

fertile. Cases could be cited of run down farms, which have been devoted to sheep and immediately they have become productive. There is a story told of a farmer in Michigan who bought a very poor farm for little or nothing. He seeded it to grass and clover and began feeding sheep. A short time ago he broke up a field that had been pastured by sheep for several years and planted it to corn, which yielded 80 bushels per acre. Five years after he had purchased, he sold the farm for \$80 per acre, and the increased value of the land was entirely due to sheep raising.

Our advice to the owner of a run down farm is to engage largely in pasturing sheep. Prices for wool and mutton are improving, and sheep raising, for the next few years, will be a profitable business. If a profitable business can be carried on and at the same time the land made more productive, no farmer should hesitate about keeping more sheep.

#### A Necessity in Raising Lambs for Market

Farmers who raise lambs for market should not forget to castrate the bucks. Drovers are talking some of agreeing not to buy buck lambs except at a reduction of \$1.00 per cwt. The best time to castrate is when the lamb is young. If done properly at this time the lamb will feel it but little. Lambs have often been seen gamboing on the hill-side a few hours after the operation is performed, thus showing that it has very little effect upon the young lamb. However, farmers should not neglect this operation. If they cannot do it themselves, get some neighbor to do it. Wether lambs sell much better and quicker than bucks. Dealers don't want the latter except at a greatly reduced price.

#### Success in Sheep Breeding

In order to obtain the best results in sheep breeding environment must be studied, effort must be continued along the one line, utility must always be kept in view, and crossing must never be done, except for a special purpose, and then the offspring must always be fattened and sold. If conducted in this way the flocks of Canada will be firmly established upon a proper basis, and we shall receive the greatest profit for feed consumed in the case of both wool and mutton, and Canadian mutton will become as famous and as much in demand in the English market as Canadian pork is today. No country in the world is capable of producing better mutton sheep than Canada.—F. W. Hodson, Live Stock Commissioner.

#### Weeds Sheep Will Eat

Prof. Kennedy of the Iowa experiment station says that there are 600 kinds of weeds and grasses growing in the agricultural states and of these sheep eat 550, horses eat 82, and cattle eat 56. He says sheep relish most weeds and do well on them and therefore every farm of a quarter section should have at least a flock of twenty-five sheep to help keep down the weeds, and that small flocks pay their way on most farms in this way. He says: "Less labor is required in handling sheep than almost any other kind of stock. During a large portion of the year they will take care of themselves, and at the same time utilize the weeds and other wastes found on so many farms. True it is that at certain seasons of the year they must be given food, care and attention. This is especially so at lambing time. The successful flockmaster is the one who watches the old and young very closely at this season of the year."

#### Does the Bacon Hog Pay?

The following questions are practical and to the point. We want every reader who keeps hogs to answer them. If you cannot answer all, reply to those you can. It will help you and provide a fund of information that will aid in putting the industry on a better basis:

- (1) What breed of hogs do you keep?
- (2) Have you found them profitable for bacon production?
- (3) What is your method of feeding for the bacon market?
- (4) At about what age are the hogs ready for market?

(5) Do the buyers in your district give enough more for select bacon hogs than for lights and fats, to make the business of raising the bacon hog profitable? What difference in price if any do they make?

We shall be glad to have opinions on points not covered by these questions. Who will be the first to reply?

#### Packers Must Pay More for Bacon Hogs

Editor THE FARMING WORLD:

In answer to the questions under the heading, "Does the Bacon Hog Pay," in your issue of April 15th, I wish to say:

1. We keep the improved Yorkshire (pure-bred).
2. We think they are as good as any, perhaps the best.
3. We feed separated milk and ridlings until 3 months old, after that chopped black barley and oats; sometimes feed chop corn for the last month.
4. They will weigh two hundred pounds or a little more when eight months old.
5. Don't know; perhaps they pay too much for lights and fats. But there is something wrong. The packers should pay what hogs are worth to encourage the production of the best bacon hog and discourage the production of the poorer class of hogs. Some farmers tell me that they cross the Yorkshire with the Chester White and can get their hogs ready at seven months, and they will weigh 200 lbs. and over. Of course they are not as good a bacon hog, but they get the same price for them and it pays them better, and of course farmers, like packers, are in the business for what they can make out of it. But I think if the packers would pay about 75c. or \$1.00 a hundred more for the best they would soon have no other offered them, and that would be better than things are at present for all concerned.

GEORGE MARTIN.

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#### Some Valuable Hints on Breeding Swine

In a recent address before the New York State Breeders' Association, Prof. Day, of the O.A.C., Guelph, who is a frequent contributor to these columns, gives the following sound advice upon the breeding of swine:

1. Constitution. Without constitution progress is impossible. Constitution is indicated by width and depth at the heart. A broad shoulder top does not necessarily indicate constitution, but we must look between and back of the fore legs. A strong, muscular neck also indicates constitution. It is not necessary that there should be a hump of fat on top of the neck, but muscular development is important. A broad forehead, a broad, full poll, and a good-sized, bright eye are other indications of constitution.

2. Quality. This is important from both the breeder's and the consumer's standpoint. I like to see strong, clean, finny-looking bone in the legs, and to see pasterns that are perfectly upright.

The extremely fine bone for which some breeders are aiming has nothing to commend it. There is a relationship between bone and muscle, and when the bone is reduced beyond a certain point, it results in a carcass that contains entirely too much fat for the amount of lean. Either extreme is undesirable, and I like to aim at a happy medium. The undue reduction of bone also tends to reduce size and lessen fecundity. Other points under quality are general smoothness of form, thickness and evenness of fleshing, smoothness of skin, and fineness of hair.

3. Fecundity. This is a point which is frequently overlooked, and yet it is one of prime importance. These little, short-bodied, fine-boned, roly-poly, sows cannot be prolific mothers, and if a sow is not a good mother, of what use is she? The good breeding sow must have a good-sized, roomy frame, and this calls for a fair share of bone. Coarseness is undesirable, but strength of bone and a good length of body are absolutely essential. The mammary glands should be well developed, and there should be not less than twelve fully developed teats.

4. General Conformation. In general appearance the animal should show a proportionate development of the different parts, and it should meet the requirements of the butcher and the consumer by carrying flesh of the right kind, and possessing large development of those parts which have the highest market value.

5. Character. This is something which is hard to define, and yet the experienced breeder can recognize it at a glance, and knows its importance. It implies conformation to the best type of the breed, but it goes still further. Character in the boar implies a bold, impressive carriage appearance. He is a boar, and he shows it at every point and in every motion. In the sow we find the reverse. She should be dignified in her carriage, but there is a femininity about her general appearance and bearing which indicate a prolific and indulgent mother.

6. Pedigree. A good many people are inclined to look upon pedigree as something distinct from utility. I cannot fall in with this view when breeding animals, under consideration. I have frequently been asked whether of greater importance, individuality or pedigree. The question does not admit of a definite answer, for it is largely a question of degree; but I can say that neither one is complete without the other—that is to say, the desirable breeding animal should possess individual merit as well as a good pedigree. If the pedigree of a given animal contains the names of a number of animals noted for the excellence of their progeny from a utility standpoint, then such a pedigree is a strong indication of utility in the animal in question, because the tendency is for "like to produce like." Unfortunately, however, there are always some degenerate offspring from the most illustrious parents, and to breed from a degenerate merely on account of its pedigree would not be holding the proper balance between pedigree and individuality.

#### Pig Pointers

Nothing is gained by allowing hogs to stand still.

Keep a brood sow as long as she is a good mother.

It is best not to breed from young or immature stock.

With brood sows, as a rule, eye tendencies grow on them with age.

Pigs should be so managed that when weaned they will not miss their mother.

The conditions of the sow has more to do with the proper care of her litter than her size.