

The Farm.

Dishorning.

The dishorning of cattle is a subject which may be said to be settled in the affirmative so far as the great dairy districts of Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota are concerned. A journey through these states will show to the intelligent observer that nearly one half the cattle are minus their horns. And it appears to be the case that the large herds have been dishorned more completely than the smaller ones.

On approaching a farmer for his reasons why he had dishorned his stock he stated that it made the cows more gentle and docile, and that he noticed somewhat of an increase in the milk yield since it had been done. The cows lost the fidgety, nervous appearance and did not seem to be so much afraid of the leader of the herd.

Now as to the humanitarian side of this question. Humane people who live in towns and have had no practical experience with stock, speak of dishorning as cruel. But it is not. It is an act of mercy to prevent cows from injuring each other, and there is little more pain connected with it than there is in trimming a fingernail.

The cows were given horns to protect themselves from their enemies, but in our modern civilization man protects the cow from her enemies, and she does not need the horns for defence. Even Mother Nature herself seems to recognize this fact. The great Texas steers that have to fight for their lives against wolves, bears and members of their own kind, have long, sharp, cruel horns with a spread often of four feet, and they have to use them savagely in order to live. The gentle Jersey cow, with man as her friend, and with no persistent enemy larger than a house fly, has stubby, useless, little horns of four or five inches in length, and doubtless Nature will in time eliminate even these.—Correspondence Country Gentleman.

Feeding Cottonseed Meal.

Following is a summary of an investigation made by the Iowa experiment station in regard to feeding cottonseed meal to hogs: Cottonseed meal is fatal to hogs when fed in sufficient quantity, the total amount required to prove fatal being in this case from 7 to 33 pounds per hog. The fact that this amount of cottonseed meal, even when fed in the most careful manner, is sufficient to kill shoats weighing 100 pounds or over is abundant reason for using cottonseed meal with extreme caution, if it is used at all, in feeding hogs.

Hogs in this experiment were fed without injury for 17 weeks, following cattle that were fed from four to seven pounds of cottonseed meal per head daily.

Cottonseed meal added to a corn and cob meal ration for hogs materially increased and cheapened the gains over corn and cob meal alone.

Cut clover hay added to a corn and cob meal ration, and soaked 12 hours before feeding gave no advantage in gain over corn and cob meal alone.

Sow More Grass Seed.

George M. Clark, of Connecticut, in his experiments sowed 14 quarts of red-top, 14 quarts of timothy and 4 quarts of red clover to the acre. Over 6 tons of hay to the acre is a grand result, but Mr. Clark has set as his ideal 8 tons to the acre. A New York farmer, writing in this connection to The Farm, Field and Fireside, says:

There are farmers who sow only four quarts of timothy and two or three of red clover and consider this amount ample. Will such seeding produce a nice crop of hay? Why, my dear Mr. Farmer, the question is preposterous. Of course it cannot. And then another thing is to be considered. In seeding the soil needs to be made very fine, mellow and rich if a large growth of grass is to be expected. It pays to harrow ground very thoroughly not only for grass seeding, but for any other crop as well. It is perfectly clear to my mind that many farmers do not sow seed enough to get the best catch, and consequently the most satisfactory crop of hay is not realized.

Generous Horse.

The horse is generally rated as one of the most intelligent of animals, and a pretty incident that was witnessed by a number of persons recently shows that generosity also enters into his character.

Two fine-looking horses attached to single buggies were hitched at the curb opposite the Chestnut Street entrance to the Merchant's Exchange. They were hitched several feet apart; but the hitching-straps allowed them sufficient liberty of movement to get their heads together, if they so desired. The owner of one of them had taken the opportunity of a prolonged stop to give his horse a feed of oats, which was placed on the edge of the sidewalk in a bag.

This horse was contentedly munching his oats, when his attention was attracted by the actions of the other horse. The other horse was evidently very hungry. He eyed the plentiful supply of oats wistfully, and neighed in an insinuating manner. The horse with the feed pricked up his ears politely and replied with a neigh, which must have been in horse language an invitation to the other fellow to help himself. Evidently he accepted it as such; for he moved along in the direction of the bag as far as his hitching-strap would permit. But the strap was not long enough, and his hungry mouth fell about a yard short of the bag.

The other horse noticed, and seemed to appreciate this difficulty. Fortunately there was some leeway in his strap. So he moved slowly along the curb, pushing the bag with his nose until the other horse was able to reach it. Then, after a friendly nose-rub of salutation, the two horses contentedly finished the oats together.—St. Louis Republic.

A visitor to the Mayor's office Tuesday afternoon was Mr. George Hare. While he was there the two Kaffirs called to say farewell to His Worship. Mr. Hare was for some years a resident of South Africa and learned the Kaffir language. He was introduced to the two visitors and had a long conversation with the Kaffirs in their native language. The latter were delighted and told Mr. Hare he was the second person they had met since leaving Africa who could speak their language.—Globe.

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