

LIVE STOCK.

Fitting Stock for Exhibition.

Winning prizes on animals at the fairs and live stock shows is no easy matter. Those who win usually do so through judgment of animal quality and hard work. No one should think for a minute that because a particular animal he may own "looks fine" it will easily carry away first prize. Looks count, but quality clear through is what judges consider. First of all, then, the animal or animals which are to be shown must be of good breeding and have strong points of the particular breed to which they belong. Scrubs are not considered for exhibition purposes nowadays. Good grades of high quality are sometimes entered at the fairs for special purposes, yet exhibition of pure-bred animals only is the rule.

The breeding of pure-bred animals of all kinds is fast becoming an important industry. The main object of fairs and live stock shows is to give pure-bred breeders a chance to show and advertise their animals. It is scarcely worth while to fit an animal for the show-ring unless one is a breeder and has stock of quality to sell. But if one has pure-bred animals and is breeding to sell animals for breeding purposes, then it will pay him to fit the animals and show them at the fairs. It is an excellent way to advertise the stock, and it is also an excellent schooling for a breeder to bring his animals in actual competition with other good animals for comparison of merits. If one is conceited, it is a good way to have the conceit taken out of him, and to set him on the right track to better breeding.

A breeder should have quality of breed before he thinks of exhibiting. Knowing that the animals have especial merit is very important. One of the first things to consider in fitting a young animal for exhibition is size. With practically all animals, size for a given age is very essential. The large, young animal for a given age stands a better chance for winning a prize than a smaller animal of the breed with better general markings. Therefore, the young animal must be fed for rapid growth. This does not mean that the animal shall be excessively fat, but it must be large of frame and heavily fleshed. Of course, meat-producing animals must carry a considerable amount of fat, but they must also carry a good frame to support the fat harmoniously. All animals except racing stock and producing dairy cows should be round and "plump," as thin animals of this class stand small chances for winning.

Feeding is the most important item in fitting an animal for exhibition. The young animal especially must be fed abundantly, regularly and with a variety of food that will produce maximum growth. Proteins and carbohydrates must be well balanced. Plenty of mineral matter must be used in the ration to make bone. The digestive and assimilative organs must be kept in a healthy and strong condition. The animal must be crowded for rapid gains in flesh, bone and finish, but care must be exercised not to overfeed and thus get the animal off feed. The appetite must always be keen. Some green matter in the form of forage must be used, if possible, with a plentiful supply of dry mixed grain or ground concentrates. The bowels of the animal should be kept moderately loose or active with either green feeds or a little oil meal in the dry feeds. Linseed oil meal in the ration for practically all animals is not only a good regulator of the bowels, but it is a rich feed in itself and has a tendency to make the coat fine and glossy. A sleek coat of hair is always a winning point.

In the matter of making the animal look sleek and fine as to its coating of hair, regular grooming must be practiced. Combing and brushing cleanse both skin and hair for the general health of the animal and the more perfect secretions of the skin. The clean and bright dress of the animal makes a great difference in its appearance, and the means for securing this is through constant use of the brush. Hogs as well as horses and cattle must be groomed if their coats are to help their looks.

Hogs and cattle should be washed as well as groomed. Warm water and soap are used, finishing with mild water without soap. After the washing the animal is carefully dried with cloths and the hair brushed out even and fine. In order to retain clean hair and skin, after washing the animal must have a clean place in which to stay, and clean, dry bedding. The animal should be accustomed to grooming and washing weeks before it is to be exhibited. It will be necessary to groom the animals during the days while on exhibition, and if their coats become soiled with manure, etc., this will have to be washed off.

Training horses of different kinds for exhibition is an art by itself. Different breeds must have different training to show off to best advantage

in the show-ring. An exhibitor should know the requirements expected of his horse and train accordingly. The horse, of all animals, must show good action. But all animals must be trained for exhibition. They must be able to walk and stand up straight on their feet, so that judges and spectators can easily see all their good points. For this reason all animals while being fed and finished for exhibition purposes must have sufficient daily exercise. This is as important with swine and beef cattle as with other animals. Hogs especially must carry a relatively large amount of flesh and fat. If the exhibition hog has not had abundance of daily exercise while being fitted for the show-ring, it may not be able to stand well while being shown. Its bones and muscles must be accustomed to holding up its weight with dignity. All animals should be trained to move as they will be required to move in the ring, and they should be made gentle and not afraid to be touched and handled in a crowd. The more they are worked with, the quieter and more confiding they will become and the better they will behave in the competing audience.

—"Farmer's Advocate", Winnipeg.

Tendency of Like to Beget Like.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Great as is the scope for skill in the management of soil and crops there is still greater scope in the management of live stock. When we plant the seed for a crop no skill in tillage will make any variation in the kind of crop. In breeding live stock it lies largely with our own judgment and skill whether or not we produce an improved animal. Continued selection and hybridization have made farm crops what they are and with ordinary cultivation there is little tendency to deteriorate. In the case of live stock, a single generation may make the greatest difference either for better or for worse. It cannot fail to strike the observer how wonderfully uniform in appearance wild animals are. Rabbits, squirrels, foxes, etc., are each an exact reproduction of the type. This is not the case with the domesticated animal. The more the breeding of the stock has been kept under control the more variable the stock may be, if that control is injudicious.

A short examination of the general principle is that like begets like. The wild rabbits of a certain district will be found all alike in color, size and general appearance.

In different districts we find rabbits of different types, although they may be descended from the same original stock. This brings us to a further principle, that the circumstances of life modify type. Where the circumstances are favorable we have the large, well-developed type, and where unfavorable the type is pinched and dwarfed. Now, in our farm live stock we see how this second principle works in the large breeds of cattle, horses and sheep that are found on the good land and the same breeds that occur in the mountainous districts. Contrast the Shorthorn

cow with the Kerry, the Shire horse with the Connemara pony, the Roscommon sheep with any of the mountain breeds of sheep. So strong is the circumstance of life that the true type of the mountain breed cannot be reared on the good, low-lying land. The first generation of calves from Kerry cows on the rich lowlands will be larger and coarser when full-grown than the original Kerry.

The first principle of breeding—like begets like—establishes the importance of pedigree of blood. When animals are all of one strain of blood from time immemorial they all settle down to one type. There is no reason why they should vary. The male element and the female element work together to fix the type. When a cross takes place between animals of two different types, whether different strains of the same breed or different breeds, there is a struggle for influence between the different types. As a result the progeny may show some of the points of each of the parents, or, sometimes, may resemble one of the parents very closely and show no resemblance to the other.

These variations are not arbitrary. Where the male and the female elements are both equally pure-bred the progeny usually show a mixture of



A Fine Trio of Southdowns.

A New Breed of Swine.

For many years a breed of pigs has existed in Great Britain which have been very much desired by bacon curers, but for unexplainable reasons they have not had a very wide distribution. Up to a few months ago there has been no society registering these pigs, but since the Agricultural Development Grant of Great Britain did not give grants to boars of this breed unless they were registered, patrons of the breed have set about to establish records. The society was organized last November and is known as the Gloucestershire Old Spots Pig Breeding Society. The swine, themselves, are quite spotted and marked in color. It is claimed that the breed is not only ancient but very prolific, hardy and profitable. One of its most prominent characteristics being that it shows an unusual proportion of lean meat in its carcass. There are already between two and three hundred individuals registered in the new books.

Whether or not there is a place or a necessity for this breed remains to be seen but one thing is sure that now, since they are to be encouraged by organized effort, they will be more frequently seen at fairs and exhibitions and more often heard of in live stock circles.



Pure-bred Berkshire Sows at Pasture.

A herd of swine, owned in the West, which spends much of the time in the pasture field.