

Southdown Sheep for Market.

Address delivered by Geo. McKerrow, Sussex, Wis., at the last meeting of the American Southdown Breeders' Association, Chicago, Ill., September 27th.

The Southdown has often been termed the rich man's sheep, mainly, I presume, because this breed is fostered largely by the nobility of England and the aristocracy of America, as well as from the fact that his flesh is the finest grained and best flavored, which causes the above-mentioned classes to seek after it for use upon their tables.

The market is the *finale* of nearly all the sheep grown, and it is in fitting for and selling upon the market that the Southdown becomes pre-eminently the poor man's sheep.

There are two considerations that influence every good sheep feeder in a choice of a breed to feed for the market:—

First, a good and quick return for food consumed. In this respect the Southdown is second to none, as all competitive tests at experiment feeding stations will testify, notably the five years test at the Ontario station, where the grade Southdown showed an average profit of \$6.60, followed closely by its relatives, the Shropshire and Oxford, leaving far behind the other mutton breeds, none of which came within \$2.50 per head of the profit of the little Southdown.

Second, a sheep that will turn the food consumed into the highest priced product. Every good mutton market in the world will testify to the claims of the Southdown on this point—even the Chicago market recognizes the merit of the choice Southdown.

His great constitutional vigor, as shown by his bold, bright, large eye, full chest and large heart girth, as well as his perfect mutton form, shown in his wide shoulders and well-sprung rib, which ensures the broad back, wide loin, rump and hips, with full thigh or twist—in short, a round, plump body on short legs, with no excess of wool or yolk to draw feed from its more profitable work of meat production, makes the Southdown the practical feeder's ideal to feed for profit, and the butcher's ideal to cut upon the block, as in this plump, finely formed carcass he finds the greatest percentage of the high priced cuts, consequently he can pay more for it and yet get a greater profit in return.

One great injustice done the Southdowns and some other dark-faced breeds in the Chicago market is that nearly all the sales of the dark faces are credited to Shropshires. (While I must admit the Shropshire is a grand breed of sheep, yet in justice to the other good breeds this should not be.) The old charge against the Southdown that it had but little wool on the pelt is now in its favor. Every pound of wool over a sufficient amount to protect the carcass is now produced at a loss, and I have found in my experience that the heaviest fleeced sheep of every breed, as a rule, are not the best feeders.

I may here say that while I believe the Southdown to be one of the best sheep to feed for market, yet nearly all the breeds have their good qualities, and will find sections in this wide country of ours where they are well adapted to soil and climate, and surrounding conditions. Yet with all the competition from other good breeds, I am ready to predict that the Southdown of quality will continue to make friends, and in the future become more popular than ever as the profitable feeder's sheep.

Feeding Dairy Cows for Profit.

There is no more common error than that which is committed by so many of our farmers who feed their cows only a pittance above what they need for their maintenance, and fail to realize that their profits cannot begin until after this point is reached. The more the cow will assimilate after that required to maintain her body the better, as this may be used directly for the production of milk. We therefore see that with the right kind of cows, the more we feed, up to the limit of the capacity of each animal in the herd, the better returns may be obtained, relatively as well as absolutely, hence an expensive ration is by no means an unprofitable one. What has been here said applies with equal force to all farm animals. It is the excess above what is required for maintenance that yields returns to the feeder. When we remember that a cow, as a rule, is supporting a calf during the greater part of her period of lactation, and thus is asked to perform double work during all this time, the plea for liberal feeding will seem all the more reasonable. According to a German experiment, it takes 8.85 lbs. digestible matter for a day steer of a thousand pounds live weight for a day without a loss or gain in flesh. The same may also apply approximately to a dry cow of similar size. The same authority estimates that a cow in full flow of milk will need 15.4 lbs. of digestible matter daily in her food.

Hence we may consider nearly 60 per cent. of the food of a cow is needed to keep up her normal weight, therefore a cow producing a full flow of milk ought to receive over 40 per cent. more food than is required for her maintenance.

In connection with the dairy, early winter is the most important time of the year: many of the spring and summer calved cows are still giving a considerable flow of milk, and a few of those intended to keep up the winter supply are now coming in. Production should be sustained, and the weekly receipts, if not increased, must not be per-

mitted to suffer by the gradual falling out of the cows which had finished their season. There are many dairy farmers who have the bulk of their cows calving for winter, considering that it pays them better to have this arrangement.

Food during Late Autumn and Winter.—Before entering on a consideration of this part of the subject it may be well to notice, that although to make a winter dairy profitable it is absolutely necessary to use considerable quantities of foods containing a large amount of nutrition in a concentrated form, a good deal of caution is necessary that it is not overdone and expense incurred which the receipts cannot recoup. It should never be overlooked that home-grown food of all kinds is the cheapest, and should be availed of to its fullest extent; no better market can be had at present for wheat, oats and barley than to have them ground and used in winter dairying. The financial position of modern farming does not admit of heavy bills being paid out of the receipts, and the more a farmer can grow and find consumption for on his own premises, the more likely he is to hold his ground and make a profit.

Another point of importance in connection with winter calving cows is that to a certain extent the season is unnatural, and a full flow of milk can neither be induced nor sustained unless continuously well fed with food of nourishing and forcing quality, and the health and comfort of the animals strictly attended to. More particularly in the winter dairy, no animal will pay for the heavy expense incurred in feeding and attendance, unless free and fair in every respect, of robust constitution, a hearty feeder, and unmistakably a good milker. Even although every arrangement may have been made on the farm for breeding heifers in sufficient number to keep up the stock, a few young cows bought in occasionally are not at all objectionable, as they introduce fresh blood, and, if well chosen, may add considerably to the character and merits of the herd by their breeding, milking qualities, general stamina, and vigor of constitution. As a rule scarcely to be departed from, no cow should be kept in a strictly dairy herd until really old, as they are then large consumers, hard to keep in condition, and the loss in value when they come at last to be cleared out becomes a heavy tax on the year's receipts. When breeding is carried on, the outgoing cows should be parted with while still fresh and hardly off their best, heifers taking their place, the large sums the animals then make adding to the year's income, instead of lowering it, as must unavoidably be the case when kept till they are old.

Meadowside Ayrshires.

About four miles from Carleton Junction, on the C. P. R., and about the same distance from the town of Almonte, is Meadowside Farm, the property of Messrs. Joseph Yuill & Sons. The farm consists of about six hundred acres, four hundred acres of which are in one block. Here they have, with commendable enterprise, erected two large stock barns, and on the top of one there is a large windmill, which does all the ensilage and feed cutting and threshing, as well as the pumping of water for the stock. The past summer they have built what might almost be called a model farm house in every respect, and in doing this have not neglected one of the most important buildings on the farm, a good roomy woodshed, a part of which is divided off and fitted up as a dairy, where Mrs. Yuill makes her famous gilt-edged butter. As already intimated the chief business is the breeding of Ayrshire cattle, in which this firm has been very successful, as is shown by their success at the different exhibitions, and also by the fact that their reputation is such that they have sent stock to all parts of Canada.

The herd numbers about seventy-five head. They apparently give no preference to color, as we noticed both the light and dark shades were to be found in about equal numbers. The herd is headed by the bull McNeil 771; he is by Roger 3rd, and out of the noted cow, Viola 3rd, a cut of which appeared in our issue of November 1, which took first prize at Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa this year. At present they are milking about thirty-two head, all of which are registered Ayrshires. We might say that Messrs. Yuill have not had a grade cow on their farm for seventeen years. Among the heavy milkers of this herd are to be found Portulaca, winner of the Sweepstake milk test at Kingston in 1888, which, though she has been milking nine months and is eighteen years old, will yet fill a pail at a milking. Pride of Meadowside will give her own weight of milk in a shorter time than any other in the herd, viz.: twenty-two days. Another wonderfully deep milker is Almonte Maid. This cow, though ten years old, gave sixty pounds of milk a day on grass alone this summer.

Ella Meadowside, the mother of the first prize bull calf at the World's Fair, is a beautiful, light colored, three-year-old heifer, got by Baron Mansfield.

Mr. Yuill makes a practice of milking his cows at least ten months of the year, but if in good condition he will milk them right up to the time of calving.

This firm have some ten or a dozen heifers got by their bull, Jock, which are very promising, as well as a few young bulls, sired by Baron Meadowside, which are now fit for service.

In spite of having such a large number of cattle at the World's Fair, they made a good show at Ottawa, and were successful in winning six prizes.

In addition to Ayrshires, they keep one hundred sheep, one-half of which are pure-bred Shropshires, the others good grades of this breed. A herd of choice Berkshires is also kept.

They have a model dairy, fitted up with all the latest machinery, with the exception of a separator, and this they expect to put in shortly. The churning is done by means of a one-horse tread power. At present they use a jinnett, now forty-three years old, for this purpose, but they intend breaking in their bull to do this work and thus make him work for his keep. Just here we might add that while both political parties are quarrelling over which should have the honor of having originated the travelling dairies, it will be news to some to know that Mr. and Mrs. Yuill composed the first travelling dairy. Long before anyone thought of this method of diffusing dairy knowledge, Mr. A. A. Wright, who owned a general store in the town of Renfrew, finding that he was losing money, as so many of the country storekeepers do, in handling butter, decided to do something to improve the quality, and with this object in view engaged them to go round in this neighborhood and give lessons in buttermaking, and he states that he never did anything that paid him better.

Mrs. Yuill ships her butter twice a week to Ottawa, where it commands the highest price from private customers, who will not stop short of the best. She states that even in the hottest weather no ice is needed in the package, and accounts for this by the fact that the cream is never allowed to reach a temperature above fifty-nine degrees.

Our Scottish Letter.

The month of October is always more or less an uneventful one in Scotland, and 1893 has been no exception to the rule. In the beginning of the month the Quinquennial Show in connection with the Dumfries Union Society was held at Dumfries. There was a fairly good exhibit of horses, cattle and sheep, but a regard for strict accuracy would not permit of one saying that the show of the first named class was equal to that seen at Dumfries ten years, or even five years ago. Perhaps the most outstanding animal exhibited was Mr. Wm. Hood's Ethel, which gained the championship five years ago, and seemed not unlike being quite able to do the same thing now. She was got by McNair's Good Hope, and has worn remarkably well. In spite of her ten years, she is probably looking better now than ever she did. A gentleman who is not unknown in Canada took first prize with a three-year-old mare. This is Mr. W. J. B. Beattie, of Newbie, Annan. His mare is named Bonny Doon, and was bred in Cumberland. Galloways were forward in stronger force than they have been at any show during the present season. They were really a grand display, and, as is usually the case, the famous Tarbreoch herd secured the lion's share of the prizes. Mr. Pilkington, of Cavens, the Duke of Buccleuch, the Messrs. Biggar, and Sir Robert Jardine, Bart., all showed good stock, but not in anything like such numbers as Mr. Cunningham. Ayrshires were a really good show. Mr. Andrew Mitchell, of Barcheskie, Sir Mark J. Stewart, Mr. Robert Osborne, of Wynholme, Mr. Abram Kerr, and his brother, Mr. Thomas Kerr, were all successful exhibitors. In the sheep classes one or two breeders had it very much their own way. One of the best known flocks of Cheviots sheep in the country is that of Mr. Johnston, at Archbank, near Moffat. This flock is an old established one, and may be described generally as a blend of the East Country Cheviots with the Dumfries classes, the most distinguished breeder of which in bygone days was Mr. Brydon. It is admitted that Mr. Brydon's ideas, although dictated by a regard for the time in which he lived, were carried out by him to such an extreme as to greatly impair the usefulness and the popularity of Cheviots bred in Dumfriesshire. To Mr. Johnston, in a large measure, belongs the credit of having recovered much of the ground which was lost through the general adoption by farmers in that district of the Brydon type. The principal exhibitor of black-faced sheep was Mr. Jas. Moffat, Sanquhar. Border Leicesters in Dumfriesshire have to compete with the English breed known as the Wensleydales. These sheep in Scotland bear a somewhat curious name—they are called blue-headed Leicesters. They are stronger and coarser than the ordinary Border Leicesters, and have acquired popularity in the Border Counties chiefly from the wonderful maturity to which their cross lambs can be grown. On the whole, however, the fashion is rather drifting away from them, and the Border Leicesters are gradually but surely supplanting them in popularity. Dumfries is almost the only show in Scotland at which Wensleydales are exhibited in any number, and the show of this year has been no exception to the rule. The most successful exhibitor of Border Leicesters was Mr. Matthew Templeton, Drummore, Kirkcudbright. A gentleman not unknown to Clydesdale fanciers in Canada, Mr. J. P. Laurie, Shieldhill, was more than usually successful with the Wensleydales.