

### Holstein-Hereford Cross.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate".

While dairying gives so remunerative returns, farmers are going to stick to dairying, and deserve credit for so doing. The beef industry is heavily handicapped at the present time, owing to the exclusive use of dairy breeds for dairy purposes.

The Holstein is apparently the favorite factory cow, therefore in numbers is much in advance of any other breed. The Holstein of the present day is a big, roomy, well-built animal, and an early maturer, but lacks the fine points that the butcher and feeder desire; a Holstein in a lot of stockers being an eyesore and a detriment in the bunch.

While dairying is profitable, yet the beef industry is equally profitable. Now, why not combine the two to a limited extent at least, by crossing one of our best dairy breeds with one of our best beef breeds? Why destroy so many calves every spring for no returns except the hide?

To our dairy friends let us look for help in solving the beef scarcity. Instead of breeding the Holstein for milk alone, breed for beef calves also. I imagine I hear some old Shorthorn breeders laugh outright at such idiosyncrasy in expecting anything that would even approach the beef type out of a Holstein cow.

The Hereford is an early-maturing animal, carrying a heavy carcass of the finest beef, and stamps its characteristics wherever crossed.

My advice to dairymen who have a herd of good, square-built Holstein cows, is to cross them with a heavy pure-bred Hereford bull, and instead of destroying the calves raise them, and you will be well pleased with the income derived from selling these calves in the fall.

I have had several stockers of this cross, and all gave very satisfactory results, being rapid growers and early maturers of a good beef type; they nearly always have the Hereford markings.

Now, I have no axe to grind, as I buy steers and heifers in the fall to feed and run on grass the following summer, and owing to the increase in dairy breeds, find great difficulty in picking up a satisfactory bunch, but feel so well satisfied with this cross that I would put in a stable full of them could they only be found.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

EDW. DUNN.

### The Hampshire Sheep.

By Geo. L. Telfer.

To write the history of this breed would lead us back almost to the time of William the Conqueror. About this time there existed two breeds of sheep that thrived well on the chalk lands of the South downs of England, and from these sheep have come the now splendid mutton breeds, the Southdown and Hampshire. The former have long since become one of the leaders for fine mutton, and the Hampshire has proved that wherever he goes he finds admirers, whether it is on the block or in the show-yard, where he is, with good fitting, a remarkably attractive animal. But, to proceed with his history, the Hampshire was found to be a larger and coarser sheep than his ancestor, the Southdown, and required to be fed on stronger and better land, and thus they found their homes on the heavier lands of Hampshire, Wiltshire, and Berkshire. There was at this time a great variety, some with dark faces, others spotted, and with wool running from fine to very coarse, until about 1815 to 1835, when a class of sheep was desired that would thrive well on exposed pastures, and, when put on feed, would take on flesh of good quality, and these flocks, crossed with the Southdown, were found to fill the bill. Although the breed lacked somewhat in type, it was the foundation on which the Hampshire breed was formed. It then remained for some influential men to go on and improve and boom the breed. Foremost amongst these was Mr. Humphrey, of Oak Ash, a man who possessed the genius required in an improver of stock. Along with Mr. Humphrey were Mrs. Lawrence, of Bulbridge, and Morrison, of Fonthill. In 1851 a Southdown ram was purchased from Jonas Webb, but the trouble with this cross was the loss of size, and to overcome this, only the largest ewes were bred, and by careful selections from time to time, the flock was being gradually graded up to the Hampshire type, as developed by Mr. Humphrey. He was very careful in his selections, both of ewes and rams, buying ewes very seldom. Lambs were selected at birth, and those showing the least sign of weakness or off type were marked for the feeding pen, and only the best were kept for the breeding pen, and only the best were kept for the breeding pen, and only the best were kept for the breeding pen. In 1868, Mr. Humphrey brought at his dispersion sale, many of his rams brought from 10 to 60 guineas each, when Mr. Rawlings, a keen buyer, took up the work of building up the breed, and in later years the wonderful qualities of this now famous breed became known, and it can truly be said no breed has come so rapidly to the front.

The Hampshire is the heaviest of the Down breeds, excelled in weight only by the heavier breeds of the long-wooled varieties. Mature rams, in good condition, should weigh from 260

to 325 pounds, and ewes from 175 to 225 pounds. The ewes are great milkers, and thus produce heavy, early-maturing lambs for the spring markets. The Hampshire should have wool somewhat after the type of the Shropshire, clean from fibre, coming down to the eyes and on hind legs. Legs, face and ears should be a uniform black.

This breed is well adapted to either pasture or pen feeding, and has stood well to the front in all the leading fat-stock shows in England and other places, and the Hampshires are possibly bringing higher prices, and are more sought after, than any other breed at the present time.

Brant Co., Ont.

## THE FARM.

### Believes in Large Corn Ears.

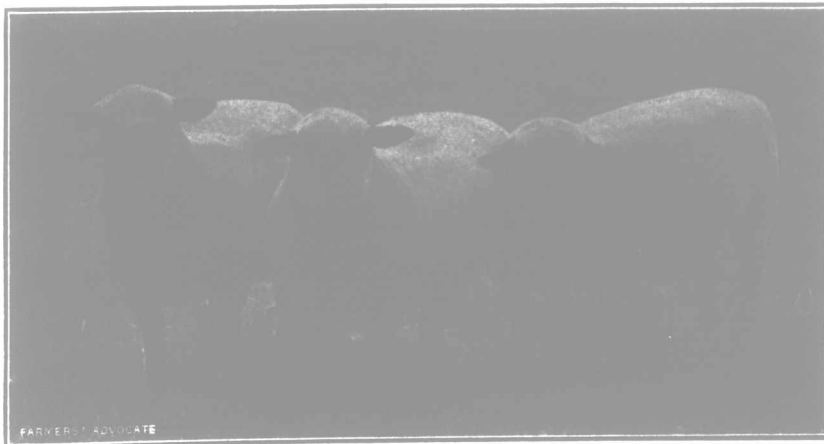
Editor "The Farmer's Advocate".

In justice to myself, I can hardly let the criticisms of T. S. Biggar and R. H. Abraham, on my former letter, go without a short reply. In the first place, I want to put myself on record as being in sympathy with the aims of the Corn-growers' Association, of which I am a member,



Hampshire Down Ram

and would like to express my appreciation of the efforts of Mr. McKenney and the Department of Agriculture in their successful conduct of the corn show. I don't know that I directly criticised the corn judging there, though my remarks could hardly be construed as endorsing the same. Above all things, in matters which affect our common interests as farmers, let us be fair in our discussions, and not assume that people are grieving or lamenting, as Mr. Abraham did in his letter respecting myself. I can assure Mr. Abraham that the individual who has an abundance of good sound corn suitable for seed has no occasion to lament or even envy the other fellow who gets a little prize money and has no corn to speak of suitable for seed purposes.



Hampshire Down Shearling Ewes.

First at Royal Show, England.

I simply stated that all ears over nine, or possibly ten, inches in length were rejected, and that if you could grow ears weighing two pounds each you would stand no chance for a prize with ears of that size. I simply made this statement to show that large ears, regardless of all other considerations, were ruled out. How Mr. Abraham could stretch his imagination to the point of assuming that a two-pound ear was my ideal in corn-growing, is something not warranted by the context.

I never place my ideals in the realm of impossibilities, and consider that a two-pound ear of corn is considerably beyond the limit of attainment with the varieties adapted to this climate. If Mr. Abraham uses a two-horse planter with check rower, he plants his corn 3 ft. 8 in. apart each way, unless he has given a special order, as

3 ft. 8 in. is the regulation distance. If he does not use a planter such as above, but puts his corn in with a spud planter, he is certainly behind the times in corn-growing.

Corn planted 3 ft. 8 in. each way, which is the almost universal distance in Essex, gives 3,240 hills to the acre, instead of 3,556. But how foolish to speculate on an absolutely uniform size of ears. Did Mr. Biggar or Mr. Abraham ever see a field, or even a hill or a half-dozen hills, in which the ears were all of uniform size or weight? Did either of these gentlemen ever see a field, or even a small patch, in which there were not barren stalks? How can we expect to get ears of an average weight, of, say, ten ounces, except by having a large number weighing a pound or over? You must have the big ears to make up for the nubbins and barren stalks. You cannot get the big crop without big ears, of, say, a pound or more.

Now, a word as to early maturity. I deny emphatically that the climate in this county is not sufficiently long and warm to produce the dent varieties, such as are commonly grown here to their fullest development, if planted before the first of June. I planted large White-cap myself last year on the 15th day of June, and there was not a soft nubb in the field. I have planted it on the 19th of June with the same result, and I can give the name of a farmer within four miles of Kingsville, Essex Co., who planted the same variety on the first day of July, 1889, and husked 125 bushels of ears of sound corn to the acre, and he always selects the large ears for seed.

Of course, I know it is a more risky business to grow corn in some parts of Kent County. I was up in the north-east part of Kent in 1907, at husking time, and it was surely discouraging to see the havoc that had been wrought by spring frosts after the corn was up. I went to the Western Fair last fall, and from Thamesville to about Glencoe the corn had been frozen and the leaves were all bleached out. The above remarks do not apply to the south and south-western parts of Kent County.

Again, in respect to the theory that medium or small ears or tips of ears have a tendency to earlier maturity than the large ones, I cannot accept it. Having been born and reared on the farm, and actively engaged or closely identified with the growing of corn nearly all my life, my experience entirely disproves this theory. I have in my earlier life, before I came to Essex, husked corn containing a goodly number of immature ears. The larger ears were invariably the ripest, and the soft corn was almost entirely among the small ears or nubbins. I would suggest that the better way to procure an early-maturing strain of any variety of corn would be to go through the field when the crop is ripening and choose for seed those ears which show marked characteristics of early maturity; continue this selection for a term of years, and thus certainly achieve a greater success than by an indiscriminate selection of medium-sized ears.

Judging corn is like judging everything else. Two men take their corn to Guelph. One man has little short ears, six or seven inches in length; the other shows ten ears, as perfect as you could wish to see, but about two inches longer. The man with the small corn gets the first prize, the other one gets the second. They take the same corn to Essex and the decision is reversed, which would certainly not have been the case had the second party chanced to have selected ears longer than ten inches.

The good book says prove all things and hold fast that which is good. I would suggest that my critics test this matter of yield and earliness from large ears versus small ears. If it can be shown by a series of experiments conducted over a term of years, that corn seed selected from medium ears, say 8 inches in length, will produce an earlier and an equally or a more productive strain from the same variety, I will not be backward in making due acknowledgment of my error.

Anyone can grow small or medium ears of corn. A poor soil with good culture, or a good soil with poor culture, will not grow big crops of anything. For the ambitious farmer who feeds his land and gives it the best possible cultivation to be compelled to exhibit his small corn in order to compete with his neighbor whose land is leaner and not so well tilled, is not encouraging to good farming. Success will never come by low ideals and lack of ambition to excel in whatever one undertakes.

Before closing I would like to compliment Mr. Biggar on his reference to drainage. His remarks on this point are very commendable, as drainage in this county is an all-important consideration.