

cost me \$44. She is a regular breeder, a good looker and easy feeder and transmits the easy feeding qualities to her offspring. She generally fattens very lively during the eight weeks before calving and usually loses a little for a time as she progresses in lactation. But she never gets poor. I have not kept any records exactly, but occasionally weigh the milk and a farmer can tell by measure and experience somewhere near what his cows are capable of, especially if he happens to have them operating singly. This cow gives us satisfaction in every way. The first year we had her she came in on grass and gave twenty-five pounds of milk night and morning and kept her average fairly well until we had to let her go dry for the eight weeks vacation. We raised her calf under ordinary conditions about a farm and in moderate condition dressed out 668 pounds at 2 years and 6 months and a hide of 68 pounds. Her next was a heifer and now her stall mate. She is, in characteristics, like her dam, always looks well and her milk tests 4.09. Her next a steer calf which at two years old dressed 535 pounds in ordinary beef condition. Her next was also male, which we allowed to suck for six weeks and it dressed 200 pounds. She has a male calf again that resembles a good purebred. I always breed her to a good purebred Shorthorn sire. Thinking to better myself, or at least my cow line, I purchased some purebred Shorthorn females. I "put it up to the honesty" of the seller on his public reputation as a cattleman to sell one the right goods. The competitors (or otherwise) made me pay \$110 for a cow, said to be in calf. But a few days after I got her home she proved untrue and not only that, she was a chronic or spasmodic buller. By dint of executive management we did finally get her settled. But that didn't finish the trouble. When she got a calf she could not feed it. Its hair was dry and harsh and was a hungry looking, ill-fed, unthrifty animal, in fact I don't remember ever having a worse grade calf. I decided at last to take it from her and we got it and another one on separator milk, about twenty or twenty-five pounds between the two, and in a couple of weeks the old hair shed from around its eyes, the coat slicked and it did better right along. Prof. Carson tested the milk, as I wished to know if the separator was working O. K. and he said it only contained one-tenth of 1% of fat. Now what kind of a cow was that anyway? Up to the present I see no indication of her calf being much better than my grades. I decided to give the cow another chance, but at the end of eight months she was still barren. I concluded she was a "boarder" pure and simple, a disgrace to her breed and that nobody else might get taken in I sold her to the butcher for three cents a pound, or a matter of nearly \$39.00. I couldn't get a fraction of a cent more for what was a very good specimen of a pure-bred Shorthorn dam than I could for a scrub animal. There is no doubt in my mind of the dual purpose cow. I have had others which, if crowded like professional specialty men push theirs, that would not be distanced very far. My opinion is that Shorthorn cattle have largely lost the characteristic feature that would make them a practical breed from a poor farmer's standpoint. They may do for a hobby or show ring.

GEORGE ARMSTRONG.

### The Smithfield Show

The annual show of the Smithfield Club is the epitome of all British shows—Norwich, Edinburgh and Birmingham all lead to this supreme competition. The Smithfield Club has always been of immense value to British farmers, and never in its long career has it been so necessary as in these days of strenuous competition in the production and marketing of livestock.

This year's show was the 110th in the series, and the live-stock entries in each section were well up to the average of recent years, though some classes showed a slight falling off. Certainly, the quality of the animals has in no wise suffered, and the generally high character of the stock was the subject of much favorable comment. The prizes offered totalled £4,200—a very substantial sum in addition to the great honor of a Smithfield victory.

The cattle entered numbered 278, against 281 last year; there were 153 pens of sheep against 158; of pigs 152 pens against 150. The carcass competitions brought increased entries, there being 40 cattle entries, 66 sheep and 36 pigs. Dressed poultry was responsible for 234 entries, making in all 959 entries against 941 last year.

Almost all the breeds were well represented in the cattle department. The cross-breds made the largest section. Aberdeen-Angus and Welsh were strongly represented. Devons, Herefords and Shorthorns were of about average numbers.

In the sheep classes, both long and short wool breeds were about average in numbers, except in South-downs, which were strongly represented.

Berkshire, middle and large white breeds of pigs were larger in numbers and other breeds about average.

The King exhibited twenty-three head of cattle, and was moderately successful, winning eleven prizes, four firsts, six seconds, and one fourth.

The Prince of Wales was the winner of the breed cup with his Berkshires. In the cattle judging the Birmingham champion repeated her triumph. This was the Aberdeen-Angus heifer "Her Majesty 5th

of Cullen," a beautifully proportioned beast, rather small, but with a fine level back and shoulders, well covered with meat firm to the touch, and of excellent quality. By her victory, the owner, the Countess of Seaford, secured the champion plate, the King's challenge cup, the £50 silver cup for best heifer, the £25 breed cup, and the £20 class prize. The Angus heifer had to face the close competition of the Norwich champion, the cross-bred "Danefield Fortune"—a well-fleshed deep and handsome beast, which proved reserve for champion; and of the Shorthorn "Daisy 5th," the winner of the breed prize at Edinburgh and at this show.

In the breed judging in Shorthorns, the junior steers (not exceeding two years) formed the strongest class. An excellent specimen owned by J. and A. G. Ross was first, second honors going to another Scotch exhibit. The King's white steer was first in the senior steer class (over two, under three) as at Birmingham, and reserve for breed cup. He is a finely proportioned beast of great width.

In the Shorthorn heifer class the Edinburgh winner "Daisy 5th" was easily first and breed cup winner against a half dozen competitors.

The Herefords shown were a capital lot. The Birmingham reserve champion, Sir R. Cooper's "Favorite" carried off first place and the breed cup in the senior steer class. He has fine back and quarters, but is slightly deficient in the shoulders. The breed reserve and first honors in the junior steer class went to Mr. R. Phipps' "Plumper" and second place to the same owner's "Flashlight"—a reversal of the Birmingham decision. They are certainly evenly matched.

The Hereford heifer first went to Mr. Wynn's "Gwendoline"—second at Birmingham, her competitor for first honors there not being shown.

Scotch breeds were well represented, and were the strongest feature of the show, especially the Aberdeen-Angus.

The Angus heifer class brought out the champion of the show, second place going to Captain Sterling's "Model Bella."

The Birmingham winner "Harry"—a grand specimen—was first in the senior steer class, beating two Scottish exhibits. The Birmingham second had to be content with fourth place.

The Edinburgh winner "Pan of the Burn" headed a strong junior class steer and was reserve for Angus breed champion.

The Highlands were over twenty in number. First and breed cup went to Sir W. Ogilvy-Dalgleish for a fine junior steer (not exceeding three years). The King took first and reserve for an older animal.

The Galloway cup was won by a steer owned by Messrs. Biggar—reserve going to a heifer owned by Mr. Cunningham.

Amongst the cross-breds was found the reserve champion, Mr. Hudson's "Danefield Fortune". She took first in her class and breed cup.

Southdowns were by far the strongest class shown in the sheep section. The King was a large exhibitor, but only won one first and reserve with a pen of wethers. First place and the breed cup went to wether lambs, owned by Mr. F. H. Jennings.

A pen of Hampshire Downs shown by Mr. James Flower, carried off the Prince of Wales' challenge cup for best pen of sheep bred by exhibitor, and the champion plate for short wools.

Messrs. Dean and Sons' Lincolns won the champion plate for long wools. Pigs were shown in average numbers and quality. The Prince of Wales won, with his Berkshires, the champion plate and Prince Christian's challenge cup. The champion plate for best single pig went to the Earl of Ellesmere for a large white. The Tamworth cup fell to an exhibit of Lord Hastings.

The carcass competition brought many entries and strong competition, and is always one of the most attractive features of the show to the public.

The champion prize and challenge cup in the cattle section went to Mr. R. J. Nash of Lucan, Ireland, for an Aberdeen-Angus-Dexter cross. This animal at one year, ten months, two weeks, weighed alive 1166 pounds, and the dead weight was 752 pounds. The meat was of choice quality, well marbled, and of very good color. The carcass sold for \$1.75 per stone, (8 pounds).

The reserve champion was a very unusual combination for a fat stock show, the sire being a Galloway, and the dam an Ayrshire and Galloway cross.

The outstanding feature of the sheep carcasses was the preponderance of Suffolks amongst the winners. The champion was a purebred Suffolk, owned by Sir W. Gilbey, live weight 1 cwt., 1 qr., 24 lbs; carcass weight 10 stone, 1 lb. The carcass was of exceptional merit, with much fine lean meat. Reserve champion was a Southdown.

The Middlesex County Asylum secured champion honors for the best pig carcass with a Berkshire exhibit, reserve to same institution.

Considerations of space will not allow of any comment on the various meetings which are a feature of the Smithfield week in London.

In the implement department all the leading makes were represented by a bewildering display of agricultural locomotives, oil engines, and agricultural machinery of the newest types—the new Gilbey Hall product being a much needed new space. Prominent firms were showing seeds, roots, feeding stuffs, veterinary specifics, and all manner of appliances for farm

The weather on the opening day was dull, and inclined to be disagreeable, but bright, colder weather brought out big crowds on the second and third days. Up to Thursday over 16,000 had passed the turnstiles, and the show has proved one of the most successful in the society's long history.

Unfortunately the King was unable to visit the show on account of his indisposition.

F. DEWHIRST.

### A Simple Cure for Abortion

A reader, B. Hibbert, who is ranching in the Knee Hill Valley, Alberta, writes us that he has had the very best of success in treating cows for abortion. His method is to pour crude carbolic acid over salt and give the cows access to it at all times. He has not only cured chronic abortion among his own cows, but has treated several for his neighbors and has bought others that were persistent aborters which have become regular breeders. The remedy is simple and is endorsed by the veterinary fraternity and the FARMER'S ADVOCATE has no hesitation in recommending it, as we have seen the good effects of carbolic acid administered in different ways to cows that persistently aborted.

## FARM

Comment upon farming operations invited.

### Color in Black Oats

Owing to the higher price in Ireland for jet-black seed of the Black Tartarian variety of oats than for seed which is brown or mahogany, and to the prevailing opinion that color of product depends on color of seed, rather than on soil or climatic conditions, the Department of Agriculture conducted experiments along this line during the past two seasons at their Agricultural Stations at Ballyhaise, County Cavan, and Conakilty, County Cork—five experiments in all. In each test, a quantity of the best-colored seed of Black Tartarian oats procurable was purchased, and also a similar quantity of light brown colored seed. These two samples, differing as widely as possible as to color, were sown side by side under similar conditions of soil and cultivation. In some cases both lots of seed were purchased in Scotland, and in other instances both were bought in Ireland. The plots were harvested in the usual way, and, without exception in every experiment, the produce from both lots of seed was almost identical in color, and of equal value.

This result is taken to indicate that the importance of good color in the seed of black oats may be exaggerated, and that the color in black oats depends far more upon the soil, climate and local conditions than upon the color of the seed sown. It is generally believed in Ireland that heavy, cold soils will produce blacker oats than warm, sandy soils, and that a better color is obtained when black oats are sown after potatoes or roots, than after grass.

While this experiment might be regarded as conclusive, the Department advises those whose custom is to pay high prices for color in black oats to make trials on their own land with good and bad colored black seed. In buying seed oats, purity, germination and maturity of grain are mentioned as factors to which every attention should be given.

### Vitality of Seeds in Manure

Experiments conducted to ascertain the vitality of weed seeds after passing through the digestive tract of an animal, led E. I. Oswald, of Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station, to report as follows:

In experiments in which the manure remained for six months in a barnyard heap, and (2) for a short while in piles, it was found that in the first case there was no danger, and in the second case little danger of distributing pernicious weed seeds. In the experiments in which the weed seeds were fed to earliness, and the manure was piled in different ways, it was found that

1. When the manure was piled directly from the stable, and the pile was not covered, only a few weed seeds were found to have survived.

2. When the manure was piled from the stable, and the pile was covered, only a few weed seeds were found to have survived.