MUTTON AND LAMB.

Milk and Ensilage Fed with Success.

The climate of Wisconsin is quite similar to our own and owing to the sharp competition in wool by Australia, South America and the Rocky Mountain Ranges, the number of sheep in that state has decreased 40 per cent. in the past decade. During the past year, W. A. Henry, Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Wisconsin has made a number of very valuable experiments in feeding sheep and lambs principally for meat, which go to show that it can be done more cheaply than hogs or steers. In these experiments, Mr. Henry demonstrates the practicability of the AGRICULTURIST's suggestion to our farmers to grow ensilage for sheep and to turn their attention in that line, to mutton and lamb. But he has made another new departure in raising lambs which proved, as it is, by his experiments, is of great interest to sheep raisers in these Provinces. We refer to the feeding of full milk and skim milk to lambs. Four lambs were taken from their dams, when about 10 days old, and fed 226 lbs. of full milk in three weeks and gained 39 pounds, or nearly half a pound each, daily. They valued the milk at 60 cents per 100 lbs., at which rate it would require 579 lbs., of milk to make 100 lbs., of gain in weight of the lamb, at a cost of $3.47. For the next 28 days the lambs got 424 lbs. of skim milk, 12 lbs. of oats and 32 lbs. of green clover, gaining 53 lbs. or nearly half a pound each, daily. Valuing the skim milk at 25 cents per 100 lbs. the oats at 80 cents per 100 lbs. and the green feed at $2.00 per ton, he calculated the cost of this 53 lbs. at $1.22 or $2.30 per 100 lbs. grain. "In subsequent periods," says the experimenter, "the cost increased gradually as more grain was consumed. It is generally supposed that the pig makes the best use of its food but our figures lead us to doubt such conclusions." His next experiment was made with 10 lambs a month old and 10 ewes, all kept in a barn-yard and barn in the summer. In 57 days the ewes gained a tenth of a pound daily and the lambs a third of a pound daily. This increase in weight was made with green clover, green corn fodder and oats at the rate cost of about $3.66 per hundred weight. The experiment with ensilage was made on three lots of wether lambs in mid-winter. To the first lot was fed shelled corn, corn ensilage and corn fodder; to the second, corn and oats—equal parts—clover ensilage and clover hay; to the third, oil meal and oats, clover silage and clover hay. The trial continued 86 days, during which time lot 1, gained 98 lbs., lot 2, 96 lbs., and lot 3, 92 lbs.; and cost respectively $3.28, $4.06, and $5.31 for feed.

We quote again from his report:—"The ration in which corn silage and fodder were fed not only cost the least, but produced the best results. The ration where oil meal was fed produced the least gain at the greatest expense. In these experiments ensilage proved a very satisfactory feed, keeping the bowels in fine condition and enabling the animals to make a very satisfactory gain for food consumed."

In his summary of the results of these experiments Mr. Henry says, the milk was warmed for the lambs and it will be observed that they show up exceedingly well in comparison. The idea that lambs may be weaned and fed on whole and skim milk is not at all unreasonable. It suggests the forcing of lambs as well as calves and pigs and another way of utilizing the waste products of the dairy.

Success With Common Stock the Criterion.

Any farmer who has made a success with common stock, should consider the desirability of improving his stock with a view of increasing his income from that branch of his industry. He will probably judge for himself from his experience and from the views he has formed, whether he shall content himself with grading up the stock he has, or whether he shall buy a few animals of the pure breed he finds best suited to his locality and business and gradually by breeding and buying crowd the common stock out of his stables. If he is in a section of the country where beef can be most profitably raised he will be in that line and consequently he should buy a good bull of some beef-breed as the Shorthorns Galloways or Herefords. If he is so situated that he can sell milk for city supply the Holstein-Friesian or Ayrshire will fill his pails. If he is so located that his products must be reduced to their smallest saleable size so as to lighten the cost of geting it to market, he will be dairying for butter and should go in for the Jersey, or the Guernsey. Specialties pay better than cure alls. The general purpose cow is a myth from a business point of view.

It is not possible to combine excellence in milking and butter producing qualities with beef points. If you are producing milk and butter you have no time to attend to beef raising as a business. A few more pounds of beef when she comes to the knife will not make up the loss in milk for the years you have been feeding her as a dairy cow.

The bull calves will certainly not make so much veal as in the beef breeds, but if they are pure bred they can be easily disposed of for breeding purposes at prices above their veal value. The same can be said of any heifer calves the farmer does not want to raise. This of course applies only to pure bred animals as grade bulls are not to be thought of for breeding.

Any farmer who has been unsuccessful with common stock should halt and endeavor to find out wherein his failure lays. There are many causes that may tend to it. He may be a poor feeder in which case he had better give up stock raising if he has to depend upon his own judgment in feedings for "feeders are born not made" and a man who has no aptitude to it will scarcely ever make a success at it. He may be trying to run a dairy for milk too far away from the market. He may be making butter where he should be raising beef. Then again his strain of cattle may be better calculated for beef than for the dairy and vice versa. Except in the latter instance he will not improve matters by bringing pure blood into his herd. In fact he would probably only score another dismal failure. When we see a farmer under reasonably fair circumstances unable to make common stock pay, we feel like advising him to try some other branch. We would not wish to see fine stock, that had been the result of intelligent breeding elsewhere consigned to his care.

Seed Potatoes.

All the experiments with potatoes for seed show that the "seed end" should not be cut off, but on the contrary should be retained if the best results in potato growing would be obtained. By retaining the seed end on the seed planted a much larger yield can be produced, and the proportion of small unmerchantable tubers will be much less. So the practice of cutting off the "seed end" must be buried with many of its brother "crochets" which have only the recommendation of mustiness. "Because my father told me so" is the only reason most farmers can give for the practice of a theory which they have never "looked out of winde."

Feed all your stock at regular intervals, and do not give them more at a time, than they will clean up at one feed. Never neglect them, under any circumstances. To tie dumb brutes up and neglect them, is surely very sinful.