

and is looked upon by many as a critical time for the lamb. All lambs should be docked at about ten days of age. Flockmasters differ as to the best methods of docking, but none better has been found than cutting from below upward against the thumb with a good clean, sharp knife at the second or third joint. In this way the knife slips between the vertebrae, with little injury to the lamb. The method of placing the tail on a solid block, and removing it by a sharp blow with a chisel, is more injurious, as one is likely to cut through the vertebrae, in place of between them. If bleeding is too profuse, tie a soft cord tightly around the stump for a short time. Some practice searing with a hot iron, but our Australian correspondent writes that this practice has been found to promote loss from lockjaw, in his country.

In the case of grade lambs, it is well to castrate the males at the time of docking. Wethers invariably sell higher for mutton in the fall or following winter than do bucks. The operation is simple, and no untoward results should follow. Simply clip off the end of the scrotum with a sharp knife or pair of shears, and draw the testicles. Keep the lambs in a clean pen for a few days. In docking and castrating, a reasonable precaution might be taken by dipping the knife and the parts to be cut in an antiseptic solution such as a five-per-cent. solution of carbolic acid.

Upon the care and management of the lambs depends to a large degree the improvement made in the flock from year to year. Remember, a good sheep seldom, if ever, results from a stunted, starved, ill-cared-for lamb.

Stick to the Pig.

A season such as we have experienced during the past winter does much to change the aspect of the live-stock business on many farms. It has been said that this life demands as much change as possible, and in the case of the live-stock man it seems to be only too true. Feed has been scarce and high-priced, making it seem almost like throwing good dollars into a bottomless pit, to feed grain to any class of stock.

The pig is, without doubt, the worst offender when it comes to consuming concentrates, and when grains and meals are as high in price as they have been this winter, and pork selling at what most feeders consider a low price, in comparison to the cost of production, the average farmer loses his respect for this class of stock.

We must admit that it requires some skill to feed pigs at a profit, with feeds at prices which have obtained this winter, and with the prices of pork which have been paid during the past few months. Yet, it is not impossible, even under these conditions. J. H. Grisdale, Director of Experimental Farms for the Dominion, stated, in an address delivered in January, when feed was very high, and pork was rather low, being 7 cents per pound, pork could be produced at 5½ cents per pound. This requires some attention to breeding and feeding, but it can be done.

A season such as we have just passed through is always a "sickener" to the feeder, and invariably causes many to "bolt" and abandon the business as a losing game. We venture to say that this spring many will dispose of their brood sows, declare there is no money in pork, and determine to sell their grain next fall, rather than waste it, along with labor, on feeding pigs for their manure.

Now, let us see whether this is a logical proceeding. Last year was an uncommon one. Dry weather made short crops. Political campaigns caused market uncertainties, and pork prices dropped a little, while grain soared. This year may give large grain yields, then feed prices will tumble. The pork market is gradually assuming more strength and stability, and, with all kinds of live stock scarce, as they are to-day, and a rapidly-increasing population, prices of meat cannot but be high. Discard your breeding sows, and up goes the price of pork. The fellow who clings to the business makes the money in the end. There is nothing in changing from one business to another at every unfavorable market condition, and particularly is there nothing in growing grain for sale, without first manufacturing it into meat, returning the manure to the soil. Soil fertility is an important consideration, and to maintain it requires farmyard manure, the richest of which comes from the well-managed pigpen.

Keep the brood sows. Add to them. There is always a time to start or increase a business, and that time is when a large number are disgusted with it, and prices are comparatively low. With spring at hand, and a long summer, in which pigs can be fed most economically, close upon us, with prices of pork moderate, but on the increase, and with every prospect of a bountiful harvest, is there any reason why the pig business should not be more vigorously pushed than ever? None. We would say, "stick to the pig."

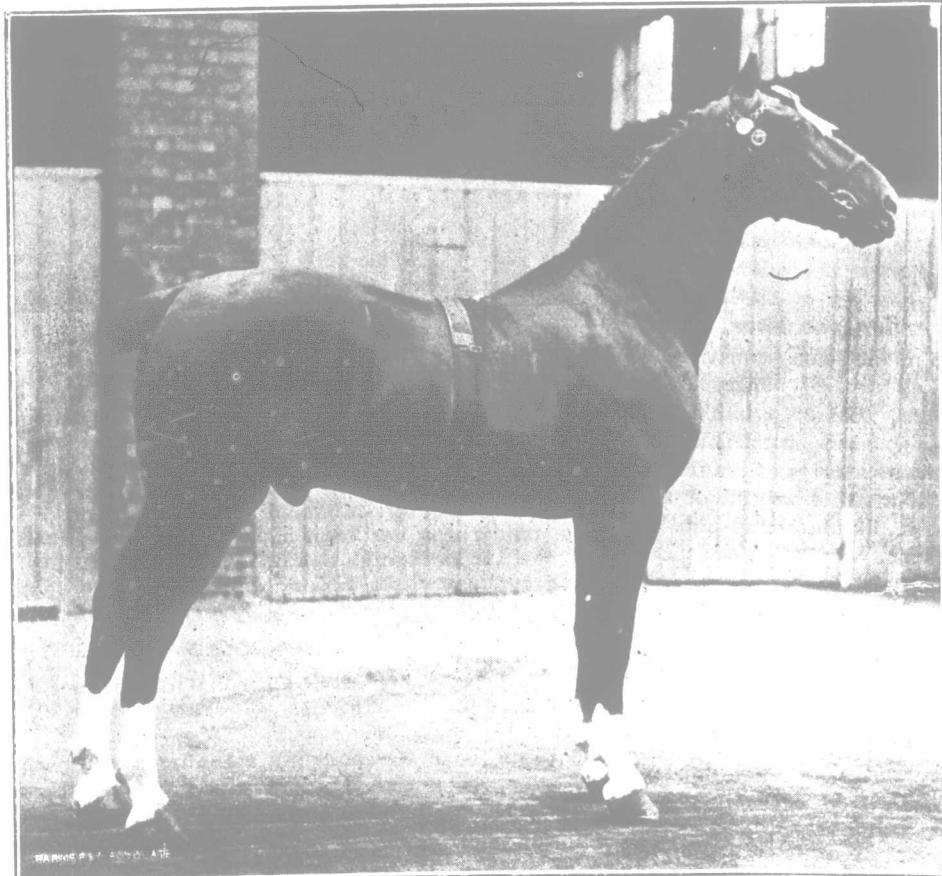
Feeding Pigs.

1. How many young pigs will 500 bushels of roots and 150 bushels of barley chop keep growing well from first of December until first of May?
2. To get best results, should the pigs be kept in or allowed to run out?
3. Are roots for pigs better pulped or fed whole?
4. How much corn in the ear should it take to make a pig gain 100 pounds, when the pig is running on grass, and starting to feed it corn at weight of 100 pounds?
5. To get pigs to make good gains on corn, when running on grass, should they get all they want to eat, or a limited amount? Please state the amount.

J. H. S.

1. It is impossible to estimate exactly how many young pigs can be maintained on the amount of food mentioned. It will be found that there are marked variations in the amount of food consumed by different pigs in a given time. In our experience, it is seldom found advisable to feed a much greater weight of roots than is used of grain, in which case the proportions of roots and barley given here are not suitable, and there would be a surplus of roots at end of the feeding period. It is not stated how large these pigs are at the time the feeding commences. I presume, however, that they would be pigs recently weaned. In the beginning of the feeding period the pigs will not eat nearly so much food per day as they will towards the close. At first they would eat comparatively few roots, but the proportion of roots might gradually be increased as the pigs become accustomed to them, so that, towards the close of the feeding period, it might be possible to have the pigs eating at least two pounds of roots for every pound of meal. On an average, I should say that it would be fairly safe to estimate three pounds of grain and between three and four pounds of roots for each pig per day. Some pigs would eat more than this, and some might not eat so much; and, as I said before, it is impossible to make an exactly accurate estimate of the food required.

2. Unless these pigs are fed under rather extraordinary conditions, it will not be possible to give them much outdoor exercise in the winter. If there is a well-sheltered yard to which they can have access, it will be found beneficial for the pigs during their growing period. During the fattening period it will not be well to give much outdoor exercise.



King's Proctor 11102.

Hackney stallion; chestnut; foaled 1908. First and champion, London Hackney Show, March, 1912. Sire Mathias.

3. So far as the feeding value of roots is concerned, it does not make any difference whether they are pulped or fed whole, but sometimes a person can get pigs to eat roots more freely by pulping and mixing them with meal. In very cold weather, it is a good plan to moisten the roots with warm water, especially where a person is anxious to feed a fairly large proportion of roots.

4. It usually requires about seventy pounds of dry dent corn of good varieties to make one bushel, or fifty six pounds of shelled corn.

Extensive American investigations show an

average gain in weight per bushel of corn of ten and one-quarter pounds. Pasture, however, would effect a considerable saving of corn, but the extent of the saving would depend upon the kind and quality of the pasture. A good alfalfa pasture might nearly double the effectiveness of a bushel of corn, whereas an ordinary grass pasture might add anywhere from twenty-five to fifty per cent. to its effectiveness.

There are so many factors entering into problems of this kind that it is impossible to give anything like exact estimates. The figures given above, however, will serve as a general guide.

O. A. C., Guelph.

G. E. DAY.

On the Right Track.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I wish to thank you for your good editorial on "Live Stock and Agriculture," in your issue of February 29th. I consider it one of the strongest and most timely articles I have ever read in any paper. You are on the right track. Just keep the good work going, and it will bring results. The economical production of beef is one of the most important problems before the farmers of both Canada and the United States. Unless something is done, beef is bound to be so high in price as to restrict its use.

Even in the State of Iowa, the leading beef-cattle State of the Union, we are facing this problem. This State has just appropriated the sum of \$7,500 to make a special farm-to-farm study of the beef business. Data is to be collected and given to the press of the State. During the fall months, special beef-cattle trains are to be run over all the leading railroads of Iowa. I wish to congratulate you upon the most excellent paper you are publishing. I always read your editorial page, and find it very helpful.

W. J. KENNEDY.

Iowa College of Agriculture.

THE FARM.

Satisfactory Cement Silo.

In the summer of 1911 a cement-concrete silo was erected by James M. Carrothers, West Nisour, Middlesex Co., Ont., which has stood satisfactorily the severe test of the past winter. The story of this silo is well epitomized, as follows:

Dimensions, 40 ft. by 12 (nearly 13) ft.

Wall 9 inches thick at bottom, to 8 inches at top.

One ring is 2½ feet in the ground.

Foundation wall below floor, 18 inches wide.

Cement floor, 4 inches thick.

No drain.

Loads of gravel, 40.

Barrels of cement, 42.

Proportions, 1 of cement to 6 of coarse gravel.

Seven openings 24 x 30 inches, next feed chute; six would be sufficient.

Between each window were laid three coils of No. 9 wire, three twisted together.

Cement concrete mixed and used quite wet.

One ring laid in two days, so there was ample time for cement to set.

Inside of steel rings oiled each time.

No water used on walls after they had set.

wards, but they have set very hard and without any crack.

Scaffolding inside silo. Derrick or ginpole outside to hoist barrow with concrete.

Gasoline engine, 3 h.p., used to run mixer and hoist barrow.

Bolts and steel bars on north side to hold blower pipe.

Bolt set in hole to hold blower pipe.

Wall erected about June 20th.

Silo built by James M. Carrothers.

Reinforced with 2½" scantling and 1-inch board.