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70 YOUNG STALLIONS FOR SALE

Sired by "Halifax," "Pinson," "Garou," "Americain," and "Icare."

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Brood Sows to Farmers At Cost

In order to secure an increased production of bacon in Alberta, the provincial government is buying grade brood sows, which will be sold to farmers at prices prevailing at time of delivery, with one dollar added for service fee. These animals are being purchased at current prices in the stock yards and the packing plants in Edmonton and Calgary. Especial care is exercised to select animals of good length and depth. Growthy, but under-finished animals are the kind chosen. These will be bred between December 20th and January 10th, and repeated, if necessary between January 11th and February 1st. All animals that repeat a second time, also all that fail to come in season at all, will be discarded because of the lateness or uncertainty of the time when they farrow.

A record will be kept of the male to which each sow is mated, and the date of same, in order to be able to inform the purchaser as to the time when, and the type of pig each will farrow.

Boars of Berkshire, Yorkshire, Duroc Jersey, Poland China, Hampshire and Tamworth breeding will be used.

Inquiries and applications should be addressed to the

Livestock Commissioner

Department of Agriculture

EDMONTON

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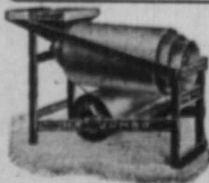
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Stock Stabled and in the Open

Results with Horses, Steers, Sheep and Swine at Lacombe Experimental Station

The question of suitable shelters for stock during winter is important from the double standpoint of cash expenditure for such shelter, and the effect of shelter, if any, in securing larger gains on stock for feed consumed.

For several years horses, particularly the idle work horses, have been wintered in the open at the Lacombe Experimental Station. Certain seasons these horses have had access to straw stacks and the run of pasture which had not been closely eaten the preceding season. In every such instance the horses have done remarkably well, in most cases coming in carrying more weight than when turned out in the fall. In the winter of 1911-12 all the horses made gains in weight, some increasing as much as seventy pounds during the coldest winter months. It is necessary to see that water is accessible, and that salt is provided at regular intervals. The usual charge made by those who take horses for wintering in this way is one dollar per head per month, with salt provided by the owner of the horses.

Even where it is not possible to provide for the wintering of horses in this manner, it has been demonstrated in many places that horses will come through in better condition by wintering in the open on the home farm, sheltered by a bluff or corral fence, than if kept in the stable continuously or even during the night time only. With prairie hay valued at \$5.00 per ton and grain at one cent per pound, the cost of wintering during one of the most extreme winters that have been experienced in the Lacombe district has been 11.47 cents per day per horse. Every horse included in this test made an increase of weight and went into spring work with more vigor and life than those few horses which were kept in the stable and worked lightly during the winter.

Steers in Open and in Stable

Experiments have also been conducted at Lacombe to determine the relative economy of gains as between steers fed for beef in the open, sheltered by a corral fence, and in comfortable barns. The average results of these tests for two years indicate a saving in the feed cost of producing beef of \$2.84 per head, in favor of outside feeding. This figure does not take into consideration the extra labor involved in inside feeding nor the interest on the money invested in buildings.

Nature provides beef cattle in this country with a heavy under-coat, and since the climate is not moist, cattle are able to stand the colder temperatures in the open better than the warm, moist air of the barns, no matter how well ventilated. Cattle are itchy and restless for a month to six weeks after first being stabled, whereas in the open they continue to thrive from the beginning.

Feed is economized by the use of feed racks which hold a load of hay at a time. These feed racks are six feet wide by thirty-two feet long, posts seven feet apart. A two by six-inch stringer on its edge is run along the centre of the rack 22 inches from the ground. This stringer carries the bottom of the two-inch by two-inch pieces which form the side of the rack, and which are placed on six-inch centres. The upper ends of the two-inch by two-inch are fastened to the centre two-inch by six-inch which forms part of the upper side of the rack. One of these racks will hold 1½ to 1¾ tons of hay. Grain tables about three feet high and thirty to thirty-six inches in width with a two-inch by six-inch piece bevelled and sloping outward to form the sides will be found most satisfactory for the feeding of chop. These wide, low tables permit of the cattle feeding from both sides and if the stock are dehorned there is little crowding or fighting for grain.

It is advisable to bed the corrals thoroughly. Labor is economized by being able to clean the corrals at one time in the spring or summer when the rush of work is not so great as at other seasons of the year; also by being able

to feed sufficient hay at one time to last for days, provided the rack accommodation is sufficient. The efficiency per man for the feeding of cattle in the open is many times multiplied as compared with his capacity for feeding inside.

Experience with Sheep

After some years' experience in the handling of sheep, it has been thoroughly proven that an open shed, facing to the south and opening into a corral fenced with a six to seven-foot-high board fence, is the best shelter possible. If the shed is shingled it will also prove serviceable and satisfactory at lambing time, particularly if the lambs do not arrive until the middle of April.

The "A" type of cabin for wintering hogs has been used at Lacombe both for fattening and breeding stock, for the past three years, with excellent results. No moisture collects on the roof of these cabins and not a single instance of rheumatism has developed in the large number of swine so wintered. Extra protection for winter is provided by placing the cabins in line within a foot of the woven wire fence and a foot apart. The spaces at the north end and between the cabins are then filled with straw, the straw being up to the top of the roof of the cabins.

It appears that such shelter is much more satisfactory, both as to the health of the hogs and as to economy of labor in taking care of them, than are expensive hog houses.

WHY BACON IS DEMANDED

Many reasons combine to make bacon an exceedingly important meat item in the war time trade from this continent to Great Britain and the armies at the front. "Bacon," as a trade term, includes the entire hog when dressed and split into sides, either "green" or "cured." The Wiltshire side averages from 50 to 75 pounds, of which only 7 per cent. is bone. This means a great economy in space when packed for shipment, for Wiltshire bacon is practically solid meat, and can be packed flat in cases of convenient size and shape, 14 to 16 in a case without loss of space.

The superiority of bacon in this respect is shown by comparison of the average percentage of bone in the different meats.

Wiltshire side bacon	7% bone
Dressed beef	20% bone
Mutton	20% bone
Veal	25% bone

As a result of the present shortage of available ocean tonnage this point is of no small consideration.

Moreover, bacon is very high in food value. The following table shows the relative food values of the principal meats entering into domestic consumption expressed in "calories," the units of heat and energy fixed by dietitians in considering the use of different foods to the human body:

	Calories
Bacon (cured and smoked)	2,930
Mutton (including tallow)	1,520
Side of beef	1,180
Lean beef	670
Veal	640

These figures show that more vital heat and energy are concentrated in a pound of bacon than in a pound of beef, veal or mutton. The fat constituent of bacon is of particular advantage to men working and fighting in the open air, especially in a cold, wet climate. And the shortage of fats in Europe is acute.

The dressing percentage of hogs is high—that is, there is a very high percentage of meat in proportion to the weight of the live animal. Hogs will dress out about 75 per cent., butcher cattle will average about 53 per cent., and sheep and lambs about 50 per cent. Bacon, once cured, runs no immediate danger of spoiling and can be handled with less care and expense than meat shipped as fresh or frozen. In England the cured Wiltshire is smoked, cut up into shoulders, sides, hams, etc., repacked in smaller boxes

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