

Stock Department.

Cautions for those having Sheep.

We copy the following excellent suggestions about sheep, from a circular issued by F. C. D. McKay, Esq., the general agent of the American Emigration Company. The Company have already over 10,000 sheep scattered among the farmers who purchased land of them, in flocks ranging in size from fifty to two hundred head:

1. Keep sheep dry under foot with litter. This is even more necessary than roofing them. Never let them stand or lie in mud or snow.
2. Take up lamb bucks early in summer, and keep them up until Dec. 1st, following, when they may be turned out.
3. Drop or take out the lowest bars as the sheep enter or leave a yard, thus saving broken limbs.
4. Count, every day.
5. Begin graining with the greatest care, and use the smallest quantity at first.
6. If a ewe loses her lamb, milk daily for a few days, and mix a little alum with her milk.
7. Let no hogs eat with the sheep—by no means in the spring.
8. Give the lambs a little "mill-feed" in time of weaning.
9. Never frighten sheep if possible to avoid it.
10. Sow rye for weak ones in cold weather, if you can.
11. Separate all weak, or thin, or sick, from those strong, in the fall, and give them special care.
12. If any sheep is hurt, catch it at once wash the wound, and if it is fly time, apply spirits of turpentine daily, and always wash with something healing. If a limb is broken, bind it with splinters, tightly, loosening as the limb swells.
13. Keep a number of good bells on the sheep.
14. Don't let sheep spoil wool with chaff or burrs.
15. Cut tag-locks in early spring.
16. For scours, give pulverized alum in wheat bran—prevent by taking great care in changing dry for green food.
17. If one is lame, examine the foot, clean out between the hoofs, pare the hoof if unsound, and apply tobacco, with blue vitriol boiled in a little water.
18. Shear at once any sheep commencing to shed its wool, unless the weather is too severe, and save carefully the pelt of any sheep that dies.
19. Have some good work by to refer to at least; this will be money in your pocket.

The Cost of Cattle Feed.

H. E. Mosely, Springfield, Mass., gives the following estimate of the weekly expense of feeding four cows—three milk and one dry—during the winter of 1865-75.

84 lbs. cut corn-stalks and straw at \$15 per ton	\$0 63
42 " cut hay at \$30 per ton	63
21 " Indian meal at 6 cents per pound	84
42 " rye bran at 3½ cents per pound	1 47
140 " long hay at \$30 per ton	2 10
252 " uncut corn-stalks at \$15 per ton	1 58
6 bushels turnips at 25 cents per bushel	1 25
5 " carrots, or 225 pounds, at \$25 per ton	2 81
Total	\$11 69

The average cost of each cow per week lacks a fraction of \$2 80, and of each cow per day, 41½ cents. The three cows gave 22 quarts of milk a day, or an average of 7½ each, or 154 quarts a week; worth at eight cents a quart, \$12 32. The margin of profit is small, without reckoning the care and labour and interest on investment, but it is believed higher than herds will average.

His plan of feeding was to give corn-stalks twice in the morning before milking, after which 12 quarts turnips and carrots, cut and mixed. After watering, long hay is given, and at night cut feed, consisting of corn fodder, oat straw and hay, cut and wet, with warm water, and sprinkled with rye and corn meal.

Major George Taylor, a noted feeder of fine bullocks, says regularity in feeding is indispensable. His regular ration to each animal is eight quarts a day of meal made of corn, rye and oats mixed. His

usual practice is to feed coarse hay first in the morning, then dry meal, add then two or three fodderings of finer hay and rowen. After the cattle are well filled, and about 11 a.m., they are turned out to water, and while out, the stalls are regulated, cleaned and strawed. They are immediately stabled again, as they gain faster shut up, and are expected to lie down and rest till feeding time again. About 3 p.m., dry meal is given, then one or two fodderings of hay, and lastly stalks, which answers for the night. Every leaf and straw unconsumed is removed from the mangers between the feedings. Only such quantities and qualities are fed as are likely to be eaten entire and clean. The hay is mostly pulled with a hay hook, in order to draw from different layers of the mow, and thus secure greater variety.—*Springfield Republican*.



Killing and Scalding Hogs.

J. COMFORT, writing from Cumberland Co., Pa., to the *American Agriculturist*, gives his process of killing and scalding hogs, which has much to recommend it, as follows:—

"I have frequently thought of writing a word on the easiest, quickest and most humane manner of slaughtering hogs. I take any kind of gun that will go 'loose,' load with, say one-third charge of powder, and a plug of hard wood, about an inch long and the thickness of the ramrod. This I shoot directly into the centre of the forehead of the hog, and he drops at once. The head is not injured, as to meat; there is no danger of the hog biting you. You have no hard tugging and lifting to catch and throw them, both of which are hard and dangerous work, and the hogs will bleed out better, as the nervous system receives so sudden a shock, that they are not able to draw the blood into the lungs, in case the wind-pipe should be cut in sticking. It is easy to picture laying hogs on their backs, but try it one year and try shooting next, and my word for it, your pen will ever afterward be free from squealing on butchering day.

"Now, as to our method of scalding hogs. We set two posts about twelve feet long, including two feet in the ground, and about twelve feet apart, and connect them by a beam on top. Under this beam, and near one post, I sink an ordinary half-hogshead in the ground, and place a pulley on the beam directly over it, and another pulley on the side and near the bottom of the adjacent post. A rope is passed through these and attached to the hog's hind leg, and then he may be easily hauled up and dropped into the tub, then taken out to air and clean; and lastly he may be hoisted up and hooked on to the beam by chains to hang. Such beams may be arranged to hang as many hogs as you may wish to slay. A common barrel kettle kept boiling will keep the water in the scalding tub hot enough, by adding hot and taking out cold, to continue scalding an indefinite time; all with little cost, little fuel, little lifting, and the killing with little suffering to the animal. All things considered, this is the best mode I ever saw or used for killing and scalding hogs."

The Reproductive Powers of Domesticated Animals.

(Concluded from p. 22.)

MANY animals are condemned as barren, which are only temporarily so, in consequence of injudicious feeding and management, or relatively so, in consequence of the male being united, from too close proximity of blood, or from both animals being deficient in constitutional vigour. Examples of each of these cases are frequent. Heifers, owing to confinement and high condition, have been rendered incapable of breeding; but after being put on high and inferior pastures, or worked like oxen on the farm, they have been made, by thus lowering their condition, to breed with facility. It is stated that the late Jonas Webb, purchased of the late Lord Spencer, an exceedingly handsome cow, for a trifling sum, as she had been condemned as barren. After driving her from Wiseton to Babraham, a distance of some 120 miles, and putting her on a different diet for a short time, she came into season and bred. 'Dodona,' the cow in question, produced, when a heifer, twin calves, and subsequently a single calf; when, ceasing breeding, she was sold. But a change of climate and treatment again brought her into breeding condition, and at the time of her death, no less than 160 valuable animals could be traced to this cow, which had been twice sold as barren. 'Celia,' another well known cow, owned by Mr. Webb, after being condemned as barren, became exceedingly fruitful by similar treatment, and had a progeny of over 180 traced to her at the time of her death. Exercise and reduced diet tend, of course, to diminish those fatty accumulations which impede generation, and a mere change of climate has often been found to exercise a decidedly beneficial influence.

Animals are frequently rendered unproductive by too close relationship, or a similarity of temperament; a difficulty that may in general be overcome by judicious selection. A male animal, when pampered and confined, will be sure to become fat and sluggish, a condition often accompanied by the want of constitutional vigour, rendering him inefficient as a stock getter. Such bulls have sometimes been rendered serviceable by subjecting them to rigorous exercise, or labour, and to less stimulating diet. There can be no doubt that breeders have these matters more within their control, than is often imagined. It is the excessive artificial treatment of animals that, in most cases, occasions both disease and barrenness. In a climate, however, like that of Canada, we should be careful not to run into the opposite extreme, as is sometimes done, for, by too much exposure and in-nutritious food, the best bred animals will become weak and liable to disease, and produce a sickly progeny.

Our author, who in conjunction with two eminent physiologists, very carefully examined the ovaries of several heifers, condemned and killed as barren, says:—"I have every reason to believe that by far the larger proportion were naturally quite competent for breeding, and that, in the majority of cases, non-impregnation arose from the seminal fluid never reaching the ovum, which was ready for fertilisation, and from that fluid not being of a healthy character. In some cases, in which the ovaries were, to all appearance, perfectly healthy, the tubes—whereby the seminal fluid should have been conveyed—were so over-charged with fatty matter, that impregnation was rendered impossible. In other cases the ovaries were in an unhealthy condition, either one, or both, having to a great extent wasted away. Sometimes one of the ovaries had been suffering from atrophy, and the other in such an irritable and sensitive condition that it might almost be described as inflamed; and under such circumstances the formation of a healthy ovum could scarcely be expected. In other instances, the ovaries had become considerably enlarged, in con-