

where clothing in cold weather is necessary for comfort, is preferable to close, warm, but poorly ventilated quarters. Of course a stable where sufficient heat without clothing and at the same time good ventilation is obtainable is ideal. When a sire is used as above between seasons, the special preparation for the stud which we discussed in this journal some weeks ago is not necessary and if an owner has work for his stallions between seasons he can at least make them earn their keep, which is no small consideration, especially under present conditions, and at the same time it will intensify and prolong their usefulness.

WHIP.

LIVE STOCK.

Marketing of Live Stock.

Perhaps the most comprehensive investigation conducted in regard to the marketing of live stock is that of K. F. Warner, pertaining to conditions in Minnesota. The facts brought out, as shown in the following table, indicate where the wide margin between the producer and consumer of meat goes. The table is a summary of marketing costs and distribution of gross returns for a 1,000-pound steer, a 280-pound hog, and an 80-pound sheep, on the basis of the consumer's prices.

	Cattle		Hogs		Sheep	
	Amt.	Per cent.	Amt.	Per cent.	Amt.	Per cent.
Farmer receives.....	\$60.07	60.5	\$18.01	60.2	\$4.53	62.2
Freight, yardage, feed, etc.....	2.43	2.4	.62	2.1	.27	3.7
Packers' gross returns.....	11.21	11.3	4.59	15.4	.87	12.0
Retailers' gross returns.....	25.55	25.8	6.67	22.3	1.61	22.1
Total value.....	\$99.26	100.0	\$29.89	100.0	\$7.28	100.0

The figures for cattle may be interpreted as follows: During 1913 the average price brought by 1,000-pound cattle at South St. Paul was \$6.25 or \$62.50 a piece. The average cost of selling such an animal from the farm to packer was \$2.43, thus netting the producer \$60.07. The packer paid \$62.50 for the beef and sold the 510-pound carcass for \$11.50 per cwt., or \$58.65 (the animal dressing out 51 per cent.) or \$3.85 below the actual cost of the live beef. The \$3.85 deficit, the cost of handling and the profit were covered by receipts from the by-products which had a value of \$15.06. In other words, the packer sold his \$62.50 beef for \$73.71, retaining a margin of \$11.21. The retailer paid the packer \$58.65 for the 510-pound carcass and sold it for \$16.51 per hundred pounds or \$84.20, realizing a margin of \$25.55. The figures for sheep and hogs are worked out in a similar manner.

In the table direct shipment by the farmer in car lots is assumed, no allowance is made for shrinkage. If sold through the local cattle buyer, the farmer would more accurately receive 57 or 58 per cent. of the amount finally paid for all products from his stock.

The outstanding feature of this investigation was the high cost of retailing, it being from 22 to 25 per cent. of the consumer's prices, and yet, as the investigator has shown, the profits of the retailer were not excessive. This condition is due to the fact that a retailer does a comparatively small business at great expense. The packers receive approximately 11 per cent. of the final price paid by the consumer, or one-half as much as the retailer. This is the case of a large volume of business at relatively much lower expense. The extent of business may be more fully realized from the following claims of the Swift Co. During 1914 they did \$425,000,000 worth of business, and their profits were claimed to be two and one-fifth cents on every dollar's worth of meat handled, or over \$9,000,000.

The farmer received from 57 to 60 per cent. for his expense in producing, growing and fitting his live stock for market, or approximately three-fifths of every dollar the consumer pays. "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal," Winnipeg.

An Annual Pasture That is Different.

A great deal of interest has been shown by farmers in the annual pasture mixture introduced some years ago by Prof. C. A. Zavitz, O.A.C., Guelph, Ont., and the growth of oats 51 lbs., early amber sugar cane 30 lbs., and common red clover 7 lbs. per acre has become quite general in many parts of this province. We have grown the crop at Weldwood with good success but we found, as some other farmers have, that the sorghum did not come on as well as it does in the experimental field at Guelph. This may be due to a difference in soil or some other similar reason, we do not know. However the fact remains that we got a great catch of oats, an excellent mat of red clover, which is a fine stand this year, but very little sorghum. We began to investigate. We found a man, W. Baty, a

Middlesex Co. subscriber, who had experienced similar difficulty with the sorghum and who, believing sorghum to be a great summer feed, took to planting it in rows alone and cultivating it. At first the rows were sown 28 inches apart at the rate of twelve pounds of seed per acre. The crop was sown about the first of June. Eight acres pastured 14 cows throughout the dry midsummer and early fall season and it was found that very little tramping of the crop resulted as the cows fed up and down the rows.

However, it was desired to incorporate the three crops and to use the same field year after year for summer pasture so a ten-acre field has been set apart by Mr. Baty for this purpose and a regular three-year rotation of the three crops: oats, sugar cane and red clover is to be practiced on this field. One-third of the field will be oats, one-third sugar cane and one-third clover. The sugar cane is sown in rows 35 inches apart instead of 28 inches and cultivated as before. The oats are seeded to clover, so that the rotation is sorghum, oats, clover. The clover is pastured the following year instead of the year sown. This is believed by this particular farmer to be a much better arrangement. Oats are a great early pasture; sorghum sown alone grows well under the cultivation possible, and this cultivation acts as a cleaner to keep down weeds; then the clover gives the best pasture the following season. This field is called upon to pasture from ten to fourteen cows and it does it well keeping up the

milk flow and the condition of the cows. This is another idea which someone else may be able to put into practice to good advantage.

When to Sell Hogs.

Hogs are a commodity, the price of which is not regulated so much by supply and demand as farmers would wish. Although a surplus of hogs will be quickly revealed by market quotations there are seasons when the price does not seem in keeping with the meagre supplies. A month of heavy offerings commanding good prices may be followed by a period of decreased shipments realizing less per hundred-weight than the quotations when offerings were large. This is a peculiarity of the hog market but it has been thus for years. The circumstances which make this phenomenon possible will not be discussed here. It will be more profitable at this season to so handle the herd of shoats as to market them

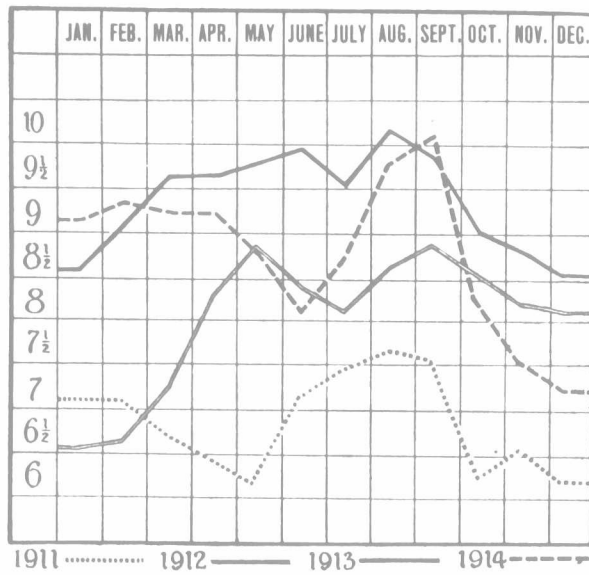


Chart of Average Hog Prices.

The figures at the left indicate prices, while the lines indicate the fluctuations.

when the price will be most satisfactory. To decide upon this we must consult the records of the past for in them their is considerable information relative to the question of marketing hogs.

The accompanying chart prepared by H. S. Arkell, Assistant Live Stock Commissioner, Ottawa and published in the Agricultural War-Book explains by lines rather than words the fluctuations on the Toronto market during the years 1911 to 1914 inclusive. Directing our attention to the fall sales we find that August and September were the months in which farmers realized the highest prices. Almost invariably there is a drop in October which continues well on into December. This is not because offerings are heavier during the last three months of the

year for in many cases they decrease. Finances probably play an important role and no doubt many growers know quite well why they are obliged to sell on a weakening market during October and November.

In 1910 quotations in the month of July were good; better in fact than any other time during the latter half of the year. They did climb up again however in the month of September but bidding was not quite so strong. In 1908 and 1909 September again was the high month, while in the year previous there was not much difference from the early part of July to the latter part of September. July of 1906 and August of 1905 recorded the highest prices of the summer and fall sales.

Thus during the last ten years the best prices have prevailed in August and September with only two exceptions and in one of those cases the September quotations were not far below those of July. In one other season the prices were much the same throughout the season so no stockman suffered loss who had the hogs finished in September.

Judging by these past records and foreseeing nothing at present to alter general conditions of marketing during 1915 it appears that August or September would be a satisfactory period in which to dispose of finished shoats. The matter of grain and other feed is an influencing factor, no doubt, but that should be so regulated as not to jeopardize each season's operations. Then again farrowing cannot always be timed to the week and the litter may be too late or too early but taking everything into consideration the herd should be ready for the shambles during late August or sometime in September.

This should not be construed to mean a prediction for the highest prices during September of 1915 but if history repeats itself as it has so often done relative to hog quotations the month of September would be a suitable period for stockmen to bear in mind when breeding and feeding swine.

A Live Stock Markets Policy.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Following the announcement which recently appeared in the press, announcing that the Honorable Martin Burrell had initiated a comprehensive markets propaganda in the Live Stock Branch of his Department, an explanation respecting the details of that policy will be of interest. The scheme involves—

1. The Organization of an Intelligence System which shall provide for—
 - (a) Statistics of Animal Population and of Production.

Co-operation with the Census Branch of the Department of Trade and Commerce and with the Provincial Departments of Agriculture in the collection and analysis of statistics of animal population. Gathering current data as to the exact situation in the country respecting breeding and feeding operations, the supply of feed, the condition of stock, when heavy marketing may be expected, the districts from which the largest supplies may be available and the districts in which a shortage exists.

- (b) Information Regarding the Home Market. The collection of definite and reliable information regarding market demand in the several provinces of the Dominion, with particular reference to current prices in the leading market centres, and to conditions governing interprovincial trade in meats and other live-stock products.

- (c) Information Regarding the Foreign Market. Through agents of the Branch, through the foreign service of the Department of Trade and Commerce and from such other sources as are available, the gathering of adequate statistics and data to make possible an intelligent interpretation of trade conditions in foreign countries, exporting and importing, with the view of assisting our live-stock interests to develop foreign trade, to adjust their operations to the requirement of foreign demand, and to take advantages of such outlets as may from time to time appear for the profitable sale of live-stock products.

- (d) Distributing Information to the Producers. The dissemination of this information to the producers in such an effective way that they may be able intelligently to anticipate market demands, to seize opportune periods for the profitable disposal of their stock, to adjust successfully, their operations to the trade situation as developed by local and foreign requirements and to equalize production in the several provinces, thus providing against the alternate gluts and shortages which have in the past invariably tended to upset trade balances and defeat the expectations of the breeders.

2. The Organization of Farmers for Co-operative Action in the Sale of—