

SHEEP AND SWINE.

SUCCESSFUL SHEEP-HUSBANDRY.

The ways and means by which sheep-husbandry can be made profitable must be learned, just as every other business must be learned, before the man engaging in it can reasonably expect to find it profitable.

The knowledge necessary is of a twofold character. The successful manager of a flock of sheep must not alone know what to do, and when and how to do it; he must know what not to do. As the successful pilot must have knowledge not alone of the deep and smooth waters of the route his vessel is to traverse, but as well must know the location of hidden rocks and shoals to be avoided, so must the shepherd know the course in his business that is free from obstructions, and which will, under ordinary conditions, insure successful results.

First of all have your mind thoroughly made up as to what particular phase of the industry you purpose to confine your efforts. In reaching this conclusion one will need to take into account the amount of capital to be invested, the kind and number of sheep he will begin with, and the limits to which capital and surroundings circumscribe him. If the owner of land one can "take chances" from which the mere leaseholder is barred. A large proportion of the failures among men making sheep husbandry their leading business have resulted from indebtedness incurred for sheep and lands with the expectation that profits would soon wipe out both principal and interest. At any other time than when a "boom" is on, more money will be made from a small, well-selected flock that has been paid for than from a larger one from which the first returns belong to the creditor.

When once the mind is made up as to the kind and number of sheep—stick. Don't let the report that some other man, at some other place, is working wonders with some other kind of sheep, divert you from the road you have marked out. Work to show the world what *you can do* with your sheep and with your surroundings.

When you buy a sheep for breeding purposes be sure that it is better than the best in your own flock in blood and physical development; and when you have bought it see that it is cared for like any other valuable piece of property. Good live stock, like good clothes, cannot be exposed to all kinds of hardship without showing the effects of such harsh treatment.

Take off the wool as soon as the weather seems settled and warm enough to admit of it with safety to the sheep, and put the fleeces in such order that the buyer will readily give you the top price for wools of similar grade.

Breed so as to have every lamb an improvement upon the average standard of the flock, and sell as soon as they can be made ready all that come below such standard. When the time comes for selling animals of any age do the selecting yourself—always keeping the best. They are worth more to you than anyone else, so long as you are not overstocked.

Do not be tempted into keeping more sheep than you have first-class arrangements for keeping—food and other necessary accommodations.

Do not keep different breeds of sheep together. The conditions best suited to some are not the best for others, and when mixed the result will be that all will come short of their highest possible results.

Do not make "spread eagle" calculations, and then quarrel with the sheep because your dreams are not realized.

Do not depend on tariffs, or anything outside

of your own individual judgment and energy, to increase your income from the flock.

Do not abandon sheep-husbandry because prices are temporarily unsatisfactory, or be in any hurry to expand your business when a "boom" sets in. Wool and mutton, like everything else, will vary in price, and the changes in price will come faster than any man can change his business without sacrifice.

Do not take many risks by experimenting in crossing different types of sheep. Successes are the exception and are secured only through long and persistent effort. Among the existing types are to be found better animals than any one is likely to get by crossing, no matter how successful his efforts in that line may prove.—*Breeders' Gazette*.

MONEY IN GOOD HOGS.

Hog raising is one of the most ready means of money making known to the Western farmer. Even when the supply is abundant and prices low, a margin of profit is found in well-kept stock. Such animals are always saleable. They are comparatively free from disease, and usually bring quick returns, in cash, for the amounts invested. Moreover, every properly managed and well fed hog that leaves the farm leaves it in all the better condition for growing rich pastures and heavy crops of grain, than had he not been reared and fed upon the farm.

Good management in hog raising as in the handling of all other farm animals begins with the selection of good breeding stock. A good thoroughbred Berkshire boar will greatly improve any herd of common hogs. Almost any farmer can afford to buy such a boar at the prices now asked. In fact, we do not see how any farmer who raises hogs can afford not to buy.—*Phil Thrifton, in Breeders' Journal*.

SWILL—HOW TO USE IT.

There is no better food for young pigs after weaning than good skimmed milk with a little sweet moderately fine wheat bran and corn meal stirred into it. There should not be a large proportion of meal in the mixture at first, nor so long as the pig is making growth, though corn meal is excellent to finish off fat tanning with. Many young pigs have been spoiled by overfeeding with corn or corn meal. It is impossible to get a good growth on such food alone. Clear milk would be better, but milk will pay a larger profit when given in connection with some grain. Milk alone is rather too bulky for a sole diet; it distends the stomach too much, and gives the animal too much to do to get rid of the surplus water. Many young pigs are spoiled by overfeeding. When first weaned they should be given a little at a time and often. They always will put a foot in the trough, and food left before them a long time gets so dirty that it may be entirely unfit to be eaten. But one of the worst methods of feeding milk to pigs is to have it stand in a sour swill barrel, mixed in along with cucumber parings, sweet corn cobs, and other kitchen wastes, till the whole mass is far advanced in the fermentation stage. Sweet milk is good, and milk that is slightly sour may be better, it may be even more easily digested; but milk that has soured till it bubbles, till the sugar in it has turned into alcohol or into vinegar, is not a fit food for swine of any age, and certainly not for young pigs that have just been taken from their mother. A hog will endure considerable abuse, will live in wet and filthy pens, will eat almost every sort of food; but a pig that is kept in comfortable quarters and fed upon wholesome food will pay a much better profit to the owner, and

furnish much sweeter pork for the barrel. Nearly all the diseases which hogs are subject to are caused by cold, wet pens, or by sour, inferior swill. Better throw surplus milk away than keep it till it rots, and then force it down the throats of swine. Farmers should keep swine enough to take all the wastes of the farm while in a fresh condition, and then supplement it with good wheat midlings and corn meal. Our own practice has been to keep pigs enough to take the skimmed milk each day direct from the dairy room without the use of a swill barrel to store and sour it in. A swill barrel in summer is a nuisance on any farm. We could never find a good place to keep it, where it would not draw flies or breed flies. In winter it would be less objectionable, but it is a nuisance at all times, and in all places.

The swill from the house is not a substitute for water, which should be given to swine fresh every day. Although hogs are fed sloppy food during summer any one trying the experiment will be surprised at the amount of pure water they will drink, especially in very warm weather.

The Yorkshire swine are divided into three classes, the large Yorkshire, small Yorkshire and middle Yorkshire. Except as regards size, the large and small Yorkshires are very similar; but the middle class may be said to be quite distinct in appearance, shape and quantity from the others.

By mixing one part sulphur to three parts of salt, and feeding to the sheep, it will have a tendency to improve the general health and drive away the ticks. Many farmers feed sulphur both summer and winter with excellent results. Flocks fed in this manner are much less liable to be affected with foot rot.

The hogs should be started to thriving before cold weather. A good clover pasture is the best grass they can get, but they should have some "snapped" corn once a day, and plenty of clear, clean water. The hog-pen must be repaired now for winter use. Hogs need a warm pen, but should have good ventilation.

Good time to make a note about planting shade trees at the proper season.

FARMERS should never consign their produce to strangers. The only safe course is to deal only with reputable and established firms.

Look out for the well. See that there is no drainage toward it. Provide spouts to carry all slops away from the house on to the grass and make surface drains, or raise a wide sloping mound around the well to carry off all the water to a distance before it can sink down. The soil around the buildings is continually being saturated with impurities, which will naturally follow the course of the water, and will in time find their way into the well. From there it goes into the family use in many ways. It is used as a beverage; it is used for bathing, so the skin absorbs it; it is boiled in the kitchen, and the vapour continually inhaled. Pure water is one of the most valuable articles of household use.

The greatest incentive to growth of grass is to fertilize the lawn freely. Autumn application of old rotted manure, to be raked off the following spring, after the strength has been conveyed to the soil, will bring best results; next to it in efficiency is ground bones with the addition of ground gypsum, sown broadcast early in the season. The latter is superior in one respect—more lasting; its effect is discernible for several years. Unleached wood ashes is always in order as a top dressing; very invigorating to growing grass. But no matter how strong the growth nor how rich the soil, if we do not cut the turf frequently, it will never present the attractive appearance of a well kept lawn.—*New York Weekly Tribune*.