

FEEDING HORSES CHEAPLY.—A correspondent of the *Genesee Farmer* says he does not feed his horses either grain or hay. He keeps five horses, and gives them a bushel of mill-feed twice a day, with cut straw, and occasionally a carrot or two. The mill-feed costs him 25 cents a bushel, so that besides the straw his horses cost him only 10 cents a day. If fed hay alone they would eat at least 30 lbs. each per day, which, at \$15 per ton, is worth 22½ cents. He puts straw into the racks and lets them pick out what they will, and uses what they leave to litter them with. The cows pick over the litter, and in this way he manages to get out all the nutriment there is in the straw.

CANADIAN HORSES.—I see an inquiry for farm horses in the last number of your paper. With regard to the merits of the Vermont and Conestoga, I know but very little, but of the Canadian I can speak from experience. They are the best class of farm horses in the country, and admirably adapted to work on clay land. They are easily kept. Their average height is 14 hands—their weight is from 800 to 1,000 pounds. There are a great many of them owned in this country, but it is a poor place for any one to come to purchase, as anything in the shape of a horse commands a high price, and farmers who wish to buy generally go into St. Lawrence county or Canada. In St. Lawrence Co. they can be purchased for \$150 to \$200 per pair. A good stallion of that breed is worth \$300. As to colour, they can be found of all shades, though black and sorrel seem to predominate.

LEWIS COUNTY FARMER, in Country Gentleman.

RULE FOR ESTIMATING THE AMOUNT OF FEED.—Careful experiments show that nearly all domestic animals consume an amount of food about in proportion to their weight. A large horse or cow eats more than a small one. An elephant weighs four or five times as much as a horse, and consumes four or five times as much food. If a cow has the weight of five sheep, she will eat five times the quantity of food. There are, of course, some variations or exceptions, and individuals differ, but this is a fair general rule. This quantity is usually from two and a-half to three per cent, when the food is hay, with a small proportion of grain. A cow digests more thoroughly than a horse, and requires only about two and a-half per cent.; a horse three per cent. A cow weighing eight hundred pounds would therefore need about two and a-half times eight, or twenty pounds of hay a day. A horse weighing one thousand pounds would require thirty pounds. One and a-half per cent. will keep a cow alive or on her feet; but to be properly nourished so as to grow or increase in flesh, or give milk, she must have nearly double. The water used is not included, nor does the rule apply to green food.—*Annual Register.*

A PIG STORY.—*Wallon's Journal* is responsible for the following pig story:

"A young man commenced house-keeping as young married people used to do, with a cow to supply milk and a pig destined for a winter's supply of pork. He took good care of the animals, feeding the cow liberally with hay, and the pig with a mash of bran, &c., adding straw for the pig's bed. Soon he observed that the straw regularly and unaccountably disappeared from the pig-pen—in fact so much so, that he had to replenish it daily. Finally he determined to detect the thief, and concealed himself for that purpose, after the pig had been furnished with clean straw. Speedily came the denouement. Piggy seized a mouthful of the straw, stirred it in the mash till it had become well coated, and then planting his fore feet upon the top board of the pen, he tempted the cow with the morsel, she yielding, nothing loth, until pig and cow had thus disposed of all the straw. Now send us a better pig story if you can, and let it be true—as this is. That pig had some sense. Perhaps, indeed he was a wag. Undoubtedly he wagged his tail in sympathy with the well-pleased cow. For the credit of the cow we add, that on the death of pig she mourned for it as she would have done for her calf.

A COW KILLED BY A CAT.—On Thursday last a cow owned by Mr. Marshall Morrison, of Port Dalhousie, Canada, was quietly taking her noon siesta on the street near his residence, "chewing the cud of sweet and bitter fancy," when some boys who were playing near by conceived the idea of having some fun by tying a cat to the animal's udder, and catching a cat, they proceeded to put their scheme into execution. As soon as the cat was fastened the boys left, and the cat endeavoured to follow their example, when the tension on her tail caused her to scratch the cow, which immediately jumped up and commenced running and bellowing at a fearful rate, the cat all the time scratching and biting the udder and legs, and this continued until the cow fell down with exhaustion and cut in a most fearful manner, when the cat was liberated. The cow died the next day, Friday. The owner threatens to sue the parents of the boys for damages, as he considers it unjust that he should lose the value of the animal through the mischievous pranks of the lads.

Sheep Husbandry.

More about the Buckwheat Controversy.

The *Illust. Intelligencer*, an agricultural journal published at Indianapolis, Ind., inserts the letter of Mr. Ferril which appeared in our fifth number and comments on it as follows:

"If Mr. Ferril had prosecuted his investigations a step further, he might have solved the vexed question which seems to have troubled our Canadian neighbours so much. Plants of the botanical order *Polygonaceæ* are often poisonous, because they all contain oxalic acid in greater or less quantities, either free, or in combination with lime. If the acid is uncombined the plants are poisonous—if in combination with lime or potash they are not injurious. Lime your land well, and your buckwheat, both straw and grain, will be wholesome food for man and beast. If your land be deficient in alkalies your buckwheat will be unsafe food.

Many farmers sow buckwheat on their poorest land, because they are sure of a crop. They put it in land that is entirely exhausted, especially of lime or ashes, and because it produces a crop cheap they consider it clear gain. But where persons and cattle eating of the crop become sick, and some die, it proves the old adage true of "stopping the spigot and letting out the bung hole." There is no economy in it. Better cultivate your land on the principle that you owe it something, and give it what is its due,—a dressing of manure every year."

Sheep Poisoned by Eating Laurel Leaves.

SHEEP that have eaten laurel leaves will die, unless the poisonous effects of these leaves upon them are speedily counteracted and neutralized. But we very luckily have a good many cures for this poison that destroys so many sheep for drovers and others in our mountain regions. Thus, for example a strong tea, made of the bark and leaves of the *Sweet Fern*—a plant that grows wherever you find laurel—is a good and almost certain cure, if given to the poisoned sheep in due time. So a tea made of the bark and leaves of the *Poison Ivy*, sweetened with molasses, will effect a speedy cure. So a handful of fine salt, or a corresponding amount of salt water, drank by each sheep or poured down its throat, is also an unfailing cure of this poison. So a quart of a pound of melted lard and a half a gill of whiskey, put into a half a pint of sweet milk, and well mixed, and poured down the sheep's throat moderately warm, will also cure it. So half a teacupful of raw white beans, ground fine in a coffee mill and well stirred up in a teacupful of water given to each poisoned sheep, will also cure it. Indeed, a dose of sweet oil or any kind of active purge will answer this purpose. So sheep poisoned by eating St. Johnswort, lobelia, or wild indigo, are also curable by giving them a mixed drink of sweet milk and whiskey.

Sheep-Shearing Exhibition.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—I notice in the *Ayr Observer* that a rather novel exhibition is to be held in that village on the 26th instant. It is called a "Sheep-Shearing Exhibition," the object being to bring into contact the different breeds of sheep, and to determine which breed is the most profitable for the Western farmer to raise. Prizes are offered for the heaviest fleeces, without distinction of breed, and a sweepstake for the most valuable sheep, estimating the carcass and fleece together at current market rates.

As there are in this and the neighbouring townships large numbers of Leicesters, Cotswolds, Southdowns and Merinos (Spanish and French), there will probably be a keen competition. I notice that the wool is to be washed, "or the usual deduction made." Will some of your correspondents inform me, through your valuable paper, what is the usual deduction on unwashed wool; also, what is the average difference of price between Leicester, Southdown and Merino wool?

North Dumfries, May 10, 1864.

NOTE BY ED. C. F.—The usual deduction on unwashed wool is one-third.

Is Buckwheat Injurious?

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—This question lately agitated in your columns should have been (as it probably has been) settled long ago. May not the rough particles from the decayed blossoms of the buckwheat cause the soreness about the ears of animals? Is it a fact that buckwheat cakes cause skin diseases, when eaten by man kind? If so, may not the soda or saleratus, which is daily added to correct the acidity of the batter, be the real offender? What says the chemical editor of THE FARMER?

FAGOPYRUM.

Large Grade Lamb.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—Having seen in your paper at different times, notices of large sheep, hogs, &c., and thinking I have a ram lamb that cannot be beaten, I would like to see it in your columns also. It is from a very inferior grade ewe; the ram is also a grade of the Leicester breed. When it was one day old, I had the curiosity to know the weight and size of it, which are as follows: Weight, 17 lbs.; height, 17 inches; length of body, 21 inches; girth, 19 inches. Now, if any of the numerous readers of your paper can beat it, I would like to know who it is.

S. B. CHARLTON.

Rose Bank, South Dumfries, }
April 23, 1864. }

A Heavy Fleece.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—I have a buck, a cross between Lincoln and Leicester, which was purchased at Kingston some year and a-half since. The wool is of medium quality, and about one foot in length. The fleece clipped this spring, which is the second shearing, after being thoroughly washed, weighed sixteen pounds and three ounces. Wishing to get the very best sheep possible, if any of my farmer friends can beat that I shall like to hear from him.

ELIAS HOOVER.

Rainham, Haldimand Co., April 9, 1864

PROLIFIC SHEEP.—Mr. Jno. Groesbeck, of Bethlehem, has three ewes that "dropped 10 lambs. All of the little ones are strong and doing well. They are the common sheep of the country. Two of the four dropped by one ewe are being raised by hand.—*Country Gentleman.*

TO MAKE A EWE OWN HER LAMB.—Our friend J. S. Delano, a large sheep proprietor of Mount Vernon, Ohio, writes us:—"When you write another book on sheep, please record the following fact. If a ewe disowns her lamb, rub the hand on the latter, or scrape a little slime from it, put it in the ewe's mouth, and then leave her. She will go instantly to licking the lamb.—*Rural New Yorker.*

BUTTERMILK FOR LAMBS.—Thomas S. Steele, of Shushan, Washington Co., N.Y., says he raised two casset lambs last year on buttermilk—one receiving nothing else from the beginning—the other previously fed four weeks on new sweet milk. The last lamb did not do as well on the new milk, and became costive two or three times. It took to buttermilk after a few feedings, and thenceforth grew finely. After learning to eat the latter, it would refuse sweet milk. Both lambs grew up large and strong. Mr. S. has tried the experiment once before with the same result. He "would prefer of choice to raise a valuable motherless lamb on buttermilk than on sweet milk."

CURE FOR SCAB IN SHEEP.—*Irish Farmers' Gazette* gives the following recipe for a wash which it says is an effective cure for scab.—"2 ozs. white arsenic, 2 ozs. corrosive sublimate, 2 ozs. sal ammoniac, 1 lb. starch, 1 lb. nitre, and 1 quart of spirits of turpentine, mixed in 15 to 20 gallons of tobacco water."

A CABINET OF WOOLS.—The Agricultural Department at Washington is forming a cabinet of wools, which is intended to exemplify the effects, of climate, food and treatment. Specimens are desired from all parts of the country, but these specimens should be accompanied with statements descriptive of the locality, the food, the mode of treatment, and the origin of the sheep, and such other matters as may tend to give the wool a comparative value.