

## THE Canadian Live Stock and Farm Journal

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TORONTO, APRIL, 1890.

### Original Plans, Devices, and Ideas.

If you have an original plan, device, or idea, that you think would be of benefit to your fellow farmers or stockmen, turn to our March number and see how we will pay you for it if you send it to us for publication. Space forbids us printing the whole scheme in full, as usual. We would refer those desiring to know more of this to our January, February and March numbers, where the premiums are given in full with complete particulars.

### Our Hog Competition.

With a fervent desire to have our farmers clearly realize that the most profitable line of work for them to follow is that of live stock husbandry, we have decided to devote our best energies and spare no expense to lay bare this fact so strikingly that no one, be he ever so deep in the ruts of custom, can fail to grasp the truth. We have convinced ourselves that through the swine industry we may best demonstrate this, because there is less difficulty in drawing up the scheme of competition with justice to all, and also because we may better carry it out. We would like our stockmen to feel that this is not undertaken specially to boom the swine industry, but mainly to prove indisputably to our farmers that stock-raising and its attributes will yield more profit than grain-growing. We view the matter in this light. Through showing the farmer the profits in swine raising, and inducing him to undertake such work, which he will readily do if shown beyond dispute that it is profitable, as there is little capital needed in starting, we may reasonably hope that the light will gradually dawn upon him with the result that he will aspire higher, and enter other branches of the live stock industry. For this reason we trust that every one interested in live stock matters will lend a hand, so that we may incontrovertibly prove to the farmer that it is to his interest to follow such lines of work.

Following out this idea, we shall offer a series of prizes to the value of \$72.50, divided as follows: value of first prize, \$25.00; value of second, \$20.00; value of third, \$15.00; and \$12.50 as the value of the fourth. These prizes are for the best marketable hog, and it should be remembered that they are additional to the market prices of the hogs entered, as Messrs. Davies & Co., of Toronto, have consideredately and liberally consented to pay the highest market price at the time for all that are entered.

In making the awards, the judges will give most prominence to (1) form and quality of the hog, keeping in view the market demands, and also to (2) the cost of production as determined by the food fed, and other items of expense, as well as the age of the pig or time of production. In regard to the first, the ideal hog will be small in the head, light in the jaw, long in the body, broad across the loins, full and deep in the hams, and light in the bone. The mixture of the fat and lean, as well as the nature of these, will be considered important. In respect to the second, as one of the chief features of this competition is to determine the profit, we must have clear certified statements as to the age, foods fed, and full details as to the cost of production, while the various items of management followed by the winners will be of interest merely for publication.

We will have printed forms ready shortly to send out to all intending competitors, and we would ask all thinking of entering

to send in their names at once. In the meantime all that is necessary is to note the date of birth, and the various items of expense, so that the forms may be readily filled out. We may say that the prizes will be further supplemented by others, given by public-spirited men. We shall, as soon as possible, give the limits of time between which the hogs should be shipped to Messrs. Davies & Co. Remember this costs you nothing, and that you stand a chance of winning a handsome prize, besides obtaining the highest market price at the time for your hogs. We would earnestly ask all to give us their heartiest co-operation in this matter, for the value of the results to the live stock fraternity, and our farmers will depend greatly on the warmth of the interest evinced by all. If further details are desired, a postal card addressed to us will be readily answered.

### The Quality of Pork.

It has long been known to those handling and feeding pigs for market that the foods that are fed have an influence more or less strong on the quality and character of the pork. Pigs are credited with producing firm flesh that shrinks but little; skim-milk's a white pork, inclined to be chalky; barley is thought to yield a bacon soft and oily; while corn-fed bacon is stated to be of medium firmness, and possessed of the peculiar quality of being able to retain its oily substance while being cooked; bran middlings fed alone have won the reputation of giving a pork inclined to be insipid, but when these foods are mixed with milk they are said to yield pork of the finest qualities. The question of the influence of different foods on the proportion of fat and lean was not much discussed until Prof. Henry, of Wisconsin, brought it out prominently through extended experiments. While these experiments are very important, in so far as they clearly show the effect of the different foods in determining their proportion, yet the fact should not be overlooked that there are other elements of stronger influence that have their effect also. In the breed, the disposition of the animal, the quantity of exercise, are to be found elements that, to our mind, over-balance the single one of food in determining the quality of the flesh. The aptitude to fatten shown in any breed of domesticated animals depends principally on the degree to which the members of that breed have been selected with suitable disposition for laying on fat. Look into the examples that the human race offers in respect to the matter of disposition. The person inclined to obesity through his disposition, though he may partake of the same food as one not of like disposition, waxes fat while the latter does not. The other conditions may also be the same, yet owing to the difference in disposition the two very different results follow. It appears to us that the same is applicable to quadrupeds, as much as it is to bipeds. The exercise the pigs get will, no doubt, prove an element in determining the quality of the pork, for it is well known that excessive fatness is almost impossible if exercise is given or taken. The quality of pork being an important factor in influencing the market, demands our special attention. It, therefore, becomes a matter of consequence for the feeder to use a pure-bred sire, individually representing the desired disposition, and of a breed that is known to possess this characteristic, and further, to give the pigs the conditions of management and food that will best tend to keep them healthy and vigorous.

### Placing Corn on the Free List.

While we have considered it more in our province to utilize our forces in advocating measures that have to do with the individual efforts and enterprise of the stockman and farmer, yet we feel our position as a

defender and promoter of their interests calls for a plain and pronounced statement in regard to the corn question, which is now exciting so much discussion. There are two opposing points of view from which to look at this question, namely, that of the stockman who buys most of the grain he feeds, and that of the least progressive farmer, who sells off his farm all the grain he can raise upon it. These are the two extremes between these are those who more or less follow the two lines we have indicated. The former finds that there are few foods that will yield as much upork, beef, or butter, as corn fed in its different forms to pigs, steers, or dairy cows, respectively; and also in view of its cheapness, especially if it were put on the free list, the feeder pronounces it to be one of the very best foods at his disposal. The fact must be accepted, that the stockman must look for his profit in these days almost solely through lessening the cost of production, and to enable him to get this down to rock-bottom, he must get the foods that he feeds at the lowest price, for the buying of food is the chief item of expense in fattening steers, raising pigs, or maintaining a herd of dairy cows. Not only for feeding purposes is corn in strong demand, but also for the making of ensilage. The silo is the greatest profit-making ally the farmer has ever enlisted in his service, and for the purpose of making silage no plant equals that of corn, and to get good seed of the best varieties for ensilage, he must import it. The feelings of those farmers that are exporting the grain they raise on their farms have certainly a claim for consideration, as they are the ones that most need a helping hand; but the best way to lend them a hand is to guide them into the buying of coarse grain for feeding stock, rather than the selling of it. There is no doubt but that the free importation of corn would cause a slight drop in the price of oats or some of the other coarse grains, but if this duty is kept up with the purpose of encouraging the selling of coarse grain (as it is, though it may not be avowed), and it succeeds in its aims, then it favors a system of agriculture that, if generally adopted, would imprint ruin on even our fertile acres. The placing of corn on the free list would encourage farmers to feed it and grow it for ensilage purposes, and in this way ring in a better system of agriculture that would abundantly increase the prosperity of our farmers. We hope that the Government, in keeping with the spirit they have shown in the establishment of experimental farms, will reflect the same sentiment of good-will to our Canadian farmers, by seeing that the corn question is rightly dealt with in the promised tariff changes.

### Fall or Spring Calves.

There is much difference of opinion, even amongst farmers, as to whether calves should come to hand in autumn or in spring. While there are some good reasons which may be advanced in favor of either view, we cannot but conclude that, taking all things into consideration, the autumn is the best time to have calves come to hand that are intended to be kept.

The following are some of the more important arguments in favor of this view:—1. The farmer has more time to feed and care for them. When the calves come, say after October or November 1st, he can give them that careful attention which is necessary if they are to be of the first order. Even though time be taken to feed them properly in spring and summer, the process is costlier, in the sense that time to the farmer is worth at least twice as much in the summer as in the winter. When reared in the winter,