

Advantages of Fall Calves.

In bygone times, when, as a rule, the milking term of cows covered only about one half the year, and they were generally wintered at the straw-stack or in open sheds, it was considered economy to breed them to produce their calves in the spring months, the fresh grass serving to restore lost condition and furnish a fair supply of milk, at least while pasturage continued good; the calves being raised on grass and on the skim milk from the dairy. Since good stabling has become more general, and dairying a specialty with a large proportion of farmers in some districts, and the winter market for butter and cheese the best of the year, the practice of having the cows come in fresh in the fall has extended until it is general not only in the case of dairy farms, but also of those devoted more to the raising of beef cattle, and of general mixed husbandry. The dairy cow coming in fresh in the fall, if well fed, as she should be to make her do her best work, will milk well through the winter, while her product brings the highest price, and will flush up in her milk when turned out to pasture in the spring, thus lengthening the term of profitable lactation, and will make a better showing from her year's work than if she had calved in the spring. The calves coming in the fall soon learn to feed and are readily attended to while the other stock is being fed, and are ready to go out to grass and find for themselves when the spring work on the farm is to be attended to, and the least stock feeding to be done suits the farmer best. Heifers born from September to November may be bred at about 16 to 17 months old, to produce their first calves at a little over two years of age, coming due also in the fall months, when they may and should be fed liberally, and thus given a good start as milk producers. If bred for their second calves in February or March, they will have the benefit of a long milking term, which will serve to establish the habit of persistent milking, and their second calves will also come in a good season. The advantage of having calves come in the fall is quite as apparent if they are male calves. If they are kept entire for breeding purposes, the young bulls will be at an age of from 15 to 16 months before they need be put to service, which is decidedly preferable to using them at an earlier age; while if they are turned into steers they will be just the best age to go off as butcher's beasts or export cattle in the spring, after they are two years old, or at an age of about two and a half years, which is probably the most profitable age at which to market cattle that have been kept growing and improving from their birth.

These remarks apply equally to dairy cattle and to the pure-bred beef breeds and their grades, and the principle is, we believe, generally acknowledged to be sound, as it is commonly practiced by the most successful handlers of cattle of either class.

Scalded vs. Raw Corn Meal.

We find there still exists among farmers a marked difference of opinion regarding the value of scalding ground grain for hog-feeding. It is natural to suppose that warm soft-ened feed would tax the energy of a hog less to digest than cold raw food. As a matter of fact, it is not a serious undertaking to feed a few lots in different ways, studying always to reduce the cost of feeding in substance and in labor.

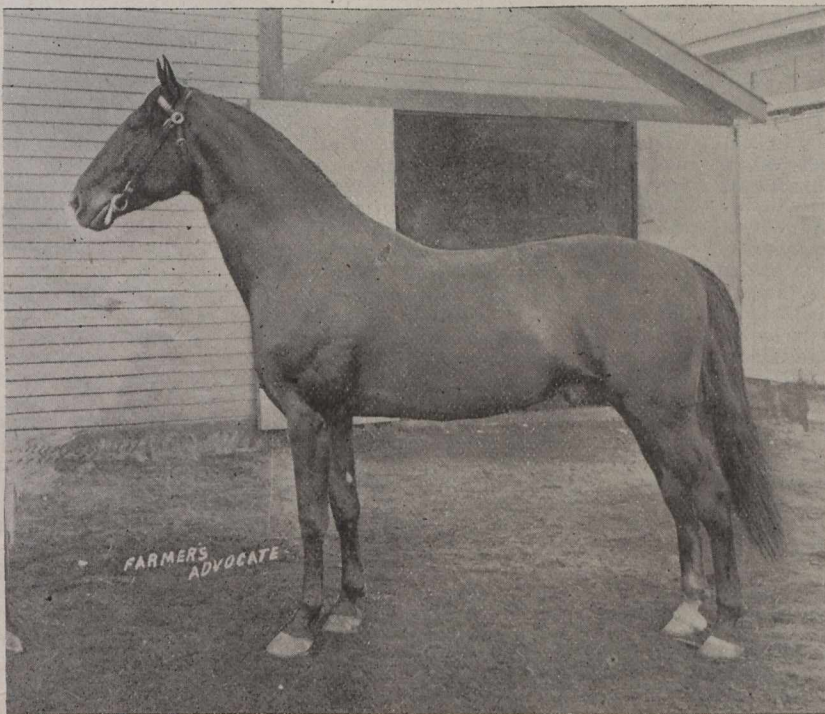
The Agricultural Department of Nottingham University College, England, undertook to learn the difference between feeding corn meal scalded and unscalded. The experiment is described in the Journal of the Board of Agriculture. Twelve pigs of the Yorkshire breed, all of one litter, were selected for the first experiment, and these were divided into two lots of six each. They were 19 weeks old when the test started, and the difference in the total weights of the two sets was only 16 pounds. Each lot received the same quantities of corn meal and whey, the only difference being that lot I. received the corn meal raw, and for lot II. the meal was scalded. The pigs were housed in similar pens, each having similar yards. They were fed alike at 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. Previous to feeding, the pigs were shut away from the troughs, and in the case of lot I. whey was put into the trough and dry raw corn meal put on the surface of the whey, while lot II. received the same quantity of corn meal scalded and mixed with the whey in the trough. The pigs were given access to their respective troughs at the same time.

The experiment lasted from Sept. 1st to Dec. 9th, when the pigs were slaughtered. Both lots were weighed at the end of the experiment and at periods of about a fortnight throughout the trial. On Sept. 1st, lot I. weighed 696 pounds and lot II. 680. At the conclusion of the experiment lot I. weighed 1,621 pounds and lot II. 1,516 pounds, so that the pigs fed on raw meal gained in live weight 89 pounds more than those fed on scalded meal. When the pigs were killed the dressed weights of lot I. was 1,200 pounds, and of lot II., 1,163, an advantage

in favor of lot II. of 3.9 per cent. carcass to live weight. Both lots were equally good, and each sold for about \$10.25 per cwt., leaving a difference of \$4.00 in favor of lot I. fed on raw corn meal. After deducting \$1.25, the value of the 16 pounds extra weight, from lot I., we have a cash balance of \$2.75 in favor of feeding pigs on raw meal. To this may also be added the fuel and extra labor involved in scalding the meal, so that, according to this experiment, to scald corn chop for hogs is worse than useless. We would be glad to hear from any of our readers who have conducted stock-feeding tests along this or other lines.

Deterioration of Beef Cattle.

The *Iowa Homestead*, in a recent issue, has the following: "There is complaint in Canada that the quality of the beef cattle there is declining, and that Canada beef occupies second place in the markets of Great Britain as compared with the product of the United States. We have heard very similar complaints made on this side of the line, and it is undoubtedly true that in the last fifteen years fewer good cattle have been grown upon the farms of the middle West than formerly. Here a good deal of investigation has been directed to ascertain the cause or causes of the decline, and the reasons therefor have been pretty well ascertained and repeatedly given in these columns. The *FARMER'S ADVOCATE*, of London, Ont., undertakes, in its current issue, to state the causes of the deterioration of the Canada steer. One of the reasons assigned is the growing custom of using immature bulls exclusively, a practice which, it is declared, is increasing the difficulty of securing first-class feeders. Yearling bulls are bought and put into service at once, with the result that the progeny are poor the first year and that the devitalizing effects of the first year's service injure him for



ROYAL MORGAN 15862 (formerly Actor).

Standard-bred stallion, sired by Royal Fearnought, the sire of twenty-five in 2.30 list. Won second prize at London, 1900.

OWNED BY W. K. NEWTON, SALFORD, ONT.

the second and third years' demands. The second cause which plays a conspicuous part in producing the evil mentioned is the progress that has been made by the dairy industry, which has been attended by the introduction of bulls of the dairy breeds. The cheap scrub is also a chief offender, and where so many calves are bred for, merely for the sake of having cows come in fresh, there is a good deal of indifference about whether the calf lives or dies, and it is consequently greatly neglected during the period when special care should be taken to make it profitable. The causes named have all operated in this country. Immature bulls have had their share in reducing the quality and feeding capacity of the get, dairy bulls have contributed in the same direction, but the greatest blunder of all is the scrub. In the introduction of dairy blood there is compensation in improved milking quality, but for the use of the scrub there is no excuse whatever.

Mr. A. J. Thompson, a Canadian cattle dealer who went to the Argentine Republic three years ago and recently returned, stated when interviewed in Toronto that "the farmers of Canada are away behind in feeding cattle."

They might as well get the Chicago prices of 5½ to 6 cents, instead of 4½, for their stock. The Canadian steer is not finished. It is a big, rangy animal, badly fattened, which in England dresses about fifty pounds to the hundredweight, while the smaller, compact American bullock dresses fifty-seven per cent., is better fleshed, and is worth 3d. to 4d. a stone more in England than the Canadian bullock. The American breeder matures his animal young, and it is small and well-fleshed. The heavy-weight stock for the English market is a thing of the past, and the bullock which they will accept

over there now weighs not more than 1,300 or 1,400 pounds. The Canadian stock has fallen off greatly in quality, and the grades are nothing like as good as they were fifteen or twenty years ago. The stock-raisers must pay greater attention to breeding if they want to make any headway.

Mr. Thompson said that it would be necessary for the farmers to be educated into producing export cattle all the year around, to make the refrigerator system a thorough success. Otherwise the dealer would be able to secure stock for export only a portion of the year.

"The Argentine," he said, "will become the great stock-raising and farming country of the continent. The natural advantages of the country are wonderful. The stock breeders have grass the year around, there being four crops a year, three of them being heavily seeded. The ranches are very extensive, the breeder who has only 6,000 or 7,000 acres being regarded as a small man. Fully 60 per cent. of the stock raised on them are a good export type of cattle. Sheep are not raised by thousands, but by millions. There are three establishments which kill 100,000 sheep a week.

"The Argentine is now a great competitor against this country in butter and cheese. Hundreds of tons of fresh butter, prepared in six or eight pound packages, are sent over annually in refrigerated chambers and sold in Great Britain as English butter. As a matter of fact, I have never tasted English butter to equal it. The cheese industry, too, is increasing, but it has not received the attention given to the butter trade.

FARM.

Constructing an Ice House.

It is a good thing to do things thoroughly, and so we will describe such a house as may be satisfactory in every way. Set up posts in the ground in a dry location, and board them on each side with double boards. Fill the space (ten inches is enough) with sawdust up to the roof, and cover it with a tight roof. It is best not to have a door, but steps up outside to get into it at a gable to take out the ice. It is well to have a door through which the ice may be packed in, however. Cut the ice into even shaped blocks of such a size that two one way may be covered by three the other way. The idea is to make a solid block of ice, which may have all the cracks filled by sweeping the dust of ice made in the packing into the cracks, so the whole mass will freeze solidly together. Blocks 16x24 inches, or 12x8 inches, will pack in this way. Cut the ice soon after it is six or eight inches thick; it is easier to handle and cut it then, and it will be solid anyhow, for it is another strange habit of ice to freeze together, if only brought into contact for a moment. This is called regelation.

An efficient ice house may be built for a few dollars, but if one wish an ornamental one with a cupola and a weathercock on the top, it is all the same, \$1,000 will not make a house keep ice unless these simple rules are perfectly carried out, and \$20 will, if they are. It may be repeated, perhaps with advantage, that the primary rules are these: Cut the ice on a dry, cold day. Cut it into the right shaped blocks to make a solid mass.

Have a dry floor on the ground. Have no places for air to get in under it. Put a foot of dry packing under the ice. Pack the ice solid. Have sufficient packing around and over the ice to keep air from it. Have plenty of covering on the top, with ample ventilation; let air blow in freely, but do not let sunshine in, and keep the top covering dry. All the rest may be as you please.—*Dairy Produce.*

A School of Practical Farming.

There has been established at Briercliff Manor, twenty-seven miles out of New York City, a school of agriculture, the object of which is the practical training of men and women in correct methods of agriculture, horticulture, floriculture, gardening, poultry-keeping and allied branches. The aim will be to raise the standard of agricultural methods and to demonstrate through practical instruction, rather than the study of the natural sciences, the higher value that may be obtained from land under more intelligent management; to overcome and not to be overcome by the many difficulties that beset agriculture; to teach how to produce purer and better food, for which there is constant and unsatisfied demand. An interesting feature is that the usual literary features of an agricultural college are to be omitted. The director of the school is Mr. George T. Powell, the noted horticulturist, formerly of Ghent, N. Y.

If every reader of the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE* who regards it as good value for the price would secure one new subscriber, its field of usefulness would be doubled.