

## Breeder and Grazier.

### A Suggestion to Feeders of Stock.

(To the Editor of the CANADA FARMER.)

DEAR SIR:—I am aware that the suggestions of mere theorists are usually received with but small favor by men of practical knowledge, and am satisfied that it is not without good reason that they are so received; being, no doubt, very often to the practical man, obviously inoperative, and useless; and therefore not even worthy of being put to the test. It is consequently with diffidence that I make a suggestion for the consideration of men of larger experience than myself. It is a fact that many volatile odors are readily absorbed by animal substances, and retained with more or less persistency. The flesh of birds that feed upon fish is strongly impregnated with the flavor of their diet; the same is the case also with the flesh of animals fed upon turnips, cabbages, onions, &c.; their flesh, and in the case of milch cattle, their milk also is affected by the peculiar flavor of these various articles of food. The volatile nature of all these odors receives a homely illustration whenever the substances containing them are subjected to the operations of the cook; the whole house in that case being pervaded by the odor of the article which is being prepared by heat for the table, unless some means be taken to prevent it. This same fact receives an agreeable illustration from the art of the perfumer, who extracts and fixes some of the finest and most delicate perfumes by the use of animal fats. Now the suggestion I have to make is just this: Cannot our cattle-feeders turn this fact to practical useful account, as well as the perfumer, by putting animals that are ready to be slaughtered, for a week or more previous to killing them, upon some diet that will communicate an improved flavor to their flesh. It is usual, I know, in the case of animals fattened upon articles of an objectionable flavor, to change the food for a short time before slaughtering; thus affording time for the dissipation of the disagreeable flavor by the animal heat. But my suggestion goes a step further. I would, in addition to getting rid of what is unpleasant, seek to replace it with something else that is positively pleasing to the palate. The way which occurs to me of attempting to carry this idea into actual effect, would be to give the animal nothing for a week or more before it is killed but grain, and the very finest quality of hay; such in fact as has received special preparation to adapt it to this purpose; being made from clover and sweet-scented meadow grasses, cut early, while in full bloom, and well pressed as soon as sufficiently dry, so that their natural bouquet may be as perfectly, and fully preserved, and retained as possible.

W. O. E.

### A Short-horn Cross.

"I have kept them pure, crossed the short horn cow with the Devon bull, and I crossed the Devon cow with the short-horn bull. In either way they have made a larger return, and paid for their meat much better than the pure Devon; but by far the greatest success has been to commence with the Devon or native cow and pure short-horn bull, and forever after using the short-horn bull. I have also used the Devon bull on the cross from the Devon cow and short-horn bull; but the progeny rapidly declined, and no trace of the short-horn remained. In these days of great consumption and high prices, it does not pay to stick to stock the breed of which requires four or five years to mature; but I am firmly of opinion that if pure short-horn bulls were used on the native cows and their crosses in the different districts of the United Kingdom for a few years, our beef supplies would be doubled. Many farmers have a great horror of crossing their stock, whilst others admit that the first cross is all that they could wish, but after that it is all "gone goose" with the next generation. Of such I would ask, Have you ever tried? and, if so, How? and, With what object in view?

My theory has always been—and practice and observation have fully borne me out—that we can make almost anything we like of our flocks and herds in a few years, by fully adhering to pure male animals of the kind we wish them to resemble. If beef is our object, use pure high-class short-horn bulls always; never by any chance or pretence use a cross-bred bull, even if he be the best animal you can procure, and if the cross were only once a dozen generations back. It is the use of cross-bred males on cross-bred females that has made so many people distrustful of any but the first. I wish to lay great stress on the using of pure-bred Short-horn bulls, by which I do not exclusively mean those fancy-priced beasts that figure so prominently in the agricultural periodicals, but ones selected from a good herd, where pedigree sires have been used for at least twenty years on cows of undoubted short-horn blood, and that have not been artificially forced. It is not difficult to purchase hundreds of such at reasonable prices."

The above is the testimony of an English breeder as given in a recent number of the *Mark Lane Express*. It is we believe a fair statement of the facts as they will be brought out by the experience of every observant stock raiser. But it is not needful that all should go to the trouble of demonstrating this for themselves. Impartial testimony is worth heeding, and that unanimously points to the Short-horn as the best animal for grading up with, and to the use invariably of pure-bred rather than cross-bred bulls.

### Fattening Pigs.

The *Michigan Farmer* says:—One of the best pig breeders we know is W. Smith, the well-known master of the Marine Meat Market in Detroit. He has a taste for keeping the best hogs that are to be had. Few can excel him in the fineness of pure-bred Suffolks, Essex, Berkshires and Polands which he breeds. He has the faculty of making the most out of the pig that can be made. One of his points in fattening a pig is the use of the penstock to wash it clean, and the curry comb to keep its skin in a perfectly healthy condition; he is also particular to have it fed regularly every day, always at the same time to a minute. He changes the food from time to time, and when once the pig has started to get fat it is never allowed to go back.

One of the best kinds of food to start pigs with consists of peas or beans mixed with the offal of the dairy or the buttery, with a little fine corn-meal thrown in. Barley-meal is excellent, or crushed oats, but no food is equal to peas for a food to start on. Both peas and corn should be steeped in water, the hotter the better, and allowed to stand and soak up all they will. We notice this is the treatment that makes Smith so successful.

Some of his pigs when started will gain three pounds a day; and we have seen in his stalls Essex and Suffolk crosses that would dress 330 pounds at ten or eleven months old. But one of the fattening processes was a bath, with a flexible hose, at least twice a week. The hogs get so used to this that they like it, and seem to know when they are to enjoy this luxury, for they will come out and lie down as quick as the water begins to play upon them.

It is the quick fattening that pays, and hogs thus treated make as profitable a return, even with pork, at 5 to 6 cents, as any part of the farm produce.

Then again a hog should have a dry place to lie in, in fact, a good, well sheltered pen, with a dry plank under him, where he can sleep without disturbance, somewhat dark and shady, with no drafts of wind penetrating through it, rather low in the roof, so that the animal heat he generates will surround him with a temperature that is pleasant; and when accustomed to be fed regularly there is no animal mor punctual in its appearance at the trough. Then he should be fed all he will eat—not an ounce more. No food should remain in the trough after he gets through, and then it should be thoroughly cleaned out.

When put up to feed in this wise the hog does not need any exercise, nor does he require space for it. His whole comfort is in returning to his lair, and he has a good opportunity, undisturbed by outside affairs, to increase in weight, and to make an ample return to his owner for the food he has enjoyed. Occasionally a little sulphur, a little salt, a handful of ashes or a quart or so of charcoal may be put in his trough. But clean styes and such feeding as we have mentioned, is the true secret of fattening hogs quickly.

### No good Farming without Stock-Keeping.

J. B. Lawes the great indefatigable experimental farmer of England, gives it as his decided opinion that the fattening of animals on the farm is the only legitimate and profitable farming. And although he uses a large quantity of chemical manures, he does it only as a supplement to increase the stimulus to his farm-yard manure. He says that for every twenty-five pounds of food devoured by an animal he leaves twenty pounds in excrement, and this is by a growing animal; if the animal is fully grown, it takes no part of the food to form his flesh and bones. Hence it is that the English farmer buys young three year old steers in the fall, to eat his cut hay and straw, oil meal, and roots in winter to fatten them for market in the spring; he well knows that the manure they make nearly pays their keeping.

John Johnston the father of tile draining in Western New York buys store sheep in the fall to fatten for spring market, feeding them through the winter on cut straw, clover hay, with Indian meal and Wurtzel beets; and he considers the quality of his manure is enough improved to pay for the meal and roots.

To put on fat to an animal requires neither mineral matter or nitrogen, only available carbon and the elements of water.

Thus to form 100 lbs. of muscular flesh and bone in a growing animal it takes  
Water . . . . . 77 lbs.  
Fibrin, flesh and blood former . . . . . 22 "  
Phosphate of Lime . . . . .  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a lb.  
Other mineral matter . . . . .  $\frac{1}{2}$  " " "

As stall manure supplies the nitrogenous fibrin, the potash and a good part of other mineral substances, if there is only enough of it to dispense with concentrated fertilizers, the money they cost is saved. Yet the best farmers do not neglect to supply themselves with bone material and other Commercial manures to quicken and eke out their farm-yard manures.

Joseph Harris of Morton Farm near Rochester, perhaps the best farmer in both theory and practice in this State, says: land never should be so exhausted of vegetable matter as to require a green crop to be ploughed in, he says feed your clover and apply the dung made from it to the field, be it meadow or fallow. But if clover is ploughed in, it should be first well limed, to promote its decomposition; and lime itself is a capital manure for the Clover crop.

*Southern Cultivator.*

### How He Did It.

We know a farmer, now in comfortable circumstances, who beginning with a few cows and constantly increasing their number, paid all the expenses of running his farm, all the grain bills and brought up his farm to a splendid condition solely from the profits of his milk. His system of management was to buy good cows at the outset. He required that they should average each more than the can per day, season in and out, which many milk raisers are content with. His farm at the outset was run down and did not yield hay enough hardly to pay for the cutting.

Buying grain by the ton, and feeding it out to the cows; spreading the manure on the land and turning it over and sowing rye and oats and millet to be used successively for fodder; turning over more land and laying it down to grass; all this time selling his milk and buying grain and more cows, he now produces forty cans a day. He is obliged to sell hay because he makes more than he can possibly use; and his management is such that he actually more than pays for all the grain that he buys solely from hay sold off his farm.

He believes in soiling cows; in fact he says he can't afford to pasture them, believing that the increase of their manure will more than compensate for the extra labor employed in soiling.

Two smart men can do all his work and not be over driven at that. He sells his cows to the butcher when they have reached the minimum product of milk that he counts on; and the prices realized are, because of their fine condition, often greater than the original cost of the animal. We know another farmer who manages much the same way, depending on a liberal grain feed and soiling, and putting every dollar made on the land. He buys what would be termed poor stock, that is, cheap, thirty or forty dollar cows, and looks to less profit from his milk than from the increased value of the cows for beef, and the increase of his manure pile. However, he is now rich and his money has been made solely by the above management.—*Mass. Ploughman.*