

OF INTEREST TO IMPORTERS OF THOROUGHbred STOCK.

Editor of FARMING:

It would be very useful to the importers of thoroughbred stock if you will kindly make an announcement in your paper in regard to a change in the customs regulations.

As the regulations have hitherto stood, the customs officers have required the importer to leave on file in the office with them the original certificate, both of the pedigree of the animal and of the tuberculin test, having been made, showing freedom from disease. Instructions have just been issued to the officers of the various ports to accept (in lieu of the originals) copies of these certificates, made either by the importer or the consignor, and, upon presentation, certified correct by the customs officer. These copies will serve the purpose of a record in the office of the official in case any dispute arises, and will obviate the inconvenience which has hitherto existed on account of importers having to part with the original certificates, which they frequently require for practical purposes, and having consequently to incur trouble, expense and delay in procuring copies from the original makers.

Thanking you in advance,

SYDNEY FISHER,
Minister of Agriculture.

FINISH THE HOGS PROPERLY.

Complaint is made at the cattle yards that a large share of the pigs that are offering are too fat. They weigh enough, but they have not been well grown, being over-fat from heavy feeding and lack of sufficient exercise.

The high price of pork last fall and the abundance of feed no doubt led a great many farmers to put up a lot of pigs to feed for the spring market. Many of these pigs have evidently been forced along with strong rich feed with the object of getting them up to the proper weight for marketing while prices were good.

The mistake was made of fattening them rather than growing them, i.e., if the bacon market was the market for which they were being fed. More growing food is wanted, more roots, more exercise and less meal. Of course that means a little longer time, but it means also more profit. Prepare a clover patch for the pigs for the summer, so that they may have sufficient run and also make cheap pork.

A NEW REMEDY FOR CHOKED CATTLE.

Sometimes a cow will get choked with a small potato, a piece of turnip or perhaps something else. It is always well to have something on hand with which to relieve the animal. There is nothing better than a good probang. Every farmer should have one. They are cheap and will often save more than they cost in time and worry. The latest suggestion as a remedy is a peculiar one. Fine cut tobacco is dampened with molasses sufficiently to make it stick together, and a ball the size of a hen's egg is made. Now hold up the cow's head, pull the tongue forward and crowd the ball as far down the throat as possible. In about a quarter of an hour it will

cause sickness and vomiting. This relaxes the muscles of the gullet and the object will likely be thrown out.

SUCCESSFUL DAIRYING.

At a recent meeting of the Farmers and Dairymen's Association in New Brunswick, Mr. R. Robertson, superintendent of the Maritime Experimental Farm urged upon the farmers the importance and necessity of selecting and breeding good stock. He said the farmers should study these two questions that they might be able to choose their stock rightly, to be able to tell when they had good cows and then to know how these cows should be bred to produce the best results. This knowledge means money and prosperity to themselves and to the country. If a dairy cow does not make money for her owner it is all the fault of that owner.

To make the greatest success in dairying, essentially dairy cows are necessary, a general purpose cow will not do. Every farmer should select a breed and stick to it. Don't try one breed this year, another next year, and still another the following year. If you do you will get nothing.

In selecting a good dairy cow, look for a bold, sharp eye, this indicates a nervous temperament, for good breathing capacity as shown by conformation and the nostril, this indicates good lungs, a most important point; as she is intended to consume coarse food she should have a long and healthy body and plenty of paunch room. The right size he thought would be about 1,000 pounds. Color was of no importance. Select a dairy sire. Get him as near the dairy type as possible. Keep weeding out the calves from the poor cows, and any calf that does not do well. Keep only the best. Weed out the cows also and keep only the best and most profitable. The best is none too good.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

CASTRATING PIGS.

W. J. W.—Kindly give me a few pointers on how and when to castrate young pigs.

Ans.—This operation should be performed when the young pigs are from six to eight weeks old. It is a good plan to feed them lightly for a day before and a few days after the operation. The pigs generally do better if altered before they are taken off the sow. It requires two persons to perform the operation. The assistant holds the young pig between his knees with its back on the ground, or better on a carpenter's bench. Then he grasps a hind leg with each hand and presses the legs down on the belly. The operator presses the testicles out until the skin of the scrotum is tight. Then a quick cut is made with a very sharp knife. Some prefer to make a separate cut lengthwise for each testicle; others prefer to make only one cut crosswise. The opening should be only large enough to let the testicle out. The covering of the testicle should then be cut, gradually worked back, the testicle gradually pulled out and finally cut off as close to the body as possible. Some men prefer to let the cut go without any dressing. Some use salt, but it is better to use a little clean lard.

WEIGHT OF HAY.

L.K.S.—Will you kindly tell me how much hay loses in weight from the time it is put into the barn until spring. What is the rule for measuring hay in a mow. How many feet make a ton? Ans.—The amount lost in weight will vary with the amount of water left in the hay at haying time. If the hay was put in quite green the loss might run up to 15 per cent.; ordinarily cured hay will lose about 10 per cent. in weight. Find the number of cubic feet of hay in the mow. If it is a small mow it will require about 512 cubic feet to make a ton; this is a cube of 8 feet. This is the usual measurement given for clover hay. If, however, the hay is in a large mow, 500 cubic feet may be sufficient, so much depends on the pressure it has been subjected to. About 420 cubic feet of timothy hay will make a ton.

SENDING EGGS TO ENGLAND FOR HATCHING.

L. Macdonald: Can you tell me if eggs for hatching can be sent successfully to England? If so, how should they be packed?

Answered by Thos. A. Duff: The writer has shipped a great many baskets of eggs for hatching to different parts of England, and up to the present time has not heard of one egg being broken. All who received the eggs reported good average hatches, one person reporting, from eggs which left Canada, on the 14th March, 1894, a hatch of fifty-two chicks from fifty-five eggs.

I purchase an ordinary hand basket with a cover; I first line the entire basket with cotton batting; I then put in the bottom of the basket, to the depth of about an inch and a half, oat hulls or bran, the former preferred. I then take each egg and wrap it in tissue paper, after which it is wrapped in the cotton batting and placed in the basket, small end down. I pack these eggs as tightly as possible, in fact squeeze the last of them in. If it is necessary to make another layer (as it usually is with me), I put oat hulls or bran on top of the bottom lot of eggs, then a layer of cotton batting, and proceed as before. On top of the eggs I put more hulls or bran. As a finishing touch I put a newspaper or two on top, and fill up the top of the basket and the lid with the batting, so that to fasten the lid it has to be squeezed down. This prevents the eggs from shaking while in transit. Be sure to wrap the eggs well, and see that they fit tightly. There is no danger in shipping if packed in this way. Be sure, however, that the eggs are not over a week old before being shipped.

EXPERIMENTAL UNION CO-OPERATIVE EXPERIMENTS IN AGRICULTURE FOR 1898.

The Agricultural Committee of the Experimental Union have prepared their list of co-operative experiments for 1898. The grains, grasses and roots offered are varieties that have done well on the experimental plots at Guelph and in co-operative experiments throughout the province.

This system of co-operative experimental work in agriculture was started in 1886 with 60 plots, which were situated on twelve different farms in Ontario. Since that date, however, the work has increased from year to year, and in 1897 there were 11,497 plots, which were situated on 2,835 farms throughout Ontario.

Any farmer, or farmer's son, who wishes to join in this experimental work may choose any one of the subjoined list of experiments. Application should be made to Mr. C. A. Zavitz, O.A.C., Guelph, Ont., who will give all necessary instructions for carrying out the experiments.

LIST OF EXPERIMENTS.

1. Testing nitrate of soda, superphosphate, muriate of potash, mixture, and no manure with corn, 5 plots, 2 rods by 1 rod.
2. Testing nitrate of soda, superphosphate, muriate of potash, mixture, and no manure with mangels, 5 plots, 2 rods by 1 rod.
3. Growing three leguminous crops for green fodder, 3 plots, 2 rods by 1 rod.
4. Growing three mixtures of grain for green fodder, 3 plots, 2 rods by 1 rod.

5. Testing four varieties of millet, 4 plots, 2 rods by 1 rod.
6. Testing four varieties of grasses, 4 plots, 1 rod square.
7. Testing four varieties of clovers, 4 plots, 1 rod square.
8. Testing three varieties of buckwheat, 3 plots, 1 rod square.
9. Testing three varieties of spring wheat and 1 variety of spring rye, 4 plots, 1 rod square.
10. Testing four varieties of barley, 4 plots, 1 rod square.
11. Testing five varieties of oats, 5 plots, 1 rod square.
12. Testing four varieties of peas, 4 plots, 1 rod square.
13. Testing three varieties of beans, 3 plots, 1 rod square.
14. Testing five varieties of carrots, 5 plots, 1 rod square.
15. Testing four varieties of mangels and one variety of sugar beets, 5 plots, 1 rod square.
16. Testing two varieties of Swedish and two varieties of fall turnips, 4 plots, 1 rod square.
17. Testing six varieties of corn, 6 plots, 1 rod square.

These experiments offer a good opportunity to obtain seed of promising new varieties of grains, grasses and roots, and at the same time the opportunity to test these varieties side by side on the same kind of land. Make application early, as they are filled in order until the supply is exhausted. All seed and fertilizer is supplied free of charge.

CO-OPERATIVE EXPERIMENTS IN HORTICULTURE.

The Horticultural Committee of the Experimental Union have decided on the experiments which they will try this year.

A choice of the following six lots of small fruits is offered for testing this year:

1. Four varieties of strawberries—Haverland, Clyde, Woolverton, and Van Deman—12 plants of each.
2. Four varieties of raspberries—Marlboro', Cuthbert, Shaffer's Colossal, and Golden Queen—6 plants of each.
3. Four varieties of black raspberries—Sagehan, Gregg, Palmer, and Hiltorn—6 plants of each.
4. Four varieties of blackberries—Kittatinny, Snyder, Taylor, and Gainor—6 plants of each.
5. Four varieties of currants—Fay's Prolific, Victoria, Ruby Castle, and White Grape—3 plants of each.
6. Four varieties of gooseberries—Houghton, Downing, Whitesmith, and Industry—3 plants of each.

Each person who wishes to join in the work may choose any one of the experiments. It is well for each applicant to make a second choice, in case he may be too late for the first. The experiment selected may be indicated by number. The supply of plants being limited, those who apply promptly will be most likely to obtain what is asked for. All applications should be made to H. L. Hutt, Horticulturist, O.A.C., Guelph, Ont., who will give all necessary information and instructions to those carrying on the tests.

THE LONDON HORSE SHOW.

(By our regular correspondent.)

The great annual London Horse Show season commenced this year, as usual, with the Shire Horse Society's show. This is the first of the triumvirate of breeding stock horse shows that annually take place in London every spring, the opening day being February 22nd, and it continued until Friday, the 25th.

The entries for the present year numbered 526, as against 553 in 1897, a slight falling off in respect to numbers. The public interest in the show was fully as great as ever. Indeed, one is almost inclined to say that never during either of the previous nineteen shows has the interest been greater than on the present occasion.

The all round merit was good. Of course in some of the very numerous classes one noted here and there a few moderate animals, but, taken all round, it can fairly be stated that the show was thoroughly good on all points.

The yearling class numbered 41 entries. Mr. E. Green's colt went an easy first, with Lord Langatock's following closely behind. Fifty-five were entered in the class for two-year-olds. This was a grand class, and headed