

USE OF BUCKWHEAT AS GREEN FOOD FOR ANIMALS.—Buckwheat, when intended for green fodder, ought, as already hinted, to be sown in the first week in June, in order that it may be available at the most parched and needy time in summer. It may also, for a succession, be sown in three crops each a fortnight later than the preceding; and, in this case, it will of course be available throughout a corresponding series of mowings. When cut for fodder, it is most suitable when about half in blossom; and the quantity of it wanted for each day ought to be mown on the preceding day, at a time when it is perfectly dry; for as cows eat it with the same avidity as clover, and are liable to become blown if they have access to it in a thoroughly green state, it is best adapted for them when it is quite dry and has become a little withered. All domestic animals, particularly cows, weanling calves, pigs, and mares with foal, are exceedingly fond of this fodder, and appear to thrive well upon its use. "The most economical management of it," says Dr. Hunter, "is to put it into moveable racks, because if laid in heaps upon the ground, the cattle will be apt to fight about it, and spoil a great deal by trampling. What falls from the racks, the pigs will take care of. In this manner, the cows will fill themselves in the forenoon with the greatest ease, and ought then to be brought home to the fold-yard, where they will lie down and enjoy rest during the heat of the day; instead of which, if they were in the pastures in search of food (which at that time of the year is often very scanty,) they would be teased with flies and other insects, be running about and heating themselves, and instead of increasing their milk, would shrink from it more and more. Whoever will make the experiment, will certainly be most agreeably surprised by the great quantity of excellent rich milk his cows will produce, at a time when all his neighbours, who have not been so provident, will complain of the considerable reduction of theirs."

ENGLISH FARMERS.—The progressive movement impressed on society has penetrated the agricultural as well as the manufacturing districts; and if the improvements in rural industry are less remarkable than those effected by the application of the power loom, the inferiority may fairly be attributed to the nature of the work, which does not, to an equal extent, admit of the use of mechanical forces. However, within the last half century vast tracts of land have been reclaimed; fens and marshes have been drained, and sandy soils brought into a high state of culture; the farmer has studied chemistry, and perfected himself in the knowledge of manures. An extraordinary change has also taken place in the social habits of rural life; the houses of the farmers are now elegantly furnished, and their general style of living has become generous and refined. Their children are well educated, and their wives and daughters have caught the spirit of metropolitan taste. They have, indeed, been reproached with having abandoned the simplicity of their ancestors, and aspired above their station; but it is difficult to understand why agriculturists should not make equal advances with manufacturers, merchants, and tradesmen. Undoubtedly they err if their expenditure exceeds their means, but this of course applies to all classes, and it seems as admissible that the farmer should keep a house in London, as that the Manchester manufacturer should possess his cottage ornee on the banks of the Windermere. It is said of the late Earl of Yarborough that he was pleased at seeing his Lincolnshire tenants mounted on better hunters than himself, as an evidence not only of laudable pride, but of independent resources. It is also obvious that, in proportion to their riches, the farmers become good customers to the shop-keepers, who, in turn, are enabled to stimu-

late the industry of towns, and by such means the home trade flourishes. If we wish to estimate the evils of an impoverished tenantry, we have only to look to Ireland.

REARING AND FEEDING STOCK.—The following is a summary of remarks made by Mr. Lyon, in a lecture before the *Derby Farmers' Club*. The principles laid down are worthy of attention:

Young animals grow more quickly for a given amount of food than older. By high feeding, a lamb of Southdown breed (not a large sort) may be fifteen or sixteen pounds a quarter at a year old; at the same age, a young ox may be from five to six score a quarter. This produce, from the smaller quantity of food which animals consume while young, is equal to what they will yield in any subsequent year, from a larger quantity.

If young animals be reared well, or kept fat from the beginning, they acquire a constitution which ensures their growing more in subsequent years from a less proportion of food. The progeny of well-reared stock improves from generation to generation.

When an animal is in good condition, it yields a greater produce for its food, than when it is poor and lean.

If, therefore, an animal be first fed on good pasture till it is fresh and fat, and then removed to poor keep, so as to lose its condition, not only is the food wholly lost on which it declined in flesh, but all the good food which it may consume for some time afterwards has very much less effect.

The feeding of animals should therefore be quite continuous, as well as liberal, in order to be fully profitable.

All animals pay best for that amount and kind of food which causes them to produce most largely. That which makes rearing stock grow and thrive fastest, that which makes feeding beast or sheep fatten most quickly, and that which makes milking beasts milk most profusely, and for the longest time, is the most profitable kind of food.

The principle of continuous feeding is especially applicable to milking cattle. For if the milk be suffered to fall off, it cannot be brought fully to return, like the fattening propensity; and if, during the interval between the cessation of the milk and calving, the state of constitution which promotes the flow of milk decline, it requires a long period to bring out the full effect of the liberal food given afterwards, and the cow never yields so largely as she otherwise would have done.

It is always profitable to grow on land a succession of nutritious food for all stock kept on it. But in those cases where the natural produce of the land is deficient in richness, or where much straw, in proportion to other forage is grown, or where the casualties of season cause crops of cattle-food to be deficient, it is always advantageous to add a portion of artificial strong food, such as cake, or corn, or linseed, to the food of animals, whether rearing, feeding, or milking stock.

A MAMMOTH CHEESE.—Mr. Jas. Elgar, cheesemonger, Peterborough, England, has exhibited an immense cheese, weighing 1474 lbs., its circumference 13 feet, and thickness 18 inches. This exceeds in size and weight the one sent as a present to the Queen, from Somersetshire, in 1841, which measured nine feet round, and was 22 inches deep. Mr. Elgar's cheese was made from upwards of 20 hogsheds of milk, of one meal from 737 cows.