hay. For each 7.83 lbs. of alfalfa hay fed with the Kaffir corn meal, the hogs gained 3.4 lb. over those having dry Kaffir corn meal alone, a gain of *868 lbs of pork per ton* of alfalfa hay. In a former experiment it was shown that the gain per acre when hogs were pastured through the summer on alfalfa with a light feeding of corn was 776 pounds of pork.

These results obtained at the Kansas Station are certainly good. Alfalfa is receiving more attention in this country, and we would like to hear from any who have had any experience in feeding it to hogs. Pork raising is one of our most important industries, and any plan that will tend to lessen the cost of production will be welcomed by our farmers. Nothing is said in the experiments mentioned above as to what effect the feeding of alfalfa had upon the quality of the pork.

CORRESPONDENCE

Some Practical Poultry Questions

To the Editor of FARMING:

I should like to hear through this valuable paper in next issue, from some expert poultry breeder, his strictly unbiased opinion as to the following questions:

Is it possible to make hens lay as many eggs in winter as in summer?

Isn't heat as essential to egg production as proper food and exercise?

Would 60 or 70 degrees in a poultry house be too warm, other requisites being provided?

What breed or strain of fowl is actually the most profitable as a broiler, and as an adult?

Markham, Ont., March 11, 1899. J. R.

NOTE—Will some of our poultry breeders kindly give J.R. the information he desires? The questions are thoroughly practical and furnish a good opportunity for imparting knowledge of value to the poultry industry of Canada.—EDITOR.

A Talk on Manure

To the Editor of FARMING:

I have read with much pleasure, and I hope profit, "*Bulletin No. 31 on Barn-yard Manure,*" by Professor Shutt, of the Central Experimental Farm. Every farmer should secure a copy and mark, learn, and inwardly digest the truths therein contained. The practical information, so clearly and plainly stated, if intelligently followed, would be the means of adding a large amount of wealth to the farmers of this Dominion.

Driving through the country in the winter season, it is surprising to see the careless and reckless manner in which otherwise good farmers handle the manure; the horse manure thrown out in one pile to ferment and fire fang, and thus become useless as a fertilizer. When manure heats to such an extent as to become white, it is worthless, as all the good or the gases have gone off into the air to be brought down by the rain, probably to enrich some other man's farm. It reminds me of rendering out tallow in a pot with a hole or a crack in it. The grease drops into the fire and is burned up, while there is nothing left in the pot but dry, useless cracknels. The cow manure is thrown out in another pile to freeze solid and get mixed with snow and water from the barn roof. Others haul the manure out to the fields and put it in round high heaps like a stack. The rain will run off these heaps like water off a duck's back, and the manure will heat and burn up. If, however, the horse and cow manure were put into a heap near the barn every day, in the absence of a manure shed, and the heap built up square at the sides, and flat on top, the horse manure would heat up the cold cow manure and the flat heap would catch what snow and rain would fall, which would regulate the heat, and result in making a perfect fertilizer. If it were found that the pile was heating too much, saturate it well with water, or shovel snow on if convenient, and thus check the fermentation; the results would amply repay the trouble.

By this plan the manure could be hauled out to the fields where it is intended to be applied, and handled in the same way. *We are in favor of a light dressing of manure* and applied more frequently, rather than a heavy dressing at longer intervals. The manure should be kept as near the surface as possible. The better plan is to mix it with the top soil by very light ploughing or cultivating. I would not advise spreading manure on the surface after the ground is frozen but it is all right anytime up to then. There should always be a good supply of absorbents in the stable and there is nothing better than dry earth. This absorbent costs nothing, is as good as gypsum and can be gathered during the dry time in summer from the road side, or along the line fences, and stored conveniently for use. Then by having water tight gutters, which are easily constructed, the most valuable part of the manure will be saved and the stable kept as sweet as a nut.

Pownall, P.E.I., Feb. 27th, 1899. A. A. MOORE.

Sheep on a 100-Acre Farm

To the Editor of FARMING:

In reply to your inquiry concerning sheep I would say that on the average 100-acre farm from ten to twenty sheep is the number that is kept in our neighborhood. I have always contended, however, that whatever a man has the most taste for that is what he should follow. If a man has more taste for taking care of and feeding sheep, he should be able to do better with them, and he could keep more than the man who had not this inclination. Another man would perhaps do better in caring for cows if his taste lay that way. I would advise your correspondent to go slow, and creep up; buy a few good ones, and as he gained in experience he could keep more. If he wishes to make his a sheep farm he might keep as many as a hundred, but I would go slow myself.

As to the most profitable way of keeping sheep on the average farm, I hardly know how to answer. I know some farmers who turn their sheep on the road in the summer, and do not feed them very good through the winter. They just feed them on pea straw, which is a cheap way, but I do not say that it is the best way. I think it is better *to give sheep the best care possible, and keep them growing* from the start. There are other farmers who think the most profit is in having the lambs come very early, and selling them for spring lambs at five and six dollars each. There is a good deal in this plan, as the lambs are then out of the way early, but then there is a lot more work about this way than there would be to have the lambs come later, say about the first of April, when they soon get to grass, are not of much further trouble till fall, when they are fed for the butcher. If they have been well fed, and are a good kind, these lambs will realize from four and a half to five cents per pound, live weight, which gives a good profit. We have had lambs weigh at nine and ten months 200 lbs. We have only a small lot at present, as we keep them only for breeding purposes, but are hoping to increase our flock soon. A few very choice ones will bring better returns than a large lot of poor ones.

As to the cost of keeping a sheep for a year. We have always had an abundance of feed, so I hardly know the actual cost. About five pounds of turnips per day is a good average feed for a good-sized sheep. This would be about twelve bushels for the winter, which, at six cents per bushel, would be seventy-two cents, and a pound of oats a day would be about four bushels, which, at twenty-five cents per bushel, would make one dollar. These, with the roughage, would winter sheep very well until they began to lamb, when they would want some clover hay and a little bran. Then to this should be added pasture, which should not be more than twenty-five cents per month if it had to be hired. I think the way we keep our sheep that it would cost more than this, say from $5 to $7 per year. Hoping this will be satisfactory,

WILLIAM WILLIS.

Pine Ridge Farm, Newmarket, Ont., March 3rd, 1899.