

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

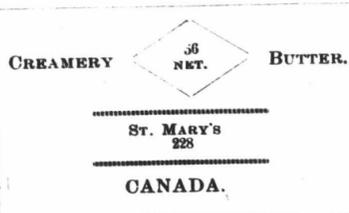
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in the cold room until shipped. Between the making room and the cold room is a cooling room in which the boxes of butter are prepared for the cold room, so that in hot weather the cold room door is left open as little as possible. The cold or refrigerator room is not yet fitted with a cooling system, but that will be done soon. Each box of butter bears the registered number of the creamery, together with a stamp somewhat similar to the following:



Mr. Stonehouse makes frequent visits to the various skimming stations, taking with him a small Babcock tester, which he uses when necessary. The tester used at the creamery is a 24-bottle turbine Babcock. Each skimming station is given a certain number, which is stamped on its cream cans and sample bottle boxes, so that each one is recognized at sight and each returned to its proper station. The entire concern is systematically managed and ably conducted.

Dr. Sankey's Letter on Tubercular Infection Indorsed.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I have read with much interest a letter from the pen of Mr. Chas. A. Sankey, V. S., in your issue of Jan. 1st, on Tubercular Infection, etc., and I think it the very best contribution yet published on the subject. I believe he voices the opinions of the best-informed breeders on the subject. Such communications cannot fail to be advantageous as well as interesting to stock-breeders and the community at large. I am convinced that much needless alarm has been caused by Government officials and interested parties. I am firmly of opinion that there is not any more tuberculosis at present existing in pure-bred herds of the Province of Ontario than existed 25 years ago. There may be, and I have no doubt there does exist, more of the trouble than formerly in the large dairy herds, where cattle are tied up in great numbers in large and frequently badly-ventilated barns, kept at a high temperature in order to obtain the greatest possible returns from cows. Indeed, from careful observations during many years, I am convinced that it is impossible, without artificial means, to supply a sufficient quantity of fresh unused air to one hundred or even a much smaller number of cattle constantly confined in one building, and I am of opinion that governments could do vastly more real service to breeders and farmers by impressing on them the absolute necessity of a constant and abundant supply of fresh air and light. Cattle were never intended by nature to be huddled up in great barns through which not a breath of air stirs, so that one animal is constantly breathing the air that his neighbor had just exhausted of its life-giving properties and sometimes loaded it with disease-giving germs.

I have seen no big barn yet in which I think cattle safe, but I have seen many big barns, including the Government barns at Ottawa, well calculated to breed and distribute disease.

I say again, let governments teach the people that cattle cannot remain healthy without great abundance of light and fresh air—especially fresh air—air constantly in motion.

I am convinced that cattle are now kept in stables in which the temperature is too high for health.

Greenwood, Ont.

ARTHUR JOHNSTON.

STOCK.

Moderate Feeding of Roots to Breeding Ewes Approved.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—Referring to the article in your last issue on disputed points in winter sheep feeding, I wish to say: I like to feed a moderate quantity of roots to our ewes. I generally allow about four pounds per head, feeding them only once per day, and that about four o'clock in the afternoon, but when it is very cold I don't feed any. When the root crop has been a failure, I have had good results from feeding dry feed, using plenty of bran. I think there is but little danger in feeding ewes roots, if they have them in moderation and plenty of good dry food. The ewes will drink but little water when they are having roots, but I make it a point to keep water before them during the day. I should object to the ewes eating snow. One winter our ewes had snow for a drink, and that spring I had a number of lambs die from goitre. While I have never read of any proof of snow causing goitre, I am under the impression that it will. I do not approve of feeding whole roots to the ewes. It is all right when the ewes are about of an age, but when old and young run together, the young ones are apt to get more than their share. I generally scatter pea straw or some clover leaves around the yards on the snow to induce the ewes to take exercise. In regard to feeding ewes peas unthreshed, I should disapprove of it, as peas are too heating, and you cannot gauge the quantity per head the same as when threshed. I think the safer way to feed them would be after they were threshed, then you would know exactly what each sheep should receive. I should advise a feed of clover hay once a day, instead of feeding pea straw altogether; it helps make a variety. Have had good results from feeding shredded corn-stalks to our sheep once a day.

H. N. GIBSON.
Middlesex Co., Ont.

Exercise Essential for Breeding Ewes.

Exercise is in all cases to be given to sheep, confinement never even to be dreamed of by the shepherd, let alone compelling them to submit to it. They are, you know, at our mercy in this thing, same as any animal that is domesticated. They have not the freedom of their natural inclinations. We should, then, doubly see to it, and look after their welfare in this respect. We must give them as nearly their natural surroundings as possible. In fact, and in short, we would say upon the observance of this point depends the success or failure in sheep-raising; and further, the fact that they are so unlike the other domesticated animals in this one thing is the great cause of disappointment and discouragement to beginners in sheep husbandry. In proof of what we have said, allow us to make this statement: All countries where sheep-rearing has been and is most successful are those whose climates will allow them for the most months of the year to be held or grazed in open yards or broad fields in the wide open air, where a clean, wholesome, natural breeze can at all times sweep through amongst them, ridding the location of all accumulated bad gases and contagion. We are glad to say we can largely, very largely, supply these conditions for sheep in this country and climate. From early spring till late fall, through summer the conditions are proper. Our winter months are the only time of danger. If winter is open drive to fields during day whenever possible; don't mind a little snow. When this cannot be done, provide roomy, dry yards, allowing plenty of air circulation. We practice feeding roots whole to all young stock, and those of the flock whose teeth are in a condition to use. We think roots are in their best possible condition when whole for sheep. There may be some little argument in the inducement to activity this method affords. Our hard frost in the coldest winter months will not allow this practice; taking longer to eat them, the roots freeze readily, and are then not good. Dogs are the dread of the sheep-owner. We are sorry to say this is one of the unfortunate things, and presents the one dark side to the industry, more especially in this country where dog laws are so loose. The best arrangement we can see is to more strictly legislate against the freedom of the contemptible canine. The dog is allowed too much scope in this country. The Page wire fence is said to be dog-proof, and is recommended as a suitable enclosure for yards. Feeding roots to ewes during pregnancy we may say is not our practice, especially for the first four months; commence feeding one month before lambing time. Our practice is to feed roots (turnips) during January to the ewes of our flock that are lambing in February. You know we have all our ewes lamb early. Cannot give you any scientific reasons for the faith that is in us in this regard. The practice has been handed down to us by our fathers, and that only.

Huron Co., Ont.

W. W. COOPER.

An Advocate to Me.

Mr. James Dillon, Russell Co., Ont., when renewing his subscription to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, writes: "I consider it a great privilege to thank you for your paper, the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. It has been an advocate to me, as I am now in a position to make dollars where I formerly couldn't make cents. I am now wintering 17 pigs where I used to keep one, and 20 head of cattle where I used to keep seven or eight."

Feeds Roots to Breeding Ewes, and Dips Twice a Year.

Feeding Roots to Pregnant Ewes.—My practice for nearly forty years with a flock of from 80 to over 100 of the following breeds, Cotswolds, Southdowns, and Oxfords, has been to feed from 5 to 8 lbs. of Swedish turnips daily, varying according to size and weight of sheep, in two feeds: pea straw first thing in the morning, and turnips, pulped, 9 o'clock a. m., and again at 4 o'clock p. m., and it has proved with me both a safe and beneficial practice, not having had in one instance in the period named one soft or watery bellied lamb; am feeding now 8 lbs. of turnips daily to my ewes, with pea straw, using no grain, but always make it a practice to feed my ewes a little grain (oats, with a few peas), from half to three-quarter pounds each of the mixture, with a little bran daily two weeks before lambing, reducing the amount of turnips about one-third when commencing to feed grain.

Feeding Peas Unthreshed.—Have never adopted the plan, from the fact that it is very difficult to gauge the quantity of grain you are feeding, and also from the fact that there is some waste attending the method where a large flock is kept. Think it a better plan to thresh the peas, and feed the straw and grain separate.

Dipping.—I always dip my lambs about a week or ten days after shearing the ewes, but do not dip the ewes, as nearly all the ticks leave the ewes and get on the lambs, but dip or pour both ewes and lambs in the fall or early winter. Think pouring is the best plan in the late fall or early winter, and quite safe if you choose a mild day and operate in the morning, and confine the sheep in a moderately warm place from twelve to twenty-four hours after dressing them. Have never used insect powder; have known it used with success so far as destroying the ticks, but do not think the effect on the wool is beneficial; would much prefer pouring with "Little's Dip" even in midwinter, confining the sheep after the operation, as already stated. If found necessary to dress pregnant ewes in winter, I only shed the wool down the back and pour on sufficient dip to run round the body; do not like to turn the ewe when in that condition.

Salt.—We always keep salt before our sheep summer and winter; do not think the use of sulphur beneficial to the health of the sheep, or effective in destroying the ticks. I remember an instance many years ago of a party who fed sulphur and saltpetre to his ewes, and it resulted in his having a lot of weak, watery-bellied lambs. I have fed with marked benefit dry sulphate of iron mixed with salt in proportion of 1 lb. of the former to 15 lbs. of the latter, particularly in the fall and spring.

Bruce Co., Ont.

HENRY ARKELL.

A Question for Cattlemen to Discuss.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—For some time past you have been putting certain questions to readers who are, or should be, from their success in their different lines, well able to answer them. This appears to me to be a practical way of obtaining the views of practical men. I will, with your permission, put a question to the many breeders and feeders of cattle who are readers of your paper. The question is, "What does handling indicate?" It has been, I believe, generally thought that a beast that handled well was an easy feeder; in other words, a good handler made more gain from a given amount of food than a poor handler did. Good handling, therefore, meant a good deal, for it indicated in that case cheaply produced beef. I have before me an old diagram of a Shorthorn steer with a scale of points in which the largest number of points given for any one qualification is for handling. Those who got out this diagram and scale of points were evidently of the opinion that the skin was an indication of an easy feeder, and in giving it the largest number of points showed that they believed in reducing to a minimum the cost of production, the most important point in a beef animal.

Professor Curtiss, of the Iowa Agricultural College, in a paper read before the Iowa Improved Stock Breeders' Association, makes the following statement: "There is not a very great difference in the rate of gain or in the number of pounds of increase in weight for a given amount of feed that will be made by a representative of the best beef breeds and a genuine scrub, a Jersey, or a Holstein steer. This is a fact that practical breeders and improvers were slow to accept at first. In fact, they did not accept it until it was repeatedly demonstrated, and some will not concede it yet; but the evidence is constantly accumulating, and it is useless to ignore facts. This is governed by the digestive and assimilative machinery of the steer." Here Professor Curtiss is referring to the different breeds, not to individual animals; but in scrubs and dairy cattle we do not look for the soft, mellow skin and mossy hair in the same way that we expect to find it in the choice beef breeds. A dairyman wants his cattle to have good skins and hair, but the "feel" of them is different from the mossy coat of the ideal beef beast. This being the case, good handling would not appear to indicate a very great saving of feed. In the same paper Professor Curtiss gives the score card used by the students at the Iowa Agricultural College in judging cattle. Out of a hundred points, ten are allowed for "quality," described as "thick covering of firm flesh; mellow touch; soft, heavy coat; fine bone; velvet-like skin." For two other qualifications only are ten points allowed, namely,

"form under the fessor C most in his paper Fundam Beef Cat quality, an impo beef cat found in should thick an indic gesticv must be will pro breeds d mossy h which I paper s the auth thousand other qu ing that was the thus dif I think, ject by scribe fo to decid handling think it sider it r

About a few no darkest prizes to ing wor have be these w Canada. the buto matter c unique o ago the a Carcas the sam Scottish end grea best br Carcass conclusi excellen breeds t the car borated competi been th champion Birming horn cr of Whi the last tenham of show this bul and his gramme greater by a wh Mr. Pa cross a cess. C the Gal success carcass loway s lead to crossing pure-br and anc class, is Gallow Smith in two The first Gallow thought lbs. at right g kills w come o card th Queen, reserve much 1.700 lb that so in the have sl loss, in ready this bu with a but th value t not be Two ture h view, (Univer of tele