

Use Full-Blood Rams.

A Correspondent of the *Agricultural Commonwealth* makes the following suggestions. Perhaps the most important step in securing and maintaining a good flock of sheep is the securing of males that are the perfect type of what you wish your flock to be. As to what a male should be, I would say, first, let them be thorough-bred. No grade buck should ever be used when there is a desire to improve, or even keep up the quality of the flock, even though he may be the most desirable in appearance of the whole flock. The chances are against the transmission of his desirable qualities; it is probable he will transmit undesirable qualities of his ancestors that are concealed in him. A thorough-bred male can be relied on to reproduce himself in his offspring, but such is not the case with a grade, however perfect he may be in form. Second, I would say let him be a good specimen of the breed (whatever that breed may be). Among the best of the flocks there will be a difference. While all may be good, some may be better and others best. I would say get the best at any price, in selecting males. Be sure he has an eminent degree of all the essential points of the breed in size, make, characteristics of wool, etc. Again, let him be sound in constitution and limb. It is found that defects and disease are more easily communicated to offspring than more desirable qualities. Hence everything of this kind should be avoided with scrupulous care. The character of the female is of less importance. True, if a man has a flock of thorough-bred ewes to begin with, all the better, his work is half done; but if he has a flock of grades or scrubs he need not go to the expense of buying a full-blooded stock to build up a flock with. With proper care in the selection of bucks, a flock can soon be built up to a high point of excellence with only common ewes to start with. With the facilities now offered for securing choice bucks, there is no excuse for the man who continues to propagate the scrub stock of the country. Let none but the first-class males be used, and soon all our flocks will become first-class flocks.—*Rural New Yorker*.

Growing Out a Hoof.

It is the universal habit to destroy a horse that has lost a hoof, and this is upon the hypothesis that the horse is lamed for life and rendered unfit for any work. We find, however, that, if allowed, nature will in time perform her own cure, and restore the missing hoof, as the following remarkable case will show, which we extract from a late number of the *San Francisco Call*.—

"Yesterday we met with a horse which had its hoof torn off by the wheel of a dray on Howard street some weeks since. The owner was advised at the time to shoot the horse, but the animal being not only a valuable but a favorite, it was determined, if possible, to effect its cure. The horse was slung for nine days, during which time it suffered most acute pain, the nature of which may be imagined in a degree by any one who has had a nail violently torn off. After this time the pain apparently abated, and the horse was lowered to his feet, the wounded foot being well preserved from any undue amount of exertion. The horn, or hoof, has now grown two-thirds of its natural size, and in a proper shape, and it is hoped that by grass time the horse will be fit to turn out, and that by summer the hoof will be sufficiently strong to bear a shoe, and allow the animal to return to work. The cure has been brought about by humane treatment and constant care. The horny matter has secreted itself in the same manner as the matter which composes our nails, is secreted.—*Ohio Farmer*.

Ayrshire Cattle in Cold Climates.

A farm near this city, containing 170 acres, has now upon it 40 head of cattle, all either full-blood or high grade Ayrshires, put into the stables on the 15th Nov. last—since which time we have had frequent snow storms, with snow at least 3 feet deep in the woods, and extremely cold weather (down to 30° below on Dec. 26, and to 20° again on Jan. 12), freezing the manure in the stable a great portion of the time—now half wintered on the straw of 7½ acres of oats, barley and peas, with about 200 bushels of manure, and the fodder of 1½ acres of Western corn, planted in drills, and put away in the mow with the straw above mentioned, in alternate layers, without any hay. In this herd are several cows in milk, making an average of 2 lbs. of butter daily. One dry two-year-old heifer was killed for beef on Jan. 4th, and the same week a new milk grade cow was sold

for, \$75, showing the condition of this straw-fed herd. If there be any other breed of cattle that can be kept in a thriving condition with the quantity and quality of food supplied to this herd, it would be of vast importance to farmers and dairymen, particularly those who are located in the northern portions of the United States and Canada, where animals are housed and fed (as all should be) in the manger, say 6 months in every 12, it is to be hoped that such information may be published.—*Charles Shepard, of Ogdensburg, in National Live-Stock Journal*.

Soiling in Germany.

A letter from Germany, published in the *Scotsman*, gives some interesting statements as to the mode of 'reeding' cattle in that country. The system, in fact, is what is known in the United States as "soiling," and its success with the Germans will give increased strength to the arguments in its favor. The writer—an Englishman, evidently—says:

"The German method of cultivation differs materially from that of the English in some respects. The triennial shift of crops is not considered good; but their system varies very much in different parts of the country. For the most part, however, it is much more intensive, with, proportionally to the extent farmed, far more ground under tillage than in Britain. With the breeding of cattle, they proceed on an entirely different principle. Instead of allowing them to graze on fields and meadows, they are almost entirely kept in byres (cow sheds), and in this manner they are thought to produce proportionally far better returns to the farmer than otherwise. It is very rare to see animals grazing in fields in Germany. Recently the *Landwirthschaftliche Zeitung* contained an account of some experiments made by a gentleman named Patow, which had extended over a period of twenty-five years, and in which it was agreed that these showed the objections to the feeding of cattle in the stall to be groundless. The experimenter states that on an average a gain of 788 thalers is obtained if they are so fed, instead of pastured on 24 square roods of land. As regards the health of the cattle, the result was also found to be in favor of stall feeding. He had during 17 years an average of 120 head in his byres, and the death rate by stall feeding was only 1 07; Nor was the system found to impoverish the soil, for the increase of the produce of grain was from 1 to 2½ in 21 years. Under it also a far larger quantity was obtained of farm-yard manure, upon the use of which the German agriculturists lay great weight. Their writers on the subject speak in severe terms of the English waste of this material, arising, they hold, from the defective construction of their farm yards, and their whole system of breeding cattle, &c. Town sewage is also fully utilized, nothing that is available being allowed to go to waste."

Does it Pay to Cook Food for Stock?

We will state that our farm contains 700 acres, and we generally feed 100 head of cattle on grass in summer, and we fatten each winter about forty head of cattle in stable. We raise from forty to fifty acres of wheat, twenty to thirty of oats, twenty of corn, and three or four acres of Swedish turnips. Our engine is driven by a five-horse boiler, with engine attached to its side. And this threshes our grain, cuts and steams the fodder, pumps the water, saws the wood, and does the churning, and thus is very handy to have on the farm. We have three steam boxes, holding 100 bushels each, and one of these filled with cut straw and chaff, with 200 pounds of bran, worth 75 cents per hundred, evenly mixed, moistened with water, packed in solid, and well steamed, will feed sixty head of cattle three times for one day, all they will eat. Fattening cattle are fed extra. In this way we can feed all our straw and corn-stalk, and poor hay, if we have any, with a little grain or bran, turn it all into quick, active manure to stimulate new crops, and can keep much more stock, and at one-third less expense than in the old way. Our stock comes out in better condition in the spring, and we have no doubt from our experience that there is a saving to us of fully one-third in the cost of wintering our animals. In feeding hogs we find that two bushels of corn ground and cooked is a little better than four bushels of shelled corn. We have proved this by the best test we can give it. We have no hesitation in saying that our confidence in the economy of this mode of feeding strengthens with each year's experience, and we believe it is destined to be practiced much more extensively in the future.—*Devey & Stewart—Live Stock Journal*.

Cotswold—Merino Sheep.

One advantage that sheep possess over other varieties of stock is, that the carcass can be disposed of for mutton at any age, and costs very little if any more to produce than other kinds of meat; while the fleece will usually pay all the cost of keeping. And as both items, the wool and the carcass, are sources of profit, both items demand the attention of the wool-grower. A sheep that will combine in the same animal both these qualities in perfection, is the sheep demanded by the farmer. While the American Merino, it is generally acknowledged, has the superior claim in respect of wool, the Cotswold and Southdown are far more profitable for mutton. The Leicesters are so similar to the Cotswolds, and they are so generally mixed together, that none but experienced breeders can recognize any difference between them, that I do not speak of them as a separate class, although I think they are inferior to the Cotswolds. I am satisfied that the wandering Merino, weighing one hundred pounds, will consume as much food as the lazy Cotswold weighing two hundred pounds. I am also confident that the most profitable sheep is a cross between the Cotswold and the Merino. The fleece of this cross is heavy, compact, and of good quality. It is also highly prized by the manufacturer. Lambs produced by breeding Cotswold bucks on good Merino ewes, are strong and healthy, and will weigh at maturity about 150 pounds; while the weight of a flock of Merinos will hardly average 100 pounds. The fleece of this cross will usually average nine to ten pounds; while the average weight of the Merino fleece is five to six pounds. This cross produces a sheep that is more healthy, and more profitable. In this cross-breed the liability to foot-rot is also avoided, as the feet of the Cotswold and Southdown are always sound.—*M. Briggs, in "Chicago Live Stock Journal"*.

Roots and Oil Cake for Sheep.

If growers of combing wools should raise sheep primarily to produce mutton; should attend to the breed, and keep their sheep well fed, and care for them generally; and should also try to mature them early, so as to sell the carcass—we should have wool from well fed, young, healthy, strong, well bred, fat sheep, which is just the wool wanted for combing and decline purposes. Farmers cannot keep these large sheep on lean pastures, with but little care of them, and have good wool. And the great reason the combing wool sheep run out when brought from England and Canada is, that they do not get the same care and treatment they had in those countries, and are often kept on soil they are not adapted to, and are not fed sufficiently. The wool from a Leicester sheep that has been in the United States two years is generally harsher, leaner and worth much less than it would have been if the sheep had stayed in Canada or England. Now, this will not always be so, for growers will yet learn that these large sheep need more to eat than the small Merino, and their food should not consist of Indian corn, but they should have some roots, mangel wurtzel and oil cake. When sheep are fed on corn, they are too hot and feverish, and the wool becomes harsh and brittle, while a proper supply of roots and oil cake with other food would produce soft, sound and elastic wool.—*U.S. Exchange*.

Oil Meal for Calves.

We take the following statement of experience from *The Ohio Farmer*.—Last spring, a year ago, having two good steer calves, I thought I would know its value from experience. The calves were taken from the cows at three days old and taught to drink at first sweet milk—were fed until the stomach became strong, when milk that had stood over one milking was fed twice a day. I then commenced to feed oil meal to them. To prepare this, take a little boiling water and stir in the meal until it is thick enough; then put it into the milk to be fed. What can be taken up with one hand is plenty at first, the quantity being increased as the animal grows older. If too much is given, scours will be brought on, when the quantity must be reduced. I continued feeding until pumpkins were ripe, when the meal and milk were omitted, and pumpkins fed as long as they were to be had. By this time the calves were fat, and came into winter quarters with heads up. Good hay and stable were furnished, with no grain, until February, when oats were fed until they were turned to grass, and have been all summer without anything else, and to-day, Oct. 5th, they weigh 2,210 pounds. The country is full of steers two years old that are not so heavy.