

it re-established. Our idea is that, by a system of intelligent management, wise breeding and discriminating selection, with the aid of milk scales and Babcock test, the milking habit may be developed in the herds we already have, hastened, perhaps, by the infusion of a strain of deep-milking pedigree Shorthorn blood, wherever such may be found.—Editor.]

#### A PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND VIEW OF THE HOG QUESTION.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Prof. Day's letter, in the Dec. 5th issue of "The Farmer's Advocate," is full of facts and common sense. While agreeing with J. C. T., in his letter in the December 26th issue of your paper, that when one man does all the work on a hundred-acre farm, he cannot give the pigs the same attention they receive at the Experimental Farm, I must take exception to some of his statements. He says, "When farmers go into mixed farming, the skim milk they have around during the year the calves consume." If this is so, they must raise a lot of calves, or their cows are pretty expensive boarders. Again, he asks, "How many farmers have a proper place for hogs in winter, especially for suckers?" In my experience, they do not require a very expensive house; they will thrive if they are kept dry and the house is reasonably warm. Usually, a sow will have two litters a year. She may have one pig, or she may have a dozen, but the cost of keeping the sow is all the same, he says. Now, is not this equally true in all branches of stock-raising? In all there is a risk. A mare may have a good smart foal, or she may have a dead one; the latter costs as much as the former. Taking into consideration the service fee and all other expenses, a good brood sow will return more profit for the capital invested than the average brood mare. Perhaps it would be of interest to Ontario readers, just here, to give the ration usually fed to hogs by the P. E. Islander: Potatoes and turnips, boiled and mashed, with some crushed grain mixed in with them when they are being cut up, forms the bulk of the feed. Of course, all swill and skim milk obtainable is added. The writer has had fall pigs, fed in this manner, that dressed over two hundred pounds apiece when a little over five and a half months old. At present, a pen of bacon-type pigs, nearly four months old, are gaining over two pounds apiece a day. I think that the farmer who goes in for winter dairying and pork-raising will find that, in the long run, it pays better than selling the produce off the farm. I do not think it advisable to overstock in hogs, but rather to keep a few and feed them good, as it is the pig that is kept growing from birth that pays the profit.

Queen's Co., P. E. I.

E. R. Y.

#### FEEDING FOR THE COMING LAMBS.

The first ten days of their life is the most critical period with young lambs. If lambs are dropped healthy and strong, it is usually an easy matter to get them properly started; but if they come weak and wobbly, lacking in strong bone, lacking muscular strength, and possessed of a feeble vitality, the poor shepherd has ahead of him days and nights of constant attention, with slight hope of eventually saving the lamb.

When the lambs are weak at birth, showing signs of ill-nourishment, it is often true, also, that the mothers are poor milkers, and this double combination too often proves the wrecking of the ordinary farmer's flock, disengages him with sheep husbandry, and causes him to abandon sheep-raising entirely. A little study and forethought might avoid these misfortunes at lambing time, and induce many men to continue partnership with these gentle animals that year in and year out will readily prove a most profitable source of pleasure and labor.

What is the reason for weak lambs, low in vitality? While there is often a reason for this to be found in the rams or the ewes used, we are inclined too readily to let the blame be entirely laid to the ancestry. Even a casual observer upon this point must conclude that, under any sort of ordinary conditions, the rule is to produce strong, healthy offspring. The fault is not with the ancestry, but with the conditions which are imposed during pregnancy. The breeding ewes are not supplied with proper rations. They are fed straw, timothy hay, cornstalks, silage or roots; some supply a little shelled corn or barley. Of these foods, they receive a plenty, and upon these they not only maintain themselves, grow their fleece, but are expected to produce a pair of lambs. But they can never produce strong, healthy lambs on such feeds. Sheep can make very poor use of straw, timothy hay or cornstalks; they can live on these themselves, but they cannot build up a vigorous progeny. These feeds are not palatable to sheep; they do not enjoy them; furthermore, they are largely indigestible, and in the available nutrients in them there is a minimum of proteid or mineral matter—the very things that are essential for the formation of the fetus and for the stimulation of the vitality of the mother to ensure this foetal growth.

The addition of shelled corn to these undesirable roughages does not in the least better the ration, since

corn, of all feeds, is the lowest in mineral matter, and quite low in protein, while barley is but slightly better.

What must be done is apparent, then. Supply the breeding flock at this time of the year with palatable, nutritious foods, rich in protein and in mineral matter. For this purpose, clover hay or alfalfa hay are unexcelled roughages. The ewes should be given what they will clean up each day. To this, oats, bran and oil meal should be added. Corn, oats and bran may be mixed in equal parts, and of this the ewes should receive from  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a pound to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  pounds per day, increasing the quantity as the period of gestation advances. A little oil meal should be added at each feeding time.

Roots, while always palatable to sheep, may be fed freely only during the earlier stages of pregnancy; during the latter weeks they can be fed only lightly. The same is true of silage. The tendency of both these feeds is to produce large, watery, weak lambs.

Exercise is at all times essential. Where there is no snow on the ground, this is easily obtained by running the stock on pasture, but in stormy times it is not so easily obtained. There are few days, however, when the sheep may not be turned out, at least, in a small lot, where they get the fresh air, sunshine, and some exercise. Their pen should open to a woven-wire-fenced yard, where they may take exercise at will.

If these precautions are followed from now until lambing time, there will be much less trouble at lambing time, more lambs will be saved, and more men will adhere to the sheep as a true friend in adversity, and a source of pleasure and profit at all times.

J. A. M.

#### A SPECIAL-PURPOSE BEEF BREED NOT PROFITABLE IN ONTARIO.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In your editorial columns of January 9th appear some timely and sound remarks on the oft-voiced question of the dual-purpose cow. This is at present a very important question with the farmers of Ontario, and on the position taken by breeders of pure-bred Shorthorn stock, very much depends. Hence, anything that will clear up and define our ideas on the subject should be generally welcomed. I am not engaged in the production of breeding stock, but in the commercial production of beef, and my standard for the cattle I keep is the standard of utility. Hence, I may be allowed a few words on the subject from that standpoint.

First, as to the necessity for a class of dual-purpose cattle in our country. Without this class of cattle, there are but two lines of cattle that may be produced here, the single-purpose beef animal and the dairy cow. For the production of the first class of animals profitably, a certain set of conditions is required, these being very cheap land and feed. Without this condition, it is practically impossible to figure a profit on a steer which has to pay for his mother's board the year she was engaged in producing him, as well as for his own during his lifetime. Those who have tried the experiment know that, under ordinary Ontario farm conditions, and at the price paid for first-class beef, a profit is practically impossible on this class of cattle. Of course, a fancy price, large enough to give a profit, may be paid for a very few animals of this class, but we must remember that this is not a commercial price in any sense, and that the market for this class of stock is, of necessity, very limited. The beef trade of this Province, if it is to exist at all, or to any extent, must be prepared to supply beef at prices which can compete successfully with other forms of meat production. That is, under present conditions, we must be able to supply a class of cattle which we can sell at from five to six

dollars per cwt., and leave a profit for ourselves. This, it is my firm belief, based on experience, cannot be done with the single-purpose beef animal in this Province. It may be done under ranching conditions, but not on the farms of Ontario.

Then we have the other alternative, dairying, pure and simple; and, in regard to the profits of this line of farming, I may say, although I have never followed it, that I believe the profits per acre for the land devoted to it are, perhaps, greater than those resulting from any other line of cattle farming. But it, too, has its objections, the greatest being the amount of labor involved. Under present-day conditions, it appears to be a necessity, if we would maintain the fertility of our farms, that we should feed practically everything we grow, and should find a market in our stables for all our coarse feed—hay, straw, roots and corn. To do this, we must, of necessity, keep a large number of cattle. In my own particular case, if I devoted myself to dairying, I would have to keep a herd of fifty dairy cows—a number which I could not possibly find the labor for. My case is only typical of that of thousands of Ontario farmers, who thus, in a very real sense, find themselves on the horns of a very serious dilemma, if there are only two types of cattle to choose from, the special beef and the special dairy.

But it is my firm belief that there is another class of cattle that meets the needs of the average Ontario farmer better than either of these classes—that is, the dual-purpose class, or, perhaps we had better call it the milking-beef class—cattle that have a good beef form, perhaps lacking some of the smoothness and early-finishing qualities of the special-beef animal, but having size, thriftiness and quality of flesh, and at the same time having milking qualities sufficient to enable the cows to pay their way at the milk pail, instead of having to mortgage the future profits of their calves. This class of cattle does exist. The old Shorthorn, mentioned in your editorial, fulfilled these conditions well, and there are many herds of profitable dual-purpose cows in the country to-day, Shorthorns or Shorthorn grades. In fact, there is practically no beef produced in the Province to-day, in a commercial way, at least, that is not the product of this class of cattle; and, moreover, if there is to be any Ontario beef trade in the future, it must depend on the development and perfecting of this class of cattle. It cannot exist otherwise.

As to the characteristics of this class of cattle, these are, in the main, from a beef standpoint, quality of flesh, arch of rib, and thriftiness. Quality of flesh first; and in this there is a great difference between different breeds. Ordinarily, the flesh of those breeds which have been for ages distinctly dairy breeds, is coarse of grain, stringy in texture, and lacking in flavor. Jerseys, Holsteins and Ayrshires possess flesh of this quality, though the Ayrshire, so far as I can gather, is the better of the three. So marked, indeed, is this lack of quality, that a steer, showing by the color of his hair that he has even the slightest trace of the blood of these breeds, is at once discounted by the buyer, no matter what his form may be. The Shorthorn alone, among cattle, combines milking qualities with quality of flesh. The second quality of the milking-beef is arch of rib, and here again the distinct dairy type falls short. The recognized dairy form has a rather long, flat rib, the bend of the rib being toward the lower end, rather than the upper, giving great capacity of barrel, but that peaked back which we all know as belonging to the dairy type.



Hampshire Down Lambs.