

SHEEP AND SWINE.

BERKSHIRE SWINE IN THIS COUNTRY.

The *Country Gentleman* gives the following table, showing the number and geographical distribution of recorded Berkshire hogs; it is from the report made at the last meeting of the American Berkshire Association. From the same report we learn that of the 776 Berkshires recorded in vol. I., 285 were boars and 541 were sows; of the 1,795 in vol. II., 528 were boars and 1,272 were sows; of the 1,850 in vol. III., 480 were boars and 870 were sows; of the 1,155 in vol. IV., 420 were boars and 785 were sows; of the 988 in vol. V., to date of report, 849 were boars and 584 were sows.

We find also that of the 541 sows recorded in vol. I., 819, or 59 per cent., have had produce recorded; of the 1,272 sows in vol. II., 611, or 48 per cent., have had produce recorded; of the 870 sows in vol. III., 848, or 40 per cent., have had produce recorded; of the 785 sows in vol. IV., 218, or 29 per cent., have had produce recorded; and of the 584 sows in vol. V., to date of report, 186, or 28 per cent., have had produce recorded. Before the final close of the volume, however, these figures will materially change, as the whole number which will appear in vol. V. will be increased by the addition of pedigrees now on file and being prepared for admission.

Where owned.	Vol. I.	Vol. II.	Vol. III.	Vol. IV.	Vol. V.	Total.
Alabama	3	37	25	10	..	65
Arkansas .....	..	4	2	7	..	13
California .....	..	1	15	30	5	51
Connecticut	3	5	2	8	7	24
Dakota .....	..	..	..	2	..	2
Delaware .....	..	..	3	..	..	3
District of Columbia ..	..	..	..	2	..	2
Florida .....	..	..	..	1	1	2
Georgia .....	..	6	8	5	..	19
Illinois	411	712	264	292	165	1844
Indiana	29	67	77	20	50	249
Indian Territory .....	..	..	2	..	..	2
Iowa	64	166	74	53	26	383
Kansas	18	67	88	63	92	328
Kentucky	5	64	35	36	6	146
Louisiana .....	..	..	7	..	..	7
Maine	1	28	78	12	23	142
Maryland	9	13	24	33	43	121
Massachusetts .....	..	7	5	20	15	47
Michigan .....	..	31	14	21	15	81
Minnesota .....	..	34	20	1	4	59
Mississippi .....	..	2	6	14	1	23
Missouri	5	121	135	131	102	494
Nebraska	2	..	20	23	4	49
Nevada .....	..	..	1	2	..	3
New Hampshire .....	..	..	..	15	12	27
New Jersey	16	15	5	9	12	57
New York	42	34	41	29	60	206
North Carolina	5	..	..	..	..	5
Ohio	32	125	102	96	108	463
Oregon .....	..	..	1	..	..	1
Pennsylvania	54	78	129	81	70	418
Rhode Island .....	..	..	4	3	..	7
Tennessee	3	20	16	7	4	50
Texas .....	..	11	26	8	..	45
Vermont .....	..	..	..	1	..	1
Virginia	13	25	17	4	1	60
West Virginia	8	1	2	3	2	16
Wisconsin	12	18	22	41	11	104
British Columbia .....	..	..	..	1	..	1
Central America .....	..	..	..	2	..	2
England .....	..	9	42	14	32	97
Ireland .....	..	7	1	..	..	8
Ontario, Canada	25	72	35	54	47	233
Quebec, Canada	17	28	3	4	..	50
	776	1795	1850	1155	933	6009

LAMBS AT THE MODEL FARM.

The following record of some experiments made by Professor Brown in regard to the flesh and wool of lambs of various breeds and crosses, will repay careful study. It is from the last report of the Ontario Agricultural College:

CARCASS AND WOOL OF WETHER LAMBS PREPARING FOR SHEARLING MUTTON.

We have on hand, experimentally, a score of wether lambs in view for next Easter and Christmas. They are out of common Canadian ewes by our rams of the respective breeds named.

The wool and frames of these are an interesting study at the present time, and so, in preparation for next year's finishing, I have pleasure in submitting average weights of each kind, with lists of length of wool, in comparison with the pure breeds of the same age:

AVERAGE WEIGHTS OF GRADE WETHER LAMBS, CHRISTMAS, 1881.

Cotswold Grade	120 lbs.
Leicester Grade	117 "
Oxford Down Grade	131 "
Shropshire Down Grade	125 "
Southdown Grade	116 "
Merino Grade	110 "

LENGTH OF GRADE WETHER LAMBS' WOOL AS AT CHRISTMAS, 1881.













Cotswold Grade	6 inches.
Leicester Grade	6 "
Oxford Down Grade	5 "
Shropshire Down Grade	4 1/2 "
Southdown Grade	4 1/2 "
Merino Grade	3 1/2 "

In comparison with these, note those of the pure breeds from lambs of the same age:—

Cotswold	11 inches.
Leicester	7 1/2 "
Oxford Down	4 1/2 "
Shropshire Down	3 1/2 "
Southdown	8 "
Merino	2 "

As much of the manufacturing value of wool lies in the coarseness or fineness of fibre, or diameter of each plant, the following diagram shows this, being the average, as nearly as possible, of that for each of the lambs named. A large magnifying power was used:—

COMPARATIVE DIAMETER OF FIBRE OF TWELVE KINDS OF WOOL FROM LAMBS NOW AT THE ONTARIO EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

PURE		MERINO.
PURE		SOUTHDOWN.
MERINO		GRADE.
PURE		SHROPSHIRE DOWN.
SOUTHDOWN		GRADE.
PURE		OXFORD DOWN.
SHROPSHIRE DOWN		GRADE.
OXFORD DOWN		GRADE.
COTSWOLD		GRADE.
LEICESTER		GRADE.
PURE		LEICESTER.
PURE		COTSWOLD.

SLIM FARE.

The Morris (Man.) *Herald* of the 18th ult. has the following:—

"A pig belonging to Robert Lipsett, of Meadow Lea, burrowed itself under a straw stack for shelter about the 17th of April last, and while slumbering peacefully a blizzard sprung up and snowed his pigship in. When the pig was missed, Lipsett made a search of the premises, but failed to find his animal, so he gave it up for lost. Last week, however, when the snow began to disappear, one of Mr. Lipsett's sons heard a peculiar sound proceeding from the straw stack, and immediately instituted a search. After digging away a pile of snow and two or three feet of straw, the pig that had been given up for lost jumped out with a bound apparently as strong as it was before its adventure. The pig when first seen was lying in a cramped position, with the straw packed tightly all around it. It is supposed that the animal subsisted on straw, though there was no evidence to show that it had eaten anything.

WASHING SHEEP.

The old custom of washing sheep is now more honoured in the breach than in the observance. In theory it equalizes the quality, in practice it causes wider variation. A grower, if honest, will cleanse the fleeces fairly, if "indifferent honest," he will only make pretence. This trick would not avail, but for the equally wrong practice of buying unwashed wool at a uniform deduction for dirt, without regard to quality. It is a proffer of a Roland for an Oliver. Humane flockmasters oppose the washing of sheep because of their liability to take cold in subsequent changes of temperature, or continued rain; because if deferred to settled warm weather, discomfort and loss of condition follows the hot spells of later spring. In many parts of the country washing has been found impracticable for want of convenient or sufficient water. In the great ranges the practice is abandoned, and by large numbers of growers east of the Mississippi. It should be everywhere disregarded, and all wool sold on its merit.—*N. Y. Tribune*.

SELF-CLEANING PIG PENS.

The writer has placed pigs upon a slatted floor, which would allow the liquid and much of the solid to go through, and the balance was mostly trodden through. On one side of the pen was a strip of tight floor, four feet wide, with the trough placed upon it against the side of the pen, and upon these planks was placed bedding for the pigs. They soon learned the use of the slatted part of the pen, and would go there and drop. The slatted floor is elevated fifteen inches above the bottom, so that the excretion works through the slats, and the pen and pigs are kept clean. A door is hung on a hinge so as to be turned up and allow the manure to be cleaned from under the slatted part of the floor. The pigs, in this case, keep quite clean, without any labour being bestowed upon it, except to remove the manure once a month from under the slatted floor.—*Nat. Live Stock Journal*.

It is said that foot-rot and other diseases to which sheep are subject occur much less often among flocks which are pastured on rather rough ground, and particularly where they have to climb hills to get their grazing. In Scotland, the great sheep country of Europe, the sheep are always found in greatest numbers among the mountain ranges.

The noxious weed, "Long John," infests the meadows in Northern New York, and threatens injury to the dairy interest.