

given them, daily, for a week or so, gradually diminishing the quantity as they become accustomed to other food. By adopting this plan, and allowing them a liberal supply of water and salt, their constitutional vigor will remain unimpaired, and the change rendered unavoidable by circumstances, be productive of no unpleasant or deteriorating results.

In Great Britain, where so much use is made of mutton by all classes, from the peer to the laborer, great attention has been accorded, not only to the production of the greatest quantity but also the best quality of mutton. After so long a series of efforts and experiments, it is but reasonable to suppose that very many important discoveries have been made in this particular branch of rural economy, and that the business of fattening, in all its details, is there more thoroughly understood and practiced than in any other country. It appears, indeed, to be universally conceded by agricultural writers of England, that sheep of great size and rapid growth, will not give so fine mutton as smaller animals, and those which are longer in coming to maturity. This axiom may, in fact, be regarded as constituting the genuine secret of the success which so markedly attends the efforts of the British herdsmen and flock-masters in fattening their animals, for the market. The Leicesters, consequently, are less valuable, being large and quick of growth, than the "South Downs," which are of a more diminutive size, and much longer in coming to maturity.

A late writer, in remarking on this subject, says:—"A sheep to be in high order for the palate of an epicure should not be killed earlier than when five years old, at which age the mutton will be rich and succulent, of a dark color, and full of the richest gravy; whereas if only two years old, it is flabby, pale and flavorless."

In this country, mutton rarely attains the age of four years, and hence, probably, the reason why the article known by that name is generally so poor compared with the English article. Wethers of good size, and of a breed disposed to take on fat readily, are often marketed at two or three years old; but it would be for the breeder's interest to keep them at least till they were five years old, as he would then be able to offer a very superior article, and to secure a price accordingly. There is no meat superior to good mutton; it is wholesome, and possesses a flavor, equal, if not superior, to the best beef.—*New England Farmer.*

#### RAISING AND FEEDING ROOTS.

MR. EDITOR:—In the discussion of this subject there is one important point which, if I recollect rightly, has not been made sufficiently prominent by your correspondents, that is, the great advantage to be derived from root crops, in lengthening out a proper rotation, and in affording a change of variety of feed. I am not yet a believer in turnips, or any other root, as an exclusive feed, nor do I think it best to feed them to a any great extent, in severe cold weather, unless warm shelter is afforded for the stock to which they are fed. But I have, for several years, fed a few turnips to young stock in the spring, and I am fully confident, that, not only did it make them more healthy, improving their coats and a gradual change from hay to grass, but that the nutriment supplied was amply sufficient to pay all expense of raising the turnips.

No one doubts the advantage of a little corn meal, or oil meal, or oats, in addition to the usual feed of hay, yet no sane man would think of attempting to keep neat cattle entirely on either. Why, then, do they expect any better results from roots fed in like manner? Perhaps no one would think of carrying it quite to this extent, yet I think Mr Emerson went nearly as far in some respects, and I would respectfully suggest to him to read an article in the November *Agriculturist*, by "Diogenes Redivivus," entitled "A Desponding Farmer."

I think highly of turnips, also, as a feed for swine, to which I have been feeding them for a few weeks in

the following manner. I fill a barrel kettle with one-fifth turnips and the rest potatoes, and boil with water enough to wet a half bushel of meal, which I add when cooked soft. I have not the means of weighing, to ascertain the precise result, but they appear to be thriving much better than I ever saw any when fed on clear meal, and the way they take hold of it, certainly indicates that it suits their taste exactly. I ought, perhaps, to add that I tried the pot: toes and meal without the turnips, and allowing piggy to be a judge, the addition of the turnips is a decided benefit. I have seen the experiment tried of raising swine on corn meal, and on corn and oat meal, repeatedly, and although either may answer well for fattening swine previously grown on other feed, or then mixed with a good supply of skimmed milk, it has invariably proved a complete failure when fed to young animals, unless with the addition of a large amount of milk.

My own experience, as well as the directions of nearly all agricultural writers, indicates that, as a general rule, no one cultivated crop ought to be taken from the same land two years in succession; and in the cultivation of young orchards especially, which is an absolute annual necessity, and where grain crops are considered injurious, the turnip is indispensable, and farther, as far as my experience goes, it can be profitably grown, in proof of which, I will give the result of a small patch which I raised the past season:

EXPENSE OF CROP.	
Use 16 rods land,	\$1,00
Preparing land and sowing,	1,00
Hoing,	2,00
Harvesting,	2,00
Manure,	1,00
Total,	\$7,00
Amounts of crop, 103 bushels, at 12½ cts,	\$12,87
Cost,	7,00
Profit,	\$5,87

It is true the land was in good condition; an acre of such land would, with an addition of 30 loads hog manure in the hill, have produced 80 bu. corn, (60 pounds to the bushel.) and this leads me to another point, viz., without this same hog manure I could not raise over half that amount of corn per acre, and I believe more than half the farmers of the northern part of New England, are in the same predicament, unless they substitute some of the concentrated fertilizers, a plan which I consider to be of more than doubtful expediency.

I have had plenty of evidence that we cannot keep swine without roots or milk, the last of which, after deducting for raising calves, &c., is in many cases a minus quantity; therefore I come to this conclusion—no roots, no swine—no corn.

I should have stated that in harvesting turnips, I cut off all the roots close to the bulb, which, although adding one-quarter to the cost of getting in, makes them much nearer to feed.

WILLIAM F. BASSETT.  
*Ashfield, Mass., Dec. 13, 1858.*

#### COMPARATIVE VALUE OF ROOTS.

MR. EDITOR:—Will you, or some of your readers, inform me what is the comparative value of roots for cattle and hogs?

There are many farmers that practice feeding roots that have never made any accurate estimate of their value, compared with different kinds of grain, hay, &c.

In conversation with a gentleman upon this subject he said, that he had practiced feeding his horse with eight quarts of oats and eight quarts of carrots a day, and that he performed more labor and was in better condition than when fed sixteen quarts of oats a day. In this case a bushel of carrots is equal in value to a bushel of oats.

What is the value of ruta bagas, carrots, beets, parsnips