

Estimating Net Weights.

It is a very difficult thing to ascertain with any degree of certainty, the probable net dressed weight of an animal when alive, the gross weight of which can be found on the scales. So much depends upon the breed, size and degree of fatness, in other words, the thickness of the flesh upon the frame. In cattle and sheep the usual allowance for shrinkage is one-third, which is generally pretty fair to the seller when the animal is only medium to small in size, and is but in fair condition. A cow or ox well fattened, weighing 1,200 lbs. alive, will give close to 800 pounds of dressed beef when slaughtered. But one in the same condition weighing 2,000 pounds will give a larger proportion of dressed meat. A sheep of 100 pounds live weight rarely gives more than 60 lbs. dressed mutton, while one of 200 lbs. live weight will often dress 140 pounds or more. On hogs the shrinkage is much less, usually in well-bred, well-fatted animals over 200 lbs. gross, not exceeding one-seventh. The following rule for estimating the dressed weight of live hogs we find in a late number of the National Live Stock Journal: "From the first 100 lbs. deduct 25 lbs. from gross; from the second 100 lbs. deduct 12 1/2 lbs.; from the third 100 lbs. deduct 6 1/2 lbs.; all over the third 100 is net. Thus a hog of 300 lbs. live weight will give 255 1/2 net weight, and as a general rule 43 lbs. only should be allowed for shrinkage on every hog of 300 lbs. or over. A hog of 100 lbs. will net 75 lbs., one of 150 lbs. 118 1/2; one of 200 lbs., 192 1/2; one of 250 lbs., 209 1/2." This, of course, is only as close an approximation as can be given for the general average of hogs as brought to market. If they are thin there is more shrinkage; if large and well-fatted, and especially if pure bred, they will often shrink even less. We have known instances where the shrinkage amounted to only one-sixteenth of the live weight.

LAZY FARMERS.—Laziness prevents a man from getting off his horse to put up the first rail that gets knocked off the fence and through this lazy neglect a whole field of corn is seriously damaged.

Laziness keeps a man from driving one nail when one would do, and finally costs a carpenter's bill for extensive repairs.

Laziness allows a gate to get off the hinges and lie in the mud, or stand propped by rails—or a stable or barn to leak and damage hundreds of dollars worth of proventer.

Laziness, in short, is the right and proper name for nine-tenths of the excuses given for bad farming. But by the most prolific of the many wastes that are due to laziness is the waste of ignorance. But this waste is in itself so great, and has so many ramifications, that we shall have to defer its discussion for another time.—Dixie (Tenn.) Farmer.

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