

in connection with the sheep enterprise. The man with the lower grade may not receive as much per pound as the one with the high grade, but he will receive all that the market will allow and what he loses in price per pound may to a certain extent be made up in weight of fleece.

Some coarse wool men have complained that they could have realized more on their wool sold on a flat basis during the past few years, than when disposed of through the co-operative. This may be true, but there is another side to the question. What would the dealers and jobbers have paid on a flat basis had it not been for the competition given by the sheep breeders associations of the different provinces having the wool collected at central points and there graded and sold on the best market. During the war there apparently has been an increasing demand for the finer grades, although no farther back than four years ago the demand for the various grades was just the reverse. In 1916 and 1917 there was a demand for fabrics made from the coarser wools, which naturally made the price exceptionally good. When this demand for war purposes ceased there was the civilian population to cater to, and they, owing to prosperous times, demand the finest quality available. There is no telling how soon public opinion will turn in the other direction and create a demand for the coarser fabrics in place of the finer. This is no time for wool producers to forsake their organizations. It is by sticking together through thick and thin that the benefit of organizing is obtained. The prices quoted this spring might be a lot worse than they are. Under date of May 27 the Dominion Live Stock Branch sends out the following report regarding wool prices. "Eastern reports would indicate that dealers are offering 30 cents flat in the Maritime, and 35 cents flat in Eastern Ontario, and that the mills are offering 40 to 45 cents for delivered wools. Some mills are reported to have offered 51 to 52 cents for medium combing wool, but the trade in graded wools has not commenced for this season's clip. Some good clips have been sold locally at 45 cents. Some dealers are talking of prices even lower than 30 cents, especially where there is a great proportion of coarse combing wool. No quotations are reported from the West for the past week." These prices are considerably lower than what have been offered the past few years. However, there will always be a demand for woolen goods and this demand will increase as the price of clothing and yarns seeks a normal level. The present prices should not lead anyone to reduce the size of his flock, or deter others from establishing flocks. It is hardly likely that pre-war prices will ever again prevail.

### Look Well to Quality and Constitution.

Those who have made a study of breed families will have noted that the popularity of families rises and falls. One family may be riding the crest of popularity for a number of years, but gradually it weakens and the members of the family become less in demand. In fact, the family almost becomes extinct, even though big prices are offered for the progeny. A very good instance of this is the Bates Duchesses. For a time no family of Shorthorns equalled them in popularity and fabulous prices were paid on the continent and also in England for animals carrying Duchess blood. As time went on the number of representatives dwindled to a very small number, partially through accident, dis-

ease and non-breeding females. It is quite possible for a certain family of live stock to become too popular. When the public are falling over themselves to purchase representatives of this family, the breeders have a tendency to so pamper the stock that it becomes weakened constitutionally, and finally a large number of shy breeders and non-producers crop out; or, on the other hand, the high fitting and weakened constitution may give disease an excellent opportunity to get in its deadly work. These are two ways in which a fashionable family gradually becomes extinct and one of capacity and vigorous constitution which possibly has been receiving but little recognition gradually comes into the limelight. The blood of the animal may be of the very best, but if the animal hasn't got that robust constitution and the ability to produce progeny each year it is not of much account to the live-stock industry. It is quite possible for an animal to be well fitted and kept in the pink of condition without injuring its reproductive power, but some men become so carried away with certain



Hogs Take Advantage of a Wallow on a Hot Day.

characteristics or traits that they lose sight of the essential and vital points. We want our stock to have good form and to look well, but of what value are they if they cannot reproduce their kind. Men in the pure-bred as well as in the commercial live-stock business must look well to the constitution and vigor of their breeding stock, and endeavor to keep it as free from contagious disease as possible. Contagious abortion, calf scours, and tuberculosis have made inroads into many valuable herds. To send out breeding stock that are known to be diseased or from herds in which the disease is prevalent, is little short of a crime against one of the most important industries in the country. Continual vigilance, and weeding out of weak, inferior animals will help reduce the prevalence of these diseases, but so long as breeders will sell diseased animals to an unsuspecting public, just so long will the industry be jeopardized. It is regrettable that there are breeders so short-sighted as to work entirely for their own interests without a thought of the other fellow, or of the industry.

Canadian live-stock men are favorably situated and have a golden opportunity to become the breeders of high-class breeding stock, not only to establish new herds within our borders but in countries beyond the seas. Scotland and England are recognized as the breeding ground of high-class stock for practically the entire world. There is room for Canada to occupy a similar place, if her live-stock men are men of vision and integrity. The demand is continually increasing for higher class stock. New countries of vast areas are awakening to the fact that blood counts in live stock, and reports show that they are prepared to pay high figures for individuals of the right quality. Breeding stock from Canada has met with favor across the line, but we have not enough good stuff to go around, and the unscrupulousness of some breeders would soon kill an export trade even if we had the surplus unless held in check by rigid regulations. A united effort is needed on the part of live-stock breeders, the Government, and the public generally to encourage the breeding and keeping of the best individuals in Canada, and the stamping out of all forms of disease, so that in the future our stock may be eagerly sought after by many without as well as within our borders.



A Flock of Splendid Leicester Ewes.

### Losses and Gains in Dehorning Steers.

BY PROF. WADE TOOLE, O. A. C.

Feeders, drovers, and packinghouse men generally consider horns on feeding cattle more or less of a liability. The industrial and development council of the meat packers of Canada state that 70,000 pounds of beef with a value of approximately \$1,750,000 are lost each year through injuries due to horns. At the Ontario Agricultural College during the past winter fourteen steers running in weight from 670 lbs. up to 1,030 lbs. were dehorned on December 19th. These steers were rising two years old, and took in all classes including three dairy-bred steers, three scrub steers, three grade Shorthorn steers, three Hereford-Shorthorn cross-bred steers and a pure-bred Hereford and a pure-bred Shorthorn. There was also in the lot a pure-bred Angus steer which gave some check on the gains which have been made had dehorning not been done. We were anxious to know just how much steers of this class in good condition would be set back by dehorning. As previously stated the horns were taken off on December 19th. The following week the Angus steer, which, of course, did not require the operation, gained 25 lbs.; the Hereford steer lost 4 lbs.; and the Shorthorn steer neither gained nor lost in weight. Cross-bred steers lost on an average of 50 lbs. each, due largely to the fact that one of the steers became excited and his loss ran up to 80 lbs. The grade steers lost 28.3 lbs. each, the scrubs 15 lbs. each and the dairy steers 14 lbs. each. Two groups made small gains during the second week after dehorning and two groups lost only 3.3 lbs. per steer. The group containing the steer which became rather unmanageable lost an average of 36.6 pounds. During the third week all groups but one were making good average gains. Our conclusions were that dehorning does not set the steers back very much provided it is quickly and quietly done. However, these results are sufficient to show the importance of using a little caustic potash on the scurs before the feeder calf is two weeks old to stop the growth of horns and render later dehorning unnecessary. It took just about two weeks before most of the steers were again making normal gains and in that time the Angus steer had gained 45 lbs. It pays to stop the horns on the young calves but if this is not done it will certainly pay to dehorn later because while these steers lost, on the average, 32 lbs. each before they started to gain when sold on the market they brought a half cent per lb. more than they would have done had they not been dehorned and all risk of losses from bruising and tearing due to horns was eliminated.

### Cost of Keeping Pigs.

Comparatively few hog farmers keep definite records of what it actually costs to keep a brood sow during the gestation period, and while she is raising her litter. If more accurate accounts were kept the farm business might be reorganized and possibly placed on a more paying basis. We realize that it is rather difficult to keep track of all the feed, especially where it is home-grown. However, as the grain is taken from the granary to be chopped a pretty good estimate could be arrived at as to the amount used. As the cost of keeping a sow and raising a litter differs a good deal on various farms, owing to the management, kinds of feed used, and the thriftiness of the animals, figures arrived at by one feeder would merely serve as a guide for others. E. Ashley, a New Brunswick farmer, gives the following figures as to the returns from a brood sow. During the summer of 1919 the sow ran on pasture and farrowed a litter of nine pigs, which were sold when three weeks of age for three dollars apiece. This is rather a low figure, but the price of young pigs differs in different localities. During the gestation period and while feeding the pigs, \$23.05 worth of feed was consumed. Shorts and barley meal were fed and charged at the market price. Thus it will be seen that there was very little to credit to labor, pasture, or to allow for interest on buildings, etc. During the winter of 1919-20 the sow farrowed eleven pigs. These were sold at eight dollars apiece, and feed bill, including service fee, was \$35.75. Feed flour, barley meal and shorts were fed. This would leave \$52.25 to pay for roots fed, labor, etc. Unless one keeps records they have little idea as to the amount of feed which a sow and litter will take, especially if given sufficient to keep them in good condition.

Mr. Ashley raised two pigs in 1919 and fed middlings, shorts, oil cake, feed flour, a little bran, and some barley meal. These pigs were valued at \$5 apiece, and consumed \$40.75 worth of feed, making a total cost of \$50.75 without allowing anything for the skim-milk fed. One of these pigs dressed 169 pounds, and the other 186 pounds. At 22 cents a pound, which was the market price at the time, the receipts amounted to \$78.10. The expenses being \$50.75, left a balance of \$27.35 to pay for skim-milk, labor, interest on investment, etc. These pigs have given a larger profit than many hog feeders have received. As was stated before, the net returns depend a good deal upon the ability of the man to feed properly and upon the thriftiness of the hogs.

On Wednesday the Angus Association Union Stock Yard posed of at an average of some of their best got good value for the individual calibre, but many ring or were the stock was all brought was a credit to the materially helped fellow-breeders' herds. Colonel year-old heifer of the Pride of type individual. old imported bull Griddan, of Maisie to the sale by H. sire has good c. His sire is Everca grand champion ribbons to her cr Bell. Colonel M imported bull to u The price paid w choice young cow Witch of Sunny is a very promis position. Miss J. D. Maitland, c She is a low-set and quality. M Middlebrook Bea of Elora. This i dam was grand c 1919. G. C. Cl She is a ten-year stuff. John Low a seven-year-old J. D. McGregor, female, paying \$ is a three-year-o gives promise of is in calf to Ido chased several Blackburn, of U and secured sev Linda of Sunny that is a cred consigned by J. She is about fou deal of quality a There was a and bidding wa J. J. Yerian, of sale to the satisf a list of the an obtained:

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Pride of Larkin Sons Pride of Larkin Spruce Lodge La Lassie O' Braidl Balmedie Pride Queenston Robe wood

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