

The Banner Oat.

A NEW PREMIUM.

No grain is more important to the stockman than the oat. He needs it for his horses and other stock, and wishes to grow it as economically and as carefully as possible. Therefore, he wants the best, the most prolific, the hardiest sort he can find.

Every reader of THE LIVE STOCK JOURNAL has heard of the now famous Banner Oat, first brought into notice by Vick, the seedman, of Rochester, and two or three years ago introduced into Canada by Mr. John Miller, of Markham.

These are the points of merit claimed by the growers of the Banner Oat:

1. That it is less liable to rust than other varieties.
2. That it is a much better yielder.
3. That it is stronger in the straw, and therefore not so liable to be blown or knocked down.
4. That it is a superior oat for the making of meal.
5. That it ripens earlier than most other varieties.
6. That where other oats fail the Banner oat does well.
7. That it is a hardy variety, and therefore suitable to our northern and north-western districts.
8. And that while it has these merits, it is also as good for feeding stock, both in the grain and in the straw, as any other variety.

Here are a few items of interest concerning this oat that Mr. Miller has given us:

1. When he first sowed the Banner oat, he planted 1 bu., and his yield from that 1 bu. was 35 bu.
2. A neighbor of his this last year had 17 acres in all of oats, of which 5 acres were sown with the Banner oat. From these 5 acres he obtained 470 bushels, or an average of 94 bu. bushels per acre. He sold these all in one sale at 60 cents a bushel. From the remainder of his 17 acres, which in every respect as to soil and treatment were like the 5 Banner oat acres, he reaped only 30 bushels to the acre.

3. In the several competitions open to the whole continent of America, established by the *American Agriculturist* for the best returns from one acre sown with oats, Mr. Miller with the Banner oat stood third, having a yield of 91 bushels. Mr. Miller is confident that had his acre been in one of his ordinary grain fields, and not in an exposed place in a field devoted to root crops, his yield would have been 20 bushels greater (which would have placed him first in the competition), for his acre was so much exposed that a great deal of the grain on it was knocked down and became lodged.

We have made arrangements with Mr. Miller by which we can supply our stockmen and farmers with sufficient seed of this valuable oat with which to make a start, and at little or no cost to themselves.

(1) To any stockman sending us two (2) new subscribers for THE LIVE STOCK JOURNAL and \$2.00, we will ask Mr. Miller to send 1 bushel of these oats.

(2) Anyone sending us three (3) new subscribers and \$3.00 shall receive 1½ bushels.

(3) Anyone sending us four (4) new subscribers and \$4.00 shall receive 2½ bushels.

The above includes the cost of the bag, but it does not include the cost of carriage. This must be defrayed by the receiver. Upon examination, it will be found that these premium rewards are very liberal.

Three trial orders will count as one regular order. All orders should be written only on our blank forms, and these we shall be happy to supply on application. For further particulars as to "Trial Orders," "How to Send Money," see the "Publishers' Column."

Young Stockman's Department.

Grand Sweepstakes Essay.

True to promise, boys, we have a very important announcement to make this month. We shall offer a *Solid Stake*. Watch, of excellent finish and workmanship, that will be worth at least Fifteen Dollars, for the best essay on some subject we shall set later on written by any one of our boys that wins a prize in our ordinary monthly essay competition. We shall announce the subject in good time, and we shall publish the successful essay in our *Holiday Number* of next year. What you should do now, boys, is to first secure a prize in our ordinary competition, and having then gained an entrance into the lists, put forth your best efforts to secure the grand sweepstakes prize. Do not be backward, or too modest but write us at once.

Our Prize Essays.

To deepen the interest of our farmers' boys in the work of the farm, and to strengthen their love for a life in the country, to awaken their slumbering talents and stimulate their efforts for self-improvement, we offer the following book-prizes as inducements for the boys to write on such subjects as we shall announce each month:

1. *The Soil of the Farm*, by Scott & Morton.
2. *The Crops of the Farm*, by Scott & Morton.
3. *The Chemistry of the Farm*, by Warrington.
4. *Handbook of Agriculture*, by Warrington.

The conditions to be observed by competitors are:
1. The writer must not be over 17 years of age.
2. The essay must not exceed one column in length.
3. The essays for competition for the prizes to be given in any month are to reach us on or before the 15th of the preceding month.

The subjects for the March competition are as follows:
(1) The feeding, care, and management of pigs, from weaning time until ready for market in the fall.
(2) The training of colts, both driving and draught.
Essays for our April competition:
Corn Ensilage: Best method of making, and its value for feeding stock.
How to raise the draught horse our market requires.

A New and Very Liberal Premium.

Boys, this is for You.—Hundreds of boys have been at work getting new subscribers for THE LIVE STOCK JOURNAL on our watch premium plans, and very many have been successful. But so many have tried to get the full number of ten and twelve and have not quite succeeded that, in order to reward them, we have devised a new premium, which in liberality, "takingness," and usefulness, cannot be surpassed.

What Our New Premium Is Like.—It is intended expressly for you, boys; that is, for you rather than for your elders. You are all anxious to get information; but you want to get it in an agreeable form, and upon topics of current interest. So our new premium is a *book*, a *new book*, a book of great interest, of most useful information, upon a topic now uppermost in the thought of everybody—the great continent of Africa.

What Our Premium Is.—It is entitled: *Pictorial Africa, its History, Missionaries, and Martyrs; containing Stirring Narratives of their Perils, Adventures, and Achievements, together with a Full and Descriptive Account of the Peoples, Plants, Forests, Rivers, Lakes, and Mountains of the "Dark Continent."*

Further Description.—The above is the title, but it gives one a very poor and meagre idea of the book. We may say further that the work consists of 400 pages of heavy white paper, handsomely printed and bound, and moreover contains 115 beautiful engravings, many of them full-page, and a fine copper-plate map of the continent, showing the latest discoveries.

What the Work Is About.—To give even a summary of the contents would require this whole page; all we can say here is that the work comprises a history of all the great exploring expeditions made into Africa, and full accounts of the great explorers themselves—Bruce, Mungo Park, Burton, Speke, Grant, Murchison, Baker, Moffat, Livingstone, Gordon, Stanley, and many others. Besides, the work is very full in its accounts of the travels of Livingstone, Gordon, and Stanley, particularly. In fact, it contains everything of importance that one wants to know concerning this most wonderful country up to the very latest times; its peoples, animals, fruits, grains, trees, scenery, climate, resources, products, etc., etc.

How the Work Is Illustrated.—The illustrations are not only very numerous, but very interesting and beautiful. They comprise portraits of Livingstone, Gordon, and Stanley, and many other explorers; hunting scenes, war scenes, and domestic scenes; landscapes, mountains, waterfalls; native races, native animals, native forests; pictures of the slave trade, of caravan traffic, and of local traffic; in short, everything of interest that needs illustration concerning the whole continent, and that in great fulness.

The Value of the Work.—This book has been only just recently published in England. We control the market for Canada, and copies can be secured only from us. So the price is just what we say it shall be. But it would be considered a very desirable book at \$3.00 in any bookstore; and we shall not sell a copy at a less price. The postage alone on the book when we send it out as a premium will be 13 cents.

What We will Give this Premium for.—We will send this beautiful book, post paid, to any young stockman who will send us three new subscribers at \$1.00 each. As in all our premium plans, three trial subscriptions will count as one regular subscriber; but in every case the subscriber must be a new one, and not one already upon our books.

This Is a Liberal Premium.—Now, boys, this is a LIBERAL PREMIUM. We know what we are saying when we tell you that in working for us to obtain new subscriptions in order to get this book, you will be earning larger wages than you will make at any other employment for a long time to come.

How to go to Work.—First make up your mind to do so. Then send us for sample copies, blank orders, return forms, return envelopes, etc. Then set right about the work, and do not rest till you have secured the requisite number of names. For further particulars see our "Publishers' Column."

Finally.—Finally, we are so satisfied that this book will give pleasure to you that we say to you. If, when you receive it, you do not find it just as we have represented it to be, we will return you your money; and yet send you THE LIVE STOCK JOURNAL if the subscribers you have secured. Address—

THE J. E. BRYANT COMPANY (LIMITED),
Publishers,
58 BAY STREET, TORONTO.

The Feeding, Care, and Management of Calves, Intended for the Dairy, from time of Birth, until two-and-a-half Years Old.

By ADDISON H. BAIRD, Chesterfield, Ont.

[PRIZE ESSAY.]

In regard to the above mentioned subject, I will simply give you our method. The first thing we do is to find out the most profitable cows from which to raise calves. We do this, by regularly weighing each cow's milk once a week during the season, also by

testing for butter occasionally. We keep a winter dairy and raise winter calves, as we can raise better calves in winter than during the summer. About a week before the cows calve they are put into a box stall, but so soon as the calves are licked dry, they are removed from the cows' sight. The calves are allowed to run loose in a warm, dry box-stall, being tied up when they are fed milk, and left for a short time afterwards, so that they will not suck each other. By brushing and combing them occasionally, they become quiet and are much easier handled. The calves are fed on their mother's milk three times daily for the first ten days, when it is gradually changed to warmed sweet skim milk. As soon as they begin to eat, dry bran and chopped oats are placed before them, and as they grow older they get all the coarse feed they care to eat, such as cut mangels and clover hay. The calves are weaned at four months of age and fresh water placed beside them, and the quantity of coarse food increased, the object being not to fatten them but to increase their capacity, and to grow bone and muscle. As soon as the grass is ready for them they are ready for it, and if kept on good pasture during the summer they will grow very rapidly. The second winter they are tied up and fed on fodder-corn, cut roots and straw, with a small quantity of hay once a day. They are bred when they are fifteen months old, so as to have their first calf at two years old. The second summer they are put on good pasture the same as the first. After they have dropped their calf they are fed on corn-fodder, one half bushel of mangels and seven pounds of bran, chopped oats and barley. They are fed this way until about the 25th of May, when they are put out to pasture. Our heifers give an average of about 3,000 lbs. of milk for the first six months, after dropping their first calf.

Feeding and Care of Veal Calves for Spring Market.

By STANLEY EVERALL, Chilliwack, B. C.

[PRIZE ESSAY.]

Soon after your cow calves, take a handful of common salt mixed with a spoonful of Epsom salts, and sprinkle it all over the calf, the cow will lick the calf perfectly dry, and in so doing will circulate the blood from head to foot, which will sometimes save a very weakly calf, and I think the cow gets rid of the after-birth very much better. Now be sure and let the calf have the first milk that the cow gives, as there is something in it of the greatest benefit to the calf. Our way is to let the calf remain with the cow till it has gained some strength, and had his fill of the first milk. You now remove the calf to a dry clean pen, where there is good ventilation (not draughts), and make a good bed of wheat straw, don't put a handful or two, but make a good comfortable bed, and shake it well up each time the calf leaves it, and remove all that becomes wet and dirty. Let the pen be in the quietest place you have, of course the nearer the stable the better. Make this pen nearly dark, and allow no more room than the calf can well turn around in. You don't want a big place that he can run the flesh off himself, and you want it quiet and dark, so he can sleep well, and not be bothered with the flies, and I think they are better loose than tied, if the pen is made small. Now the secret of making good veal in the shortest time, is to prevent scours. If a calf gets to scour he loses flesh instead of gaining it, and yet consumes the food. If you see any sign of scouring give the calf a dose of strong coffee, but mind there is no chicory