

Stock and Dairy.

SHEEP FOR COMBING WOOL.

Under the above head I noticed in the *Rural New Yorker* some time since the question was asked by J. W. H., Pickville, Tenn., what is the best cross or kind for growing a good kind of combing wool; and whether such sheep will thrive in large flocks. Seeing no answer to the interrogatory of J. W. H., I shall venture, in a very brief way, to give my opinion in regard to the above questions.

In the first place, had I the old-fashioned Dutch sheep, Cheviot, or any of the ordinary coarse wool and wished to raise lambs for market, I should cross them with a pure-bred Leicester ram. I believe that cross not only gives you larger lambs than you can otherwise get, but they fatten at an earlier age; and should a person wish to raise a flock from this cross he would get a good quality of combing wool; for if your ram is pure bred, his get will most of them be similar to himself; but the next cross would quite likely take back on both sides, and the consequence would be that you would have an uneven and not very desirable flock. For the above reason I should prefer the pure-bred Leicesters. I have kept a few of them for a few years, and I know that they are easy keepers—very quiet in their habits, which enables them to take on fat rapidly, while a wild, shy breed would keep more lean; and I do not hesitate to say that for beauty and symmetry they are not surpassed by any breed. They shear a third more wool than the Cheviot, with the same keep; their wool is long, with a beautiful lustre, and a great deal finer and softer, and will command from fifteen to twenty cents more per pound.

I cannot speak of them as mutton sheep from experience, never having butchered any; but it is claimed that they will dress from thirty to fifty pounds the quarter at maturity, when well fattened.

In Dec., 1869, I went to Canada and purchased a few of the Leicester sheep; while there, there was a fair at Galt, and a drover named Oliver was purchasing his Christmas droves for New York. I saw four old ewes, older than the owner wished to breed from, that he had fed up to the week before Christmas. When put upon the scales their average weight was 295 pounds. A friend told me that five or six three-year-old wethers had been weighed before I arrived, and their average weight was 325 lbs.; so you see that although they are small boned and short-legged, they are monsters when put upon the scales.

In reply to the enquiry whether they will thrive if kept in large flocks, I do not believe it makes as much difference in the size of the flock as in the place where they are kept. For instance, put 50 to 75 sheep of any breed in a building or under a shed that will keep them from the storms of winter, and give them plenty of air, and they will do better, in my opinion, than a small flock of ten or fifteen shut up close, where they will be deprived of pure air. Give any animal pure air and steady, wholesome food, and the numbers will not matter much, in my opinion. When in Canada I noticed flocks of from twenty to sixty sheep, and some persons had larger, of the Leicester breed, and all looked well.

I should not, in my preference for the Leicester, omit mentioning the other two combing breeds—the Cotswolds and Lincoln. They are similar to each other; both are coarser boned than the Leicester, and larger—require better care and feed, shear a trifle more wool of a coarser grade and inferior quality, worth less by the pound, and all things considered, are not as profitable sheep for the farmer as my favorite Leicesters.

It is claimed by the Cotswolds men that their wool is a trifle longer than the Leicester, but I can see no need of that, for I pulled some wool out of one of my lambs at ten months old that measures twelve inches in length; if you hesitate to believe it, ask the editor of the *Rural* who has the sample I mentioned.—*Horticulturalist*.

COLD WATER BAD FOR COWS.

During the last summer in the hot days of July and August, the animals resorted to the lake to drink, and after slacking their thirst, they would wade into the water, and remain sometimes an hour or two with their legs half immersed. This habit, it was found, invariably diminished the flow of milk at night, and in order to learn the extent of the diminution, careful observations were made. It was ascertained that standing in the water an hour diminished the flow of milk to the amount of eight or ten quarts in a herd of thirteen cows.

The loss was so great that whenever they resorted to the water they were driven away to the pasture again at once. We have learned that from simply turning the herd into the yard upon a cold day in winter, and allowing them to remain fifteen minutes, the flow of milk was diminished to a serious extent, and consequently the animals are not now allowed to leave the warm stable during the entire winter, except for a brief period upon warm, sunshiny days. Water is brought directly from a well into the barn, and drinking vessels are arranged so that the animals have but to move but a step or two to supply their wants. The nature of the water supply and convenience of access are most important points in the management of milk cows. A draught of ice-cold water taken by a cow in winter cuts short the milk yield for the day from one to two pints.—*Journal of Chemistry*.

THE SUPPLIES OF STOCK.

In 1868 and subsequent very dry years, the scarcity of grass and other stock-feed, obliged the breeders to sacrifice their stock at ruinous prices, thus diminishing their capital and discouraging the breeding of stock. It is to be hoped and expected that the present very high prices of lean and fat stock will greatly stimulate increased stock-breeding. The increase of population and industrial prosperity cause a greater demand for animal food, and a consequent rise in price. I do not think that meat will be cheaper for some years to come. I have always had an opinion that we do not, as farmers, make meat enough, and it is evident that with so vast an extent of grass land (half of the kingdom), much of it very poor, we shall be often subject to the evils arising from dry seasons on permanent pastures. An ample and more certain supply of stock food can be produced on arable land by growing winter and spring beans, clover, winter tares, Italian rye-grass, mangle, turnips and cabbage, and winter oats all available for animal consumption. By the use of cake and foreign corn, with cut straw, &c., much meat may be made. All this requires a greater acreable capital than is generally invested.—*J. J. Mechi in Markham Express*.

SOILING STOCK.

This business of soiling involves extra labor, of course, and that is the chief obstacle to its more general adoption. But it brings ample compensation, for it diminishes the area of land needed to produce the same crops and support the same stock, thus diminishing the first and permanent investment, which is often, as many farms are managed, almost wholly unremunerative. If the investment in land is less, that in labor can be greater, the culture given better, fertilizers used more freely, and the profits more certain, because these three elements in agriculture diminish the chances of failure always. Again, it is enough to put a man in a shooting mood to see work-horses turned out into pastures that will not afford a good meal per acre for once a week, even if he forages over the whole acre. Think of keeping a horse in such a place in a fly and mosquito time, and then expect him to do a good day's work besides! But this is scarcely more barbarous and unprofitable than keeping cows in the dry pastures of clay hill-sides, as many do, without a bite of green forage or the shelter of a stable—often not a tree—from the 1st of July to the 1st of October.—*Ed.*

WATER FOR SHEEP.

It is believed by some that water, as a drink, is wholly or quite unnecessary for sheep. No one could make a greater mistake than to believe the idea stated above. If sheep are allowed access to water, they will be regular in drinking as other stock. A regular supply of water throughout the winter as well as summer, should be regarded as indispensable for the welfare of our flocks. Every flock-master is aware of the difference there will be in the condition of sheep that have, and of those that have not, been watered during a winter; although the latter may seem to be in fair condition, they are not in as good condition as they would have been had they been watered daily.

LICE ON CATTLE AND COLTS.

A correspondent from Nashua, N.H., hands us the following simple method, long used in that locality, for killing lice on cattle:—Make a strong brine with common salt, and apply it two or three times, rubbing in well with a brush. This never fails to remove the vermin. Scoury on cattle can be successfully treated by the application of fresh hog's lard to the

affected parts, previously washed clean with soap and water.—*Colonist Farmer*.

It is said that sweet or sour milk will sweeten frozen butter much better than salt or saltpetre; there is nothing which absorbs whatever is offensive to the smell or taste so quickly as milk, cream or butter, and no agent can be employed that will so quickly or surely extract the flavor of the wood from new dairy utensils.

The Willamette Farmer, of Oregon, learns that many calves on large dairy farms at Sandy are dying off, and when examined after death, it is found that the heart is much enlarged and the lungs all gone. One dairy, where they keep a hundred cows, has already lost thirty, and the same state of things exists all around them.

By feeding chopped straw, oats and rape-seed, thoroughly cooked by steam, and raw Swedish turnips, one of the largest dairies in England increased the yield of milk from 553 to 570 gallons per cow per annum.

A writer in the *American Agriculturist* says he has found his cows will always let down their milk when inclined to hold it up if he gives them some salt to lick.

Sales of Thorough-Bred Stock.

THOROUGH-BRED STOCK FOR NOVA SCOTIA.

The report of the committee appointed by the Central Board of Agriculture of Nova Scotia to make purchases of thorough-bred stock, will possess interest for our agricultural readers.

The committee report:—"At Hamilton, Ont., there was a very extensive exhibition of live stock, the largest that has ever been held in Canada. There we purchased two powerful English draught horses, 'Marquis of Lorne' and 'Netley, Junior.'

Of Short-horn Durham bulls, the following purchases of animals of perfectly pure blood were made:—General Grant, roan, 3½ years old; Lord York, roan, 4 years and 8 months old, a splendid animal imported from England, and containing much Duchess blood, being from Duchess of York by third Duke of Wharfedale, and closer than half-brother to the celebrated Duchess Ninety-Seventh, for which Mr. Cochrane paid to Captain Gunter one thousand guineas when a heifer scarcely a year old; Mara Duke, a year and a half old; Royal George, a yearling from Strawberry by Prince Louis; Duke of Greenwood, a year and a half old, bred by Birrell & Johnston from Young Dumpty, by B. H. Duke of Markham (the Cornwallis Bull); Oliver Twist, of the same age, from Kentucky Jane, by the same sire. There are also two Short-horn calves, one named Sir Roger Tichborne, bred by Mr. S. Beattie, from Graceful by Clifton Duke the Second; the other, William, bred by Mr. Aitchison, of Guelph, from Isabella, from His Majesty.

We have succeeded in securing from Messrs. Aitchison, Rudd and Guy, a splendid herd of theoughbred Devon cattle, consisting of eight males and six females, three of the latter in calf.

The following Ayrshire cattle have been purchased:—Lord Lisgar, 2½ years old, bred by Mr. Crawford, Montreal, from Paley, by Lord Cathbert; Lord Raglan, of the same age, bred by Mr. Morton, of Morton, from Maggie, by Carrick Farmer; Independence, a yearling bull, bred by Mr. Guy, from Flora, by Lord Dufferin, Bangor Chief, and a calf not yet named. The Ayrshire cows and heifers are:—Effie the Second, from Effie, by Jack; Flora, likely to calve about the time of the sale; Lilly and Cinderella the Second, both about 17 months old.

In addition to the above, we have purchased, from some of the best flocks to be found in Ontario, twenty rams and ewes of the Cotswold and Leicester breeds, one Shropshire ram, two Shropshire ram lambs, one South-down ram, one yearling Southdown ewe, and two Southdown ewe lambs.

The following is an analysis of the purchases made:—

Horses	2
Shorthorn Durhams	8
Devons	14
Ayrshires	10
Long-wooled Sheep	20
Dows	8
	62

SALE OF SHROPSHIRE SHEEP AT ATHERSTONE.

The sale of Shropshire rams, ewes and theaves belonging to Mr. Wm. Baker, of Moor Barns, near Atherstone, Warwickshire, took place last month. There were thirty-six lots of rams submitted, and after a good com-

petition they were all sold off at remarkably good prices, the average being £17 13s. 6d. Among the highest priced lots were a pair of the Reflection and Perfection pedigree, which sold to Mr. Rose for 33 guineas. Another lot by Reflection and Monach went to Mr. Bennett for 35 guineas; while the same gentleman secured the shearing ram Chance for a similar figure. Two other lots sold for 30 guineas and 33 guineas respectively, and others were disposed of at 20 and 15 guineas. The lettings were Charley to Mr. Lightfoot for 17 guineas; Valentine, to Mr. Marston, at 25 guineas; Rocket, to Mr. Atkin, for 15 guineas, and F ash, to Mr. Princeps, for 15 guineas.

SALES OF THOROUGH-BRED STOCK.

A sale of short-horned cattle and Cotswold and Leicester sheep took place on the farm of the Hon. D. Christie, near Paris, Brant Co. Twenty-eight cows and heifers, and eleven bulls and bull calves were sold. The twenty-eight females brought \$8,330, being an average of nearly \$300 each. The eleven bulls brought \$2,765, being an average of nearly \$251. The sheep averaged nearly \$10 each. Most of the purchasers were from the United States, Mr. Hyde, of Ohio, taking fifteen cattle. One bull, "Knight of St. George," was sold for \$1,235 to Mr. Rust, of Chicago. Two heifers went to Ohio at \$675 each. Several animals were sold to buyers from Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska.

DUNMORE PARK SALE OF SHORT-HORNS.

In the *Irish Farmers' Gazette* of the 14th ult., we find the report of the sale of the chief part of Earl Dunmore's herd of Shorthorns.—"To those in this country who think the interest in this breed of cattle is on the wane, or that the days of fancy stocks are over, we commend this report. Fifty-four animals in all—bulls, cows and heifers—were sold, realizing an average price of more than one thousand dollars per head, being the highest average on record. Among the list of purchasers we do not recognize the names of any Americans, although it is not improbable that Mr. Cochrane and others may have had authorized agents there to pick up some of the beauties of this celebrated herd.

CATTLE SALES.

Messrs. Hunter, of Pilkington, sold to Mr. G. Miller, of Markham, for \$600, at the Guelph Show, their prize bull, "Oxford Duke," the winner of first prize and diploma at London, and also at Guelph, last year. He also gained the first prize at Hamilton this year amongst the three year olds. The same parties also sold to Mr. P. Rennie, of Garafaxa, for \$200, their two year old grade heifer, which has stood first of her class wherever shown. Their entire horse, "Marquis of Lorne," has also been sold to the Committee appointed by the Government of Nova Scotia, to select stock in Ontario for that Province. The price realized was \$600.

SHEEP SALES AND LETTINGS.

Among the sheep sales and lettings of the season in England, we particularly notice that of Mr. Riddou's Southdowns, at Hove. The prices made were unusually high, 100 ewes having been sold for £520, and 16 rams bringing £344—an average for the latter of over £21 10s., say \$107.50 each. Ten rams were also let, realizing £310 in the aggregate—the highest price made being 90 guineas! Mr. Kirkham, Basethorpe, also sold 4 Lincolnshires as follows:—62 s. e. rams averaging over £27 each; 52 rams of other ages were offered, and the average per head on the whole £25 11s., a very high figure for so large a number.

ANOTHER SALE.

Amongst the valuable animals shown at the Hamilton and Guelph Exhibitions, was a fine Durham bull calf, eight months old, owned by Messrs. J. & B. McQueen, of Pilkington. At Guelph it carried off the 2nd prize against quite a number of entries of first-class breeders, and Mr. Sproat, of Seaforth, bought the animal for \$200.

Messrs. Long and Thompson's sale, which took place near St. Mary's, was well attended by buyers. Bulls realized from \$350 to \$400; cows, \$375 to \$380. One grade heifer, two years old, sold at \$115. The sales realized between \$4,000 and \$5,000.

A sale of imported draught horses and short-horned cattle took place, Oct. 3rd, at the farm of Mr. D. Reeson, Markham, Ont. The animals sold well.

We hear that the Hon. G. Brown realized the sum of \$13,000 from his sale of farm stock at Bew Park.

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