more important those more remote, so if we know certainly the character of the sires and dams for a half dozen generations back, we need not be anxious about those more remote. Pedigree is not all that is important. A poor animal may have a good pedigree; a good animal may have a poor pedigree. If both pedigree and individual be good and then good care be given, we have assurance of success.

Admitting the desirability of making live stock prominent in our farming system, it is a pertinent question with many farmers, "how are we to change? Our farms have been devoted to grain culture; we have not the means with which to buy improved stock, nor have we the feed, had we the stock." In this, as in all such matters, time is required. A sudden change cannot be made. Grass should be sown as far as land can be spared for it. It is fortunate that the Northwest is especially adapted to the growth of crops which partially take the place of grass, and help us when the grass fails. Chief of these is corn.

By careful selection and skillful management a farmer may, in a series of generations, so improve his stock that the first and last specimens would hardly be recognized as of the same breed, but this is a slow process and hence the average farmer will do wisely to avail himself of the work done by others in this direction. Most farmers cannot afford to purchase full flocks or herds of the improved breeds. They can afford, however, to make use of well bred males and thus in a comparatively few years have animals almost or quite equal for practical purposes to those pure bred. If, in addition to this, even one or two full blood females can be secured and bred from, a great additional help will be had, and it is surprising how soon a good sized flock or herd of full blood animals can thus be secured.

It is a fallacious and unwise objection that farmers cannot afford to pay the high prices asked and received for some specimens of imported stock; for there is no need that they should, as in any well established breed, very creditable specimens can be obtained at prices which farmers can afford to pay.

In the selection of breeds it should be borne in mind that no one is perfect; no one adapted for all uses and climates; that the breed best for one man may be illy suited to the wants of another. It is unwise to have so strong prejudices as to be unable to see any merit in but one breed. On the other hand, it is well to have well established convictions, for in stock raising, frequent or aimless crossing of breeds is always an evil.

For the professional stock-breeder it is often advisable to give attention to but one class of animals, and to but one breed of this class. For the general farmer it is often advisable to keep horses, cattle, sheep, swine and poultry, selecting some one breed of each. Exclusive attention to any one class is rarely advisable, and sudden changes to meet the fluctuations in market prices are nearly always inadvisable.—*Western Rural.*

Shorthorns.

THEIR GENERAL UTILITY.

(From the Mark Lane Express.)

Mr. E. A. Fawcett, of Chidwick Hall, St. Albans, delivered a lecture at Chew Magna, on "Shorthorns—Their General Utility for all Purposes," in the course of which he said the origin of shorthorns dated back some hundreds of years before the "Herd Book" was compiled; and the folly, therefore, of relying simply upon the foundation of the "Herd Book" would be apparent. The "Herd Book" was only established in 1822, or about then, and, therefore, the early pedigrees, as they were found entered therein, were necessarily, to a large extent, made up of hearsay, or, at best, upon very questionable information. People referred to the "Herd Book" as though it went back to the beginning of the breeding of shorthorns, although it is well-known they had been known as the Teeswater, or Dutch cattle, for hundreds of years before. After showing the very doubtful origin of some of the earliest of the noted shorthorns, the speaker said that milk, hair and beef were the properties the early breeders looked for and considered necessary, but now it was pedigree that gave the value almost entirely. Now, just let them see for a moment if gentlemen who gave such enormous sums for pedigree animals were justified in what they were doing. Take first the purity of blood, for there was little else heard of now, just as if providence had given to a few particular breeders the talent or ability to produce animals superior to those of any other man. He traced the ancestry of Crown Prince, supposed to be the best Booth bull ever bred, and said that in talking of pure blood there was no greater rubbish published. He had a catalogue which showed that at a Killerby sale, in 1852, Wide-Awake was sold and purchased by Mr. Emerson for 10 guineas. Farewell was sold to the same gentleman for 21 guineas In 1872 the descendants of these animals sold at from £500 to £600, simply because they were said to be pure blood. He referred to the enormous prices realized by the offspring of the Duchess, and said that why the Duchess family was superior to any other shorthorns, he was at a loss to imagine. If it could be shown that the beef was superior, that the milk was richer, that it made more cheese or butter, or that it made better cheese or butter, that there was more constitution, or it was of superior quality; or, if they could show any superior merit, he would say they were right; but they could not do so. The Duchess cows were purchased out of Stanwick Park nearly forty years before the "Herd Book" existed, and yet their exact breed was said to be known. Now, did they believe that in that neighborhood the breeding of any cow could be traced forty years after it had passed away? But there was no record of any pure shorthorns existing in Stanwick Park at the time referred to. He traced at considerable length the increasing prices obtained for what were called pedigree stock, showing that, in many instances, the pedigree was incorrect, and that the speculation was an unprofitable one, and then, as a practical man, gave his view of how shorthorns were to be bred, and what use they were. The most important point, in his opinion, in selecting a cow, was to take care that she had plenty of good thick-set hair on her, so that, if they were obliged to keep her out at night, she would have something on her back to keep her warm. The next thing was to look after the milk. He looked upon milk as the first great element in life; if they had no milk they had no constitution; and without milk how were they going to get cheese or butter? It was the fashion now to run after meat; people wanted to see a cow almost like a barrel, her ribs and shoulders not to show. She was to be straight on this side and on that; and this was what they called neatness, and perhaps it might look pretty. But, as practical men, they all knew the value in a cow of good wide loins and hips. The next point was the width of the chest—not the depth of it, but that the chest should be round in order to give plenty of room for the heart and lungs, and plenty of room between the fore-legs. He would advise them to purchase no show animals. The greater number of prizes were not acquired by animals fed on sugar, which was sure to stop the breeding, and if they came to turn these animals out to grass, they would melt away like snow in the summer. Then, again, clean food and clean water were very essential if they wished to do anything with shorthorns. Filthy, dirty water would produce inflammation of the stomach. He used a large quantity of bran and linseed, and scarcely ever lost a cow from milk fever. He strongly advocated kindness, and said there was positively no knowing the loss a master suffered from the man who ill-treated them. The manner in which animals were stuffed and made up for shows, caused a great deal of suffering, and he thought it was very unreasonable, very wrong, and ought to be put a stop to. He had noticed since he came into the country that a great number of the cows were allowed to remain all night in the fields. That ought not to be, and he thought that every landowner ought to supply his farmers with warm sheds in which he could put his cattle at night. It was well to give them air and exercise in the day, but by leaving them out at night they lost a great quantity of milk. The night air was very much colder than the day, and it took from the animals the carbonic gas, extracting the butter and cheese which the farmer wanted. If they had any doubt about it, let them try six cows under the different treatments, and see the difference there would be in the yield of mllk. He was not there to lay down any rule, but from his experience he was perfectly certain that it was a serious loss to farmers to have their cows lying out all night.

Sheep on a Farm.

Sheep are undervalued by the mass of landholders, as a means of keeping up the fertility of the soil and putting money into the pockets of the farmers. The moment one begins to talk of sheep husbandry, the listener or reader begins to look for wool quotations alone when there is talk about the profits of farming. Sheep on a farm yield both wool and mutton. They multiply with great rapidity. They are the best of farm scavengers, "cleaning a field" as no other class of animals will. They give back to the farm more in proportion to what they take from it than any other animal, and distribute it better with a view to future fertility of the soil. Prove this? There is no need of proof to those who have kept sheep, and know their habits and profits they yield. To prove it to those who have not had the experience, it is necessary they should try the experiment or accept the testimony of an experienced shepherd.—*N. Y. Herald.*