

TYPES OF SWINE

The Modern Bacon Hog Compared With an Old Timer.

Professor Hayward of the Pennsylvania State college, writing in The National Stockman, compares the modern Tamworth hog with the typical old timer. It will be readily seen, says he, that the modern economical bacon pig is no more like the old time hog than a wheelbarrow is like a baronche.



MODERN BACON HOG.

slow maturing hog that the Tamworth bacon hog is supposed by many to be, but in the hands of those who were aiming to get the maximum amount of meat from the finest quality hog bred in America.

In a number of breed tests conducted by various experiment stations where the following results were obtained, which may be of interest: At Geneva, N. Y., it was found that the average cost of pork from the Poland-China for three years was 4.01 cents per pound, and from the Tamworth at the same time and for the same length of time it was but 3.81 cents per pound.

In averaging the results obtained from the Maine, Massachusetts and Ontario experiment stations, where Berkshires, Poland-Chinas, Tamworths, Chester Whites and Duroc-Jerseys were fed, it was found that the Poland-Chinas required 467 pounds of food to produce 100 pounds of grain, the Berkshires 419 pounds, the Tamworths 420 pounds, the Chester Whites 500 pounds and the Duroc-Jerseys 522 pounds.



OLD TIME HOG.

old averaged 125 pounds each dressed, with no special care or feed. One of a barrow that dressed 136 pounds weighed but 27 pounds, and the meat contained a very large proportion of lean to fat.

There is no doubt but that the bacon type of hogs are an economical pork producer as we have, and as our markets become more discriminating hogs of this type will be raised to fill the demand for leaner pork.

Judgment in Feeding Rape. All rape growers should remember that in turning sheep and lambs for the first time on rape they should go on a full stomach and for the first three or four days remain in the rape field a short time only—say an hour. In this way of introducing them to and familiarizing them with the new and very tender and succulent feed, there is not the least danger from bloat, which sometimes occurs when hungry sheep and lambs are allowed to gorge themselves on this palatable plant.

During the first few days of rape turning the sheep should not be pastured in when the plant is wet with dew or rain. Little precautions like these will save possible loss and within a week at most give the flock immunity from further danger. The rape field is a luxury to sheep and a source of great profit to the owner, who can well afford to act on the above hints.—American Sheep Breeder.

Cheviots For the Mountains. Take him all round, the Cheviot is a beauty. Better still, his beauty is considerably more than "skin deep," for he has character, compactness, courage, carriage and cleverness beyond any of the hill breeds, and with his remarkable, unusual and altogether economic combination of wool and mutton traits, is destined to a very important place in American sheep economy. Of all the breeds now in this country none are so well suited to the hill and mountain districts as the bold, self-reliant, hardy, hustling Cheviot, and that settles the question of his future status in progressive sheep farming in this country. All that is necessary for normalizing the Cheviot in America is more push and enterprise among his friends and promoters.—American Sheep Breeder.

Fifty Thousand Dollars Insurance on a Jersey Bull. Application has been made for insurance of \$50,000 on the famous young Jersey bull Merry Maiden's Son, owned at Hood Farm, Lowell, Mass. This is the highest amount of insurance ever asked for on a bull or cow. Merry Maiden's Son is believed to be the most famous Jersey bull living, as he is the sire of Merry Maiden, the champion sweepstakes cow in all three tests combined at the World's fair, and his sire is Brown Bessie's Son, whose dam was the 90 days' and 90 days' tests at the World's fair. Thus Merry Maiden's Son unites the blood of these two famous cows, and great results are expected from his progeny.

DRAFT HORSES.

Their Breeding From a Commercial Point of View.

For 19 years I have been connected with the business of rearing, breeding and sale of draft horses, says O. Thisher of Kansas, and from actual experience I find that the greatest mistake made by the average farmer is careless laxity in selecting sires for breeding purposes. For instance, if a farmer has a range mare, he is apt to select a high, rangy horse with which to pair her. This is a great mistake, for the aim should be to select a sire which will tone down the defects of the dam in the colt and supply those qualities in which the dam is lacking.

Willow's draft horse question is not an issue here today, nor is the thoroughness of draft horse breeding held in the highest esteem, I am assured that there are no more lucrative or profitable results obtained than those which attend the draft horses and the crossing of the best imported blood with the native mares of America.

Even in the present generally established depression of prices of nearly all farm products and the very low figures at which all classes of horses are selling I see from our market reports that in eastern cities a good draft horse in a ready seller and will bring more money in proportion to the expense of breeding than any other stock in the market.

My past experience teaches me that a good draft horse can be reared to the age of 4 years and put upon the market for less money than a steer of the same age and of equal condition. At present prices for the draft horse, if properly handled, he will sell very readily in the eastern markets for \$100 to \$150, while a good average price for the steer would be \$50 to \$60.

Breeding Young Animals. Defects, either constitutional or moral, do not show themselves as a rule until an animal has reached full physical and mental development, says the St. Louis Republic.

On this account before animals are used for breeding sufficient time should be allowed for the quality and character of the parents to develop before the progeny is reared. Every individual animal, male or female, has a characteristic of some kind to transmit, with some modification, to its offspring.

This character may be positive, negative or neutral, but whatever it is something should be known about it before it is used for reproduction, for heredity runs in animals. For this reason great care should be taken to know that animals have good characters as well as good constitutions. A vicious horse or a cow is apt to breed vicious offspring, and a cow bred of constituted weak vitality, vitality or constitution cannot be fed into an animal; it must be bred down with reference to the age at which different classes of stock may be bred.

The short lived races, like swine and sheep, arrive at maturity in much less time than horses and cattle, but even in the case of the shorter lived animals it is best to wait the period of reasonably mature development if the best results are expected.

Generally a year or two is as fully developed as a sow or a heifer or filly at 24 years.

Of course there are conditions when it may be considered best to breed earlier. The development of the quality of the heifer often makes it desirable to breed her early, and to some extent the end sought makes it justifiable under certain conditions.

Maturity at a tender age is a severe strain upon the animal, and it often interferes seriously with the subsequent growth and development. An animal stunted during growth by any cause seldom fully overcomes the effect, no matter what the after treatment may be.

Especially when breeding to improve the stock it is best to wait until the animals are reasonably well matured, as the value of the offspring may be predicted with less risk of disappointment.

Cheaper Production. Trials at the Oklahoma station tend to confirm the conclusions announced that planting peanuts, sweet potatoes, cowpeas or soy beans and allowing pigs to harvest the crop will be found a profitable practice. Peanuts, cowpeas and soy beans are highly nutritious, well adapted for making muscle as well as fat. The sweet potato is less valuable pound for pound, but a good crop can be secured at small cost. Pigs can harvest either crop more cheaply than can man. There is possible danger from early frost in the case of sweet potatoes. With cowpeas it seems best to turn the pigs in the lot before the peas are fully ripe. Feeding some grain in connection with either of these self-harvested crops usually will increase the profit. The great value of wheat as pasturage for pigs is recognized by many. Some have found good results from pasturing early sown oats. The best summer pig pasture for pigs in Oklahoma is alfalfa. Where this is not available sorghum, thickly sown, will be found desirable. The fairly matured sorghum stalks make excellent hog food in the fall. They will be eaten somewhat readily even in winter.

Range Bees. A man who recently traveled over a good deal of the west says there is no doubt in his mind but there will be a great shortage of range bees for market this year. The people have not many young cattle or breeding animals on hand and complain that they do not know where to get sufficiently young cattle to stock their ranges without giving up all chances of profit in advance.—Live Est.

FRUIT AND FLOWERS

NUT GROWING.

Plain and Practical Talk of Interest to Amateurs.

The planting and cultivation of various kinds of nuts will sooner or later be given more attention by nurserymen and landowners than at present. The hybridization of nuts has already begun, and it can be safely predicted that many new hybrids will be produced in the near future. A nut of this sort has been obtained by crossing two distinct varieties, the black walnut and California walnut, and has been given the name "Royal." Mr. Luther Burbank, the originator of various new hybrids in fruits, is the successful experimenter, says a Country Gentleman correspondent, whose remarks are further reproduced, as follows:

On almost every farm there is more or less space which could be utilized and converted into a nut grove at very little expense or trouble—the steep sides of a swale or gully, hillside that are too steep to cultivate, a row of nut trees planted on each side of the lane, in proportion to the expense of permanent pasture; in the latter case the trees, if not planted too thickly, would add to the value of pasture land by the delightful shade given.

Nature seems to have distributed the various kinds of nuts in soils and localities best suited to their growth. For instance, the chestnut is always found growing on a sandy soil, while the hickory is rarely found growing in sandy localities, yet would thrive in sand if planted there. The chestnut will thrive if planted in almost any deep rich soil where there is good drainage. I have often heard it said that a chestnut tree if planted on a hill but a sandy soil would not live, and I have also heard it asserted that it cannot be transplanted successfully; but I have proved to my own satisfaction that both of these can be done quite successfully. The chances of success can be made greater by introducing a little of the soil natural to the tree into the hole in which it is to be planted.

The writer transplanted some 10 or 15 sweet chestnut trees last spring. Digging good sized holes, we carefully placed the trees in them and then filled the holes nearly full of sand. After pressing down the sand we covered the latter with about two or three inches of clay loam to prevent their roots or stems from drying.

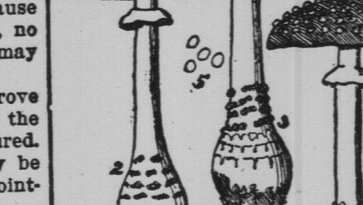
Not long since I read an article on chestnut culture by Jacob Dingee of Pennsylvania. Mr. Dingee's method was to cut off the old trees or young ones that were too old to graft down to the ground. They would then send up a new growth of sprouts, these were thinned out the next year to a few more than were needed. At each stump or root the sprouts were grafted when two or three years old. They were afterward again thinned out to a suitable distance apart.

A Very Poisonous Toadstool. Amanita muscaria, fly amanita or fly toadstool, has been pronounced by Professor Haldsted of New Jersey to be our most common, cosmopolitan, poisonous toadstool, growing in woodland especially under evergreen trees and sometimes in open pastures, being found season after the first of June, and is the species which caused the death of Count de Vecchi at Washington in November, 1897.

On account of the large size and highly colored yellow, orange or scarlet cap, flecked with white, the species is easily recognized. The white or yellowish white stalk, four to six inches high, somewhat woody or scaly below, rises from a gradually widening bulbous, rough base and an incomplete volva or cup. The cap is three to eight inches broad, with white gills, slightly tinged with yellow, and bright scarlet or yellow upon the upper side, where the white fragments of the volva adhere closely to the smooth skin of the pileus, that is striate near the margin.

Various stages in the development of this dangerous toadstool are shown from 1, the young "button" stage, to 6, the fully developed specimen.

Beds For Pot Plants. In making beds of perennials or pot plants that are expected to shift for themselves, dig the soil quite deeply. After planting them give the bed a thorough soaking underneath by making a few holes in which to pour water. Four in as much as the porous soil will absorb, but keep the surface perfectly dry. Plants moved during cloudy weather if treated in this manner will hardly wilt.—Gardening.



THE FLY AMANITA.

IN A LOOKING GLASS.

WHAT JOHN BULL LOOKS LIKE WHEN HE SEES HIMSELF.

The English the Worst Fed and the Best Governed People in the World—On the Contrary the Reverse Is True of the French—Cooking and Amusements of the Two Nations.

Every nation has the government and the cooking which it deserves. Thus, the French are the worst governed and the best fed people in Europe, for the reason that the majority of Frenchmen are perfectly indifferent to politics and keenly interested in food. The English are the worst fed and the best governed people in the world, because, with few exceptions, they care a great deal more about the program of the Government than do the people of any other nation.

While the French regard people in the world, because, with few exceptions, they care a great deal more about the program of the Government than do the people of any other nation.

For 500 years, since the days when underwriters and men connected with shipping met at the coffee-house of Edward Lloyd, in London, and applied the principles of marine insurance taught them by the Lombards, British ship-owners have sent their ships to sea with a paper underwritten at Lloyd's as good as gold, in case of accident to their property. The board of directors in this corporation represents the entire shipping interest of Great Britain. It has 1,500 agents in various parts of the world—men with thorough knowledge of ship-owners and their interests.

Everyday Life of the Roman People. Here in the Forum were the soldiers lounging in groups or advancing with measured tread among the unorderly throngs, pushing all authoritatively aside those who pushed their way through the throng. Here, too, gathered all those people without any occupation, who appeared every week at the stone house on the Tiber for grain, who fought for lottery tickets to the circus, who spent their nights in rickety houses in districts beyond the river, their sunny days in the kitchen, the street and in foul eating houses of the Suburra, on the Milvian bridge, or before the "innings" of the Greek, where from time to time remnants from the tables of slaves were thrown out to them.

An Interesting Dialogue Between a Woman and a Railway Conductor—in which the woman got the best of it—is reported by The Philadelphia Press: "I shall have to ask you for a ticket for that boy, ma'am."

"He's too old to travel free. He occupies a whole seat, and the car's crowded. There are people standing."

"I haven't time to argue the matter, ma'am. You'll have to pay for that boy, ma'am. He's too old to travel free, and I'm not going to begin it now."

"You've got to begin doing it some time. If you haven't had time to pay for him, you're mighty lucky, or else you don't do much travelling."

"That's all right. You'll pay for that boy, ma'am, or I'll stop the train and put him off."

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"You ought to know what the rules of this road are, ma'am. How old is that boy?"

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An Australian Riding Outfit. The Australian outfit is an adaptation of the British. The colonial saddle grows a peaky pomel and a high projecting cantle; the mild English knee-roll becomes in Australia a firm, deep, six-inch pad, and over the back of the thigh is held in place by a solid fange sewed upon the saddle-flap. As with his saddle, so with the rest of the stock-rider's outfit—it is as the Englishman's, but moulded and strengthened to sterner usage. The mild—and mostly ornamental—luning-crop becomes a ten-foot—and terribly effective—stock-whip. The chain, the curb, the double rein, and all the more or less fancy attachments are stripped from the bridle in favor of the simple snaffle, and a headpiece and single rein of leather, so substantial as to defy the roguery or terror of any ordinary horse to break them. Crupper, breast-plate, martingale—these are used or left aside, according to the build, tricks and temper of the mount, with a single eye to usefulness, and no thought of the ornamental.

I speak of a workaday attire and saddle, not of the fleeting glories of a holiday rig-out; and, speaking thus, it must be said that the Australian outfit is planned with a single eye to utility.

Names Known of Old. The instruments now known as the telephone and microphone are of comparatively recent invention, but the origin of the names dates back many years. In 1827 Wheatstone gave the name of microphone to an apparatus invented by him, to render weak sounds audible, and in 1845 a steam whistle or trumpet giving roaring signals in foggy weather was called telephone by Captain John Taylor, while Sudre used the same name in 1854 for a system of musical telegraphy.

Dignity Levelled by the West. There is nothing like hot weather to make one desist from the conventionalities of dress. The other day the Hon. Walter Rothschild astonished his fellow-members of Parliament by appearing in a high hat in shape resembling the ordinary silk article, made of light plaited straw. This novel headgear attracted considerable attention, but it had the merit of coolness to recommend it.

A Movable Nest. At Aldborough two blackcaps recently built a nest in a drain tube placed over a root of rhubarb, which grew and gradually raised the nest, with the eggs and parent bird sitting on the top of the rhubarb and lowered the nest to the bottom of the tube, and the old birds have not allowed the rhubarb to grow again.

"BRITISH LLOYDS."

The Product of 500 Years' Experience Underwriting.

A brief statement of England's ocean supremacy will, I think, be of interest, says H. Phelps Whitmarsh, in The Atlantic. Great Britain before Italian pretensions, the mistress of the world's shipping interest. Her tonnage is greater than that of all the nations of the world put together; her ships carry five-eighths of the deep-water freight afloat, and she buys and sells half the cargoes on the ocean.

Her success is no secret; it has certainly not been due to chance, but has grown from the spirited interest in ships that every British subject takes, and has always taken. This spirit has culminated in the great corporation known as the "British Lloyds," which corporation more than dominates every vessel, no matter what nationality, that sails in foreign trade.

In its list of shipping property, the board of directors in this corporation represents the entire shipping interest of Great Britain. It has 1,500 agents in various parts of the world—men with thorough knowledge of ship-owners and their interests.

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WHEN GIRLS WORE CALICO.

There was a time, betwixt the days of Henry Woodley, straight and prim, and these when made, with despot ways, Leeds women captive at its will.

Yet not a hundred years ago, When girls wore simple calico, Within the bars, by lantern light, Through many a reel, with flying feet, The boys and maidens danced at night To eddies of measures, shrilly sweet; And merry reels were they, though The girls were governed in calico.

Across the flooring rough and gray The gold of scattered chaff was spread, And long festoons of clover hay, That straggled from the left o'eread, Swung scented fringes to and fro Or pretty girls in calico.

They used to go a-Maying then, The blossoms of the spring to seek, In sunny glade and sheltered glen, Unwinded by fashion's latest freak; And Robin fell in love, I know, With Phyllis in her calico.

A took, a frill, a bias fold, A hat curried over gypsy-wise, And buds of coral and of gold, And rosy cheeks and merry eyes, Made lassies in that long ago, Look charming in their calico.

The modern knight who wears a maid Of gracious air and gentle grace, And finds her oftentimes arrayed In shining silks and precious lace, Would love her just as well, I know, In pink and blue calico.

HOW THE QUEEN HEARS OPERA.

Description of the Recent Birthday Entertainment at Windsor.

The Royal Opera Company of Covent Garden recently gave a performance before the Queen at Windsor, and the next day, Her Majesty, with customary thoughtfulness, sent a telegram to the members of the company who so delighted her with selections from "Lohengrin" on her birthday arrived home safely after their journey.

The arrangements for the musical guests were splendidly carried out under the supervision of the Queen's private secretary, Lord Cowley, and the next day, Her Majesty, with customary thoughtfulness, sent a telegram to the members of the company who so delighted her with selections from "Lohengrin" on her birthday arrived home safely after their journey.

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