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JULY 17, 1913

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

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stating that the spread in price worked on much greater weight in heavy cattle than in light giving figures to prove this statement, and also stating that it is generally less difficult to get a high degree of finish on a more mature animal than upon a young animal which uses a large portion of its feed for growth. The same article states farther down that more economical gains are made with the young animal. We would not for one moment discourage the feeding of young stock, but when buying a bunch of cattle to put in the stable in the fall the initial weight must have considerable importance in considering profits accruing from spread in price. Whether the law given in our correspondent's article applies equally to all classes of live stock or not there is always plenty of good argument to take good care of the young stock. It always pays, and profits in making baby beef are good for the man in the business.—Editor.]

### Prepare, Show, Win.

To the stockman who has been exhibiting at exhibitions for a number of years, and through experience has learned all the ins and outs which lead to success in the show ring, no word of warning in regard to final preparation of the stock is necessary. He knows full well that the animal must be fit or a win will not be registered to his credit, and he also knows how to make the animal fit. But new breeders enter the arena each year to do battle with the veterans, and these men, inexperienced in the game, are often at a disadvantage. A year or two in experience adds much to their chances.

It is to be hoped that this year will see a larger number of young or new exhibitors at all our Canadian shows from the largest industrial or national show down to the smallest county fair. An annual autumn exhibition cannot live without live stock unless it be some special feature like a horticultural show. Live stock exhibits are the life of the fall fairs, and breeders should endeavor to strengthen all these shows by increasing the entry of creditable animals. Good shows and keen competition cannot but help the live-stock business in the locality in which they are held, and there is no better incentive for the young man to put the best that is in him in the business than to make a creditable showing at the fall fair. It is not absolutely necessary for him to win in order that his stock be favorably looked upon. All cannot win. Good judges' opinions differ. The point is to bring out good stock in the best possible condition. If you have a good animal it will be appreciated even though it does not stand at the head of the strong class in which it is entered. It will advertise your business, give you a start in the right direction, and plant within you, if you are the right kind of a stockman, a resolve to try and try again until the highest goal of your ambitions is reached, and your herd, stud or flock, carries off the reds and the blues, and the accompanying gold and silver from the greatest exhibitions in the land. The young showman must have a single purpose, dogged determination and must be a good loser as well as a good winner. It is said that anyone can be a good winner, but it takes a real man to be a good loser, and in this sense every person contemplating entering his stock at any exhibition, no matter what its calibre must first of all decide that whatever befall, he is going to play the part of a man in every sense of the term. Hilarious boasting over winnings is often followed by the nastiest kind of growling and grumbling when another of the same owner's entries goes down to defeat. It pays to be enthusiastic. No living man could see his own stock, which he has bred and raised and carefully watched over through days, weeks and months, and the coveted trophies without feeling a thrill of satisfaction, but undue boastfulness always irritates spectators and other exhibitors, and often is resented by the latter, because they feel that their stock is being belittled. Let the pride felt in winning be displayed by increased efforts through greater care and attention given the stock in preparation for further conquests.

Having decided to exhibit, which should always be done early in order to bring each animal out in such condition as to do it as well as the exhibitor justice, it is always well to stand by the decision. If other exhibitors are visited and their entries appear to have a little the advantage in fitness summon all the energy possible to place your own stock in as good or better condition and under no consideration withdraw from the competition if your stock is at all worthy. Get the good stuff and stay right with it undaunted and success must eventually crown your efforts.

It is generally advisable to begin the showing business at the county fairs. Here competition is not usually so keen as at larger exhibitions, and the experience gained stands the young exhibitor in good stead when he launches out upon a large scale and seeks new fields to conquer. By entering the local show it is improved, others are induced to follow suit, the show grows in

magnitude, and as it grows the honor of winning increases, confidence is instilled in the consistent winner, and he steps on and up to the larger shows, leaving the county fair to younger men beginning where he began a few years before. And yet we would not have all the successful exhibitors leave and forget the county fair where their dreams of success first became realities. Let them still exhibit a few animals and by their advice and help aid in every way possible the younger breeders to keep the exhibitions progressing, and gaining in scope and value. Older and more experienced breeders can do much to encourage their neighboring breeders to compete.

Now is the time to commence to put the finishing touches on the stock ready for the September and October fairs. Herdsmen who have been through the mill time and time again, know just how to handle their stock, and yet very often, in fact, in nearly every show herd no two animals will do their best under identically similar conditions. Each cow or heifer has her own peculiar individuality which must be recognized in reaching the high-water mark in condition. This is something which young feeders are prone to overlook. Little likes and dislikes shown by the different animals are ignored, and, what one does well on, the other is compelled to take in like quantity. This is very often a mistake. It is wise to study individuality, feed as regularly as possible, and cater in a measure to the animals' little peculiarities of temperament and taste. By all means have the stock educated. No cattle beast old or young, and no horse, should go into the show ring without having been taught "manners." Cattle should lead well, and should be taught to stand in good position while being examined. A badly-trained horse seldom wins even the smaller prizes. Awkwardness or viciousness detracts greatly from his chances. Colts should lead well, and older animals, on the line, in the harness, or under saddle, should do what is expected of them readily and freely. A little training accomplishes all that is desired in most cases. Occasionally a stubborn animal cannot be made as handy as one would like, but these are seldom met with if proper treatment is given in time. Even pigs and sheep require a measure of "sense" in the judging ring. By all means have the pigs quiet. Quietness in the pen, with frequent rubbing of their backs while feeding will do much to get them accustomed to handling. Sheep may easily be taught to lead, and at least should be handled frequently so that they will stand quietly while the judge goes over them. It is absolutely necessary to handle sheep in judging, and so quietness facilitates the work of the judge and the sheep to best advantage. Too much handling the stock to get it "educated" for its appearance before the judge is seldom given, and more of the entries, especially at our smaller shows, give evidence of two little training than otherwise. Training is almost as essential as feeding and keeping the stock clean. Upon this latter point also depends a great deal of the success of the entries. Cattle and horses should be curried regularly and frequently before the show to give their hides the gloss which is so much admired. Use the brush and a rag to wipe off after combing and brushing is done. This besides polishing up the coat, keeps the skin clean and the animals finish better. The brush may be used to good effect upon pigs, and, of course, soap and water is often used on cattle and pigs in immediate preparation for the ring. Shears and a coarse comb must be used to put the sheep's fleece in condition, and with sheep care must be taken to keep dirt out of the wool. These little things will add to the appearance of the entry when it enters the ring.

Perhaps, after all, feeding is the most important consideration after animal form. Recognized type must be the foundation of show stock, and this must be filled in and rounded out by flesh put on smoothly, proportionately, and in liberal quantity. This must be covered with skin, and wool or hair of good quality, which is largely influenced by feeding, and the breeding of the stock. Anyone can throw a forkful of hay, a bucket of silage, and a gallon measure of chop into a manger in front of a bull, and he may eat it, but not all men, even those who have been raised in the business, can feed that bull in such a manner as to bring him out in nicest form—not overdone, yet finished. It requires skill to keep the animal's digestive system working to best advantage. Appetite must often be coaxed a little, and care is always necessary that the animal does not "stall" and fail instead of gain. Even after a "stalled" animal begins to eat again it is generally some time before gains are made. Refusal of food is simply a sign that the organs of digestion and assimilation have been overtaxed, and are injured, and it takes them some time to regain their normal state and to exercise their normal functions. Feed liberally, but carefully; win or lose, be courteous to judges and officials, and ever-face the problem with a determination to win by strictly fair means—the merits of your stock. Prepare, show, and win.

### Raising Pigs for Profit.

Swine are more universally kept and raised on the farm than any other class of live stock. They are used as the scavengers to utilize many of the products on the farm that would otherwise go to waste. They are constantly getting, when allowed, here and there many things that other stock will not consume. If there is any spoiled fruit or vegetables, they are given to the hogs. If there is any injured grain, it is the hogs that consume and convert it into marketable produce. They are the most economical producers of meat of any kind of stock kept on the farm. They waste less and, with proper management, give greater returns. Pork is the most economical meat for family use, because one pound of pork will go as far for family consumption as two pounds of beef. It is more easily cured and retained for future use, and can be transported and used in all parts of the world. It is always ready for family use. A good slice of smoked ham, shoulder or bacon, cooked along with eggs makes not only palatable but substantial food for the laboring man, whether on the farm or in the workshop.

There are a number of important things to consider in raising pigs successfully. It is much easier and costs less to produce pigs on the farm than to purchase the same for feeding and fattening. The breeding of the pigs on the farm brings into activity the farmer's best judgment in regard to the stock he raises. When the comparatively small price at which good breeding stock can be had, is considered, it is not worth the while to bestow much time or expense on an inferior class of stock. The very best is none too good, and is far cheaper in the end.

In order to raise such pigs as meet the highest ideal of the farmer, it is an important matter to select breeding stock that will be nearly, if not quite, the highest ideal in form and general characteristics. It is safer and better to take special pains to select brood sows from families that are known to be prolific, as it doesn't cost any more to keep a brood sow for a year that will raise twice the number of pigs than another sow will raise, than it does the latter.

Sires should be selected of not only the right conformation, but from families that are prolific. The fact should be borne in mind that the sire transmits to the progeny the external form and general make-up; therefore, the animal selected should be compactly built, with a short, broad head, short neck, wide at the heart, broad back, good length of hip and broad hams, together with bones of good size. Strong-boned pigs cannot be expected from small-boned sires. It is well to remember, also, that the progeny inherit the vital organs and internal structure largely from the dam. Thus it is easily seen that by the proper selection of the sires and dams that one can raise pigs that are strong, vigorous, have good-sized bones and muscles, and large vital organs, which carry along with them a strong constitution.

The most economical meat-producing hogs do not represent either extreme coarseness or fineness. It is the medium-sized hog that can be brought to market weights and conditions at an early period in its life that is the most profitable meat producer. The fine-boned, small ones do not attain size quickly, and the extreme coarse ones require too much time to get to market condition and weights to be as profitable as the pigman likes.

It is a matter of prime importance that should not be neglected to surround the herd with such conditions as will promote both health and vigor. Nature seems to have designed that the hog should live out of doors, and come in direct contact with the ground. If kept confined to close quarters, disease germs gather and the hogs are liable to fall victims to disease, which either takes them off or reduces greatly the profits in the business. The ideal conditions for raising pigs are out in the open where they can have ready access to vegetation, and, if possible, good running water. Of course, during the winter the animals need protection from the cold, and well-constructed houses then are an absolute necessity for their best doing.

Considerable stress is laid on what is called a hog wallow in the summer time. It is contended that the wallow adds not only to the comfort of the hogs to allow them to get into the mud during the heat of the day, but it promotes and maintains a healthy condition. I prefer clear running water to a mud wallow, but the clear water cannot always be at hand on every farm. To compel the animals to endure the heat of the day without some means by which they can relieve the heated condition by getting into the wallow or water, is to subject them to endure that which is not only detrimental to their health, but dangerous, as many hogs are lost from the lack of these conveniences.

The importance of keeping the hogs free from external parasites should not be overlooked. If the quarters where the pigs sleep become infested with lice, it is well to clean them out thoroughly, burn the bedding and spray the sidewalls and floor of the nesting places with some good disin-