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decreasing the cost of producing subsequent crops. It is often objected that one should be careful in crediting live stock with the manure they produce, because a large proportion of the manure is often lost in the handling. It is true that there is often a great waste in handling manure, but this is not due to any fault of the animals and should not be charged against them, but should be charged against the slipshod methods of the farmer who permits such a waste to occur.

Animals show to best advantage when used as a means of marketing home-grown products. When foods have to be purchased, the purchaser has to pay the grower's profit, and, in many cases, a middleman's profit as well, so that it is impossible to show very much profit in many cases where purchased foods are used. With home-grown foods produced upon fertile soil, it is impossible for a man to sell his produce in the form of animal products and make a good profit, even though he may not get any more than market prices for his crops. The reason for this is easily seen. Under a system of feeding crops to live stock and taking proper care of the manure, crops are produced at a much lower cost than upon a farm where the crops are sold in their natural state. It is right here where the stock farmer has a great advantage; he produces his crops at a low cost, and can make a profit even though he should sell his crops at a lower price than the grain farmer. If he gets as much per ton or per bushel as the grain farmer, he has a much larger profit, but when, as is usually the case, he gets more per ton or per bushel than the grain farmer, he has still further reason for congratulation.

A concrete case may make the matter clearer. Suppose, for example, a farmer buys a steer for \$40.00. He feeds the steer home-grown foods which, valued at market prices, amount to \$20.00, and the steer is sold for \$61.00. Most people would say that the farmer made only \$1.00 through feeding this steer, but there are other possibilities. Supposing it could be demonstrated that the food this steer consumed actually cost the farmer only \$10.00 to produce, then the farmer's profit would be \$11.00 instead of \$1.00. Besides this, we must remember that the steer has left a considerable portion of the food he consumed in the farmer's barnyard, where it is available for reducing the cost of producing the next year's crop.

In the case of purchased foods, it is necessary to charge against the animals what the foods cost, and if we knew the cost of home-grown products, it would be more nearly fair to charge the animals with the actual cost of these products, rather than with the market value of the products. By charging home-grown foods at their actual cost against the animals consuming them we would necessarily be giving the animals credit for the improvement they have made in the fertility of the soil, because the true measure of this fertility is the extent to which it reduces the cost of production. Therefore, instead of charging all foods consumed by animals at market prices, and counting as profit only what they return in excess of market prices, we should aim to find out how much we have received per ton or per bushel for the foods the animals have consumed, and then we can gain a more intelligent idea as to whether our live stock is paying its way or not. To study the cost of production is sound business practice, but we cannot intelligently study the cost of producing our live stock without going further back and studying the cost of producing the crops upon which the animals are fed.—Prof. GEO. E. DAY, in *O. A. C. Review*.

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Bisulphide of carbon on a piece of burlap or oakum, thrown quickly down a pocket gopher's burrow, preferably when the soil is moist. Prof. Washburn, Minnesota entomologist, says has killed many pocket gophers in his experiment work. He uses half a pint of bisulphide at a burrow. The chemical costs at wholesale is about eight cents a pint. Its gas is very poisonous, heavier than air, penetrates the burrow, and causes death by suffocation. The openings must be completely closed with dirt to prevent air going in. Do not use matches or a light when using bisulphide. It is dangerously explosive.

FARM

Topics for Discussion

In recognition of the fact that valuable hints always are obtained from men engaged in actual farm work THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE has adopted the "Topics for Discussion" column in order that our readers may see an open channel through which they may inform their brother farmers as to practices that are worth adopting and warn them against methods that prove unprofitable. Not only do we wish our readers to discuss the topics announced for the various issues, but also we desire that they suggest practical subjects on which it would be well to have discussion.

This notice appears under the "Farm" department, but the questions dealt with cover all branches of the farming industry. Letters should not exceed 600 words and should reach this office 10 days previous to the date of issue. They are read carefully and a first prize of \$3.00 and a second prize of \$2.00 awarded each week. Other letters used will be paid for at regular rates to contributors.

July 20.—How much per pound, live weight, did it cost you last year to produce pork, a year in this case being from July 1, 1909, to July 1, 1910? At the going prices for hogs what profit is there in the business? Are you going in more extensively for hog raising? If not, why not?

July 27.—Describe what you consider a satisfactory poultry house for a farm flock of from 50 to 100 birds. Explain how this building is ventilated, how roosts and nests are arranged, what conveniences there are for feeding or handling the birds; in short, everything a farmer building a poultry house would like to know.

August 3.—What suggestions have you to offer regarding treatment of cropped fields after the harvest is removed? How can weed seeds best be induced to germinate, and also how can provision for conserving soil moisture be made?

August 10.—Discuss disc plows, giving advantages and disadvantages for use in soils of different kinds. In what soil would you advocate their use?

Handling Flax Crop

Although many have advice to offer on the sowing of flax little has appeared regarding the most satisfactory way of harvesting. Perhaps the hints given in reply to this week's topic for discussion will be of benefit to some of our readers.

In many districts little care is taken to avoid undue loss in cutting flax and getting it to the thresher. It is a crop that must be studied. If it ripens evenly and is free from weeds or other green material, cutting with an ordinary grain binder is satisfactory. If dry weather comes it is all right to have it bound into sheaves. However, as a rule weeds or grass are in evidence and sheaves or bundles do not dry readily. Under such conditions the plan outlined in our first prize letter is most satisfactory.

Best Way to Harvest Flax

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

As I have harvested flax a good many different ways I thought my experience might be of interest to some of your readers. Some will say bind it,

This way is all right, provided the flax is free of green stuff of any kind; otherwise you can't get it dry. Some will say cut with the binder without twine and dump three or four bundles in a place. I have seen this plan work out all right some years, other years it would be very objectionable. If it should rain these bundles will never dry out till they are turned up to wind and sun. In a wet fall you may have to repeat this half dozen times.

The plan I like best for any kind of a year is, remove the trip and compressor from the binder and let the flax run in a continuous stream; it will stand on end in a beautiful row and thin enough to dry out readily. When dry enough to thresh or stack take two horses hitched to sulky rake and drive along with the horses between swathes same direction as binder traveled, covering two swathes at a time. Dump about every twenty-four feet. If it is convenient to have the threshing machine there is never a better time to thresh it than when being lifted off the ground on a good hot day.

To gather, drive wagon across the swathes with a man on each side of the wagon. No one is needed on the wagon. In this way it can be gathered quickly and threshed with little loss.

It is difficult to advise as to proper stage of maturity. If there is no danger of winter setting in it can be left until the seed rattles in the prods. Then it dries more readily and threshes out to a good sample. However, if it becomes over ripe there is a big loss in cutting and gathering.

Man.

GEORGE TAYLOR.

Heavy Crop was Bound

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I have had success growing flax. My land is scrub and very heavy clay. Last year a piece of land on which I had grown one crop of oats was plowed about the end of May and sown June 1. I cultivated it well, and levelled it off by turning the harrows on their back and going crossways of the plowing. I had a splendid seed-bed. I closed drill (a shoe drill) to sow about half a bushel to the acre, but when I got through I found I had sowed nearly a bushel to the acre. My neighbors, being settlers from the United States (old flax growers), said I would not get a crop, as I sowed too thick. I had a big crop.

I cut it on August 25, when it was very ripe. It stood about three feet high. I bound it with twine, it being very hot. I let the sheaves lie a while, and then stooked it in long stooks, about ten sheaves. About a week after I went round and turned the stooks.

I threshed from the stook, getting every teamster to load his own load, to save tramping flax out. "Now," one farmer said, "you will see the threshing machine go to pieces." They said I should not have tied it. The thresher shut off all wind, afraid he would blow flax out. That did not do, as it was full of chaff and seeds, so he put on all wind available, and the flax came out beautiful and clean, and a fine sample, and went through the machine better than wheat. I got by weight at the machine 27 bushels to the acre, and the machine being an old one there was some wasted on the ground. I am trying some this spring on new land. If you want to thresh flax don't stack it, as it gets too tough.

WM. MACKLIN.

Drag Method of Stacking Hay

The hay-making season brings increased activity to the farmer. Especially is this so to the struggling homesteader who has laid claim to some acres on the expansive prairies. Even with the improved devices or well equipped farms making hay is rather a strenuous occupation. And on the homestead, where there are few implements and especially for stacking purposes, it is



FAVORIT BEAUTY, HOLSTEIN COW, OWNED BY HOMER SMITH, WINNIPEG