

than will pay for the difference in time and labor. The stalk should be cut down after the dew is off in the morning, and left to wilt. If the sun be very hot, the tobacco must be watched that it does not scorch, and if this be found to be the case, it should be thrown into heaps about a foot high and three feet or less in width, and then hauled into the shed; here it must not be piled more than a foot high, or it will soon heat and spoil. It should be nailed up as rapidly as possible; one person sticking the nail in the pith of the stalk exposed by cutting it off from the ground, and shaking it to loosen the leaves, hands it to a second person, who nails it to the rail, far enough apart to allow of the circulation of the air throughout. After the crop is in, the doors and shutters should be opened all round, so as to allow a strong draft of air to pass through the tobacco and prevent what is technically called "burning." This is literally nothing more than a partial decomposition of the leaf, consequent upon the exclusion of air from passing through it while in the green state, which destroys its quality and texture. When dried it has a blackish brown color, and crumbles beneath the touch. When the tobacco is pretty thoroughly cured, and during dry weather, when it is very brittle, the high winds that prevail about that season will damage it very much if allowed to blow through the shed, hence at such times the shed should be closed on the sides whence the wind comes, and opened again when it has ceased to blow. When the leaves are all dry, or after the weather has been severe enough to freeze the remaining green ones, the tobacco is ready to be stripped.

Stripping.—At the setting in of a warm, drizzling, wet, foggy spell of weather, the shed must be opened on all sides to allow the damp atmosphere to pervade the whole interior. After the dry leaves have become damp enough to allow handling in any degree without breaking, the stalks must be taken off the lath or pulled down and laid in heaps about eighteen inches or two feet high, and any desired length. If it is not intended to strip it immediately, it should be conveyed to a cellar or other apartment, where it will remain damp. It should not, however, be suffered to remain longer than two or three days in heaps, without examination, as there is sometimes sufficient moisture remaining in the stalks or frozen leaves to create heat and rot the good tobacco. If found to be heating, it should be changed about and aired and be stripped immediately. If found to be drying out, further evaporation may be checked by covering the heaps with damp straw or corn fodder. Tobacco is usually stripped into two qualities, "ground-leaf," or "fillers," and "wrappers." The leaves that lie next the ground, generally from two to four, are always more or less damaged by sand beaten on by the rain and other causes, hence they only command about half the price of the good tobacco or "wrappers." The ground-leaves are taken off first and tied up separately in bunches, or "hands." This is performed in the following manner: Take off one leaf after another, until there is contained in the hand a sufficient number to make a bunch about an inch in diameter at the foot-stalks, which must be kept even at the ends, and holding the bunch clasped in one hand, take a leaf and wrap it around (beginning at the end of the bunch), confining the end under the first turn, continue to wrap smoothly and neatly until about three inches of the leaf remains, then open the bunch in the middle and draw the remaining part of the leaf through. This forms a neat and compact "hand," that will bear a great deal of handling without coming open. After the ground-leaves have been removed, the good leaves are stripped off and tied up the same as the ground-leaves, with this exception: the leaves of each stalk should be tied in a bunch by themselves, to preserve a uniformity in color and size, as tobacco is sold in the market according to color and size, therefore if the leaves of a large and a small plant, or of a dark-colored and a light one, be tied up together, it at once diminishes the appearance and value of the crop.

Bulking.—As soon as a quantity of tobacco is stripped it should be "bulked down," or if intended to be immediately

(Continued on next page.)

## From Calf to Yearling



A horse, cow or steer—any domestic animal—is, in a sense, what the breeder makes it. An inherited tendency toward heavy milking or capacity for fattening may be intensified by judicious management on the part of the feeder until succeeding generations excel the parent stock. The feeder can change an unthrifty animal into one that proves profitable. This developing of characteristics is made possible by the modern science of feeding as understood by up-to-date farmers. Hence the first twelve months in the life of a calf become of vital importance as largely determining its future usefulness. Now, to rightly develop a calf with large appetite, it's necessary to *strengthen digestion* so that increasing ration may be met by increasing appetite and no derangement result from over-feeding. To do this, give regularly, twice a day, small doses of

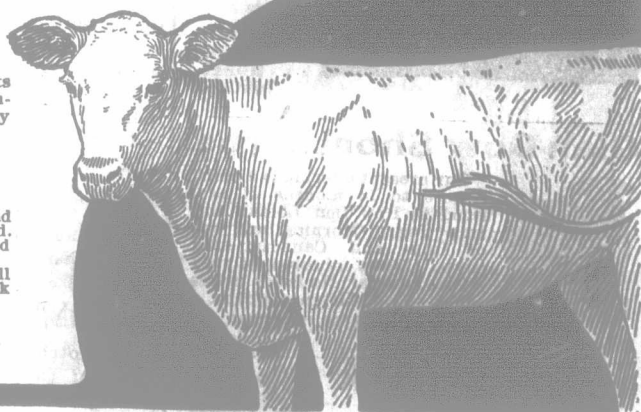
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