Stock.

Stock in Winter.

So far as stock is concerned, winter should be made a continuation of summer as much as can be. This should be the aim in all cases, and persisted in so as to avoid a break in the well doing of the stock. To the extent that the animals suffer, either from the weather or a lack of good food, there will be loss. Young stock will be retarded in growth, and the lack can never be supplied, as growth is confined to a certain time and never goes beyond it; hence what is lost within this period is lost beyond recovery. Among many of our farmers do we find young stock but little if any advanced in the spring from what it was in the fall—puny and in worse condition than when it went into winter quarters. This continued during the period of growth, but about half the size will be obtained. With calves and lambs this is a great loss; with colts it is a greater still. Not only is winter a drag upon the growth, but it takes a good part of the summer to recover sufficient to get well in the growing condition again. The effect of the cold upon stock is simply a dead loss; there is no compensation whatever. This is brutal and reckless. But the feed prepared for winter is open to the same objection. The hay ripe and bleached has but little substance, and what it has is to a large extent locked up in an indigestible form. Then there are the filthy stables, the inconvenience of obtaining water, exposure to the cold rains, especially in the fall and spring, and other inattention. Our winters are one of the principal drawbacks upon the prosperity of a large proportion of the farming community, all of which can readily be remedied if only the determination is there and the persistence to carry it out. Comfortable quarters and good feed sums up the requirement. It only needs tender, green hay, clover and timothy or other good grasses, and warm stables sufficiently ventilated and kept clean, which last can only be done by using fine absorbents, making thus, also, a soft bed to lie on and saving the manure, particularly its better part, the fluids.—[Cor. Utica Herald.

Swine Disease in the United States.

The Department of Agriculture at Washington devotes a special report to the investigation of the disease of swine. It appears from the report of the Commissioner of Agriculture, that information from one-half of the countries of the United States, gives total value of farm animals lost, principally by infectious and contagious diseases, as upwards of sixteen millions of dollars, ten millions of which lay amoung the swine alone. About two-thirds of the work is devoted to the "swine-plague" or "hog-fever." Experiments made to discover whether the disease was contagious, also proved that it was, and that there is no safety for healthy swine which come into the neighborhood of those that are diseased. It was also shown that sheep, rabbits, rats and mice may also take the plague, and that it can be transmitted through them to other swine. The danger from rats and mice in particular is serious, as they always infest the pens, eat out of the same trough with the pigs, go from one pen to another, and are often devoured by the swine.

All of the authorities are agreed as to the uselessness of attempting to cure animals attacked by the swine-plague. It is true that they frequently recover and live, but they are always subject to a recurrence of the disease, and never again become healthy animals. The method advocated for stamping out the disease is to kill all animals which are attacked by it, to bury them deeply in secluded places, disenfect the premises, utensils and persons, keep close watch of the remainder of the herd, and as soon as any of them show signs of the disease, kill them also. But it will do no good for one man to follow these directions when his neighbors will not do the same, for his herd will still be in danger from those that surround it.

Putnam County, N.J., is excited over the ravages of the plague—a new phase of contagious disease, pleuro-pneumonia. At a meeting of the citizens of the county on Friday, Mr. John G. Bordon offered to advance ten thousand dollars towards crushing out the disease. It is supposed the disease was communicated by a drove of cattle coming from Buffalo *via* Albany. It is proposed to quarantine the whole county.

Cooking Food.

In an article, which we reprint beneath, from the *Germantown Telegraph*, we have additional testimony to the profits from cooking food for pigs. Some doubt if there be any profit from the cooking. The students of the Agricultural College, at Guelph, published reports of experiments carried out by them, and from the results they agreed that there was no profit in cooking. This must have been owing to exceptional circumstances, and can only be considered a mere theory from the overwhelming testimonies to the contrary. In a treatise on the "Economy of Cooked Food," published by E. Leonard & Sons, of this city, they say, truly: "Probably more experiments have been made in cooking food for pigs than for any other animals. These have been uniformly successful, both in saving of materials and in the increased production of fat." Stephens, one of the highest English authorities, says in his "Book of the Farm": "It has been found by direct experiment that pigs fatten much better on cooked than raw food. It is only waste of time and materials, and also loss of flesh, to attempt to fatten pigs on raw food; for, although some kinds of food fatten better than others in the same state, yet the same sort of food cooked fattens much faster than in a raw state." The following article from the *Germantown Telegraph* is not mere theory. It is a carefully prepared report of facts given by a practical man:—

"Several years ago I fed eight shoat pigs for several months with corn and oats, ground together and made into well-cooked mush. They gained in weight at a rate, counting pork at the then market price (seven cents per pound), sufficient to make double the market price for the grain consumed. Much of this gain was due to the cooking of the food. The following winter I weighed and put into separate pens two sows, sisters, and in the same condition, having both recently weaned a litter of pigs. Number one weighed two hundred and ninety-two pounds; number two, two hundred and eighty pounds. I fed number one on cooked shelled unground corn for seventeen days; she consumed two bushels and twenty-one quarts, and gained thirty-six pounds. Number two fed same length of time on unground raw shelled corn; she consumed three bushels and thirteen quarts, and gained thirty pounds. Now, as it is said it will generally pay to make pork at ten pounds to the bushel of corn, as when corn is low pork is low, and *vice versa*, then a gain of five pounds of pork to the bushel (after deducting the expense of cooking) is quite an item and should induce more experiments in this line. The above experiment in cooking was with unground corn. Ground corn cooked and made into mush gives, according to experiment, considerably more profit than whole or unground corn cooked. After satisfying myself by several experiments I bought a small steamer, fixed it up in brick-work, and set a vessel holding some fifty gallons on each side the steamer, from which a pipe entered each vessel; water was run into these vessels from a fountain pump, which was readily heated by the steamer. Then I emptied in two or three bushels of ground corn and oats, or corn and bran, stirred it a little with a plunger; and after leaving it to steam awhile it would swell up and thicken so that sometimes we had to take it out with a shovel. We sometimes cooked shelled corn without grinding. I followed cooking feed for my hogs, from thirty to two hundred of them at a time for fifteen years, and considered it a great saving of grain. The steamer cost thirty-five dollars, and fixing up not quite ten.

Subscribers would do well to procure Leonard's "Economy" referred to above, and form their own judgment.

Cotswold and Southdown sheep formed the principal exhibits at American fairs this season, and an increased interest is manifested in these once neglected sheep; their profits are becoming better known and their value on every farm is now conceded, which accounts for the great demand for good sheep.

Bog-Spavin and its Treatment.

In reply to an Old Subscriber as to the treatment of Bog-Spavin, the following item from Farm and Field contains the required information': Bog-Spavin is of two kinds, both of which present the same outward appearance, so far as the puffy swelling is concerned, but they differ in the important point that in one there is inflammation, tenderness and lameness, while in the other there are none of these, and only an inconvenient blemish results. It is necessary, therefore, to distinguish between these two forms. The more serious is that caused by inflammation of the hock joint; this may occur from over-work, rheumatism, sprains or bruises. There is a soft swelling of the inner, fore, upper part of the joint, where should naturally be a hollow. Sometimes the swelling occurs upon both sides of the joint, and on pressure upon either side the swelling is pushed through the joint, and increases upon the opposite side, fluctuating back again when the pressure is removed. This is "thorough" pin. The lameness in this form of the disease is similar to that from Bone-Spavin, and in its result it may produce the worst effects of that disease, viz., ulceration and bony deposit, with a permanently stiff joint. The less serious form of the disease is a simple swelling, which appears to be the same as the other form in all respects, excepting that there is no lameness, heat, or tenderness. The cause is an excessive secretion of the fluid which lubricates the joint, which produces the soft puffy characteristic swellings; and this may occur from over-exertion, or a dropsical effusion from constitutional weakness.

The first treatment, in the former case, is to reduce the inflammation, and exert an easy pressure upon the swelling, to induce an absorption of its contents. In the latter case, the pressure, with cold applications, are sufficient. These, in both cases, may be accomplished by using a padded bandage fastened above and below the hock with straps. This may be made by any person in a few minutes, from some strips of stout leather, a few rivets, and two buckles. The pads may be made of pieces of sponge, wrapped in wash-leather or buck-skin or sheet-rubber. The upper strap is buckled loosely around the leg, above the hock, to prevent the bandage from slipping down, as it is held by the side straps. The lower strap is provided with a pad, or one for each side, placed so as exert a steady pressure upon the swollen parts. At the same time, cold water dressings are applied, or astringent applications, such as weak mixture of tannic acid and water, or an infusion of white-oak bark. The lotions may be made more effective, as regards coldness, by the addition of ice or a small quantity of salt-petre to the water. Rest is necessary during the treatment, and unless the causes that produced the trouble are afterwards avoided, it will be necessary to soon repeat the application.

Increase of Steers on Pastures.

One of our subscribers wishes to know what a steer weighing 750 pounds should gain on good pasture, during the full grazing season. Like all farm questions, there are many conditions to be taken into consideration in answering this question. The character of the pasture will vary much between a gravel hillside and a blue grass plain. A wet, cold season may be contrasted with a hot, dry one, the happy medium being, of course, better than either.

Again, the steer himself will cut a considerabie figure in the point of profits. A scrub steer raised in a half or three-quarters starved condition from calf-hood will not fatten with half the ease of a grade or full blood Shorthorn that was never allowed to lose his calf fat.

It is the selection and combination of these points that make the successful grazer. A steer at three years of age that weighs only 750 pounds must be only an average native in quality, and, on average pasture, with an average season, would not take on three hundred pounds.

In going to market a long way he might lose fifty pounds of this in "drift." Shorthorn grades often take on five or six hundred pounds in the same time, under favorable conditions.—[American Dairyman.

Sheep that go into winter quarters in a declining state will demand extra feed and care during winter, and produce a light clip of wool in the spring.