

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN  
THE DOMINION.

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### Our Premiums.

Owing to the extra amount of valuable reading matter and advertising with which our space is crowded just now, we withhold the full page of premium announcements that has been running for several issues, but the premium offers are not withdrawn. One or more of these splendid premiums can yet be earned in almost any locality. For particulars read previous issues. Every mail is bringing us thankful letters from recipients, and what we appreciate even more, very strong expressions as to the practical service the paper is giving the farmers of the country. Old as well as new subscribers write on this point. There is yet ample time before spring work begins to secure many new readers. As an example of how much satisfaction our premiums are giving we might mention the case of one reader who earned a copy of the Bagster Bible and so pleased was he with it that he since set about a further canvass and earned two others, sending in nine new subscribers. We must also bespeak the patience of some of our contributors whose letters we are obliged for the reason above stated to hold over till a later issue.

### Poultry Keeping.

Readers, have your hens been taking part in a go-as-you-please race in the past? By giving them a fair chance to pay their way they will likely return you a good dividend on what they eat. The general idea seems to be that, as ordinarily kept, they do not pay a money profit outside the eggs and fowls consumed on the farm, if, indeed, they are not kept at an actual loss. In our Christmas number Mr. G. W. Green forcefully pointed out that poultry keeping was an industry that might at a profit be far more generally carried on than it is at present. Several of our readers are taking up this subject elsewhere in a way that will prove of timely and practical value.

### Better than Any Other Two.

"Enclosed please find \$1 to renew my subscription for FARMER'S ADVOCATE. I have just been taking it 2 years and I must say I would rather have the ADVOCATE than any other two papers I take. I wish you every success, as I think it's just what the agricultural classes want."

### Mr. Macpherson's Letter Criticised.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I have been much interested in reading Mr. D. M. Macpherson's article, in your issue of Feb. 1st, on "How can the ordinary farm be made to pay?" As a subscriber, and somewhat of a student of all methods of "intense" farming, will you kindly allow me a short space to offer a few criticisms upon his radical suggestions to our Governments, and also upon the phrase "ordinary farming" as applied to his methods.

There can be no doubt that the system adopted by Mr. Macpherson is the best known for the renewing of wornout farms and the maintenance of a maximum degree of fertility upon them. It is the system long pursued by the most successful farmers of England and Scotland and our own foremost Canadian agriculturists. But while eminently satisfactory from a pecuniary point of view to the individual farmer, it is not a self-contained system of farming (therefore not ordinary farming), because they obtain the stockers and feed to a large extent from outside sources, drawing thereby from the natural fertility of these contributing farms and pastures and depositing it upon a comparatively small plot of ground.

The only instance of natural enduring fertility of lands under cultivation is the Nile Valley, where Central Africa, by the annual overflowing of the Nile, contributes of its vast store of natural fertilizing elements to the lands impoverished by the growing of food necessary to man.

But the farms that are producing the raw materials necessary for Mr. Macpherson's farming operations are doing it, as he acknowledges, at a loss, and are furnishing him with steers, cows, bulls, feed and fertilizing elements at a price far below their value. They are only enabled to do this by drawing upon their natural store of fertility, which is gradually but surely being exhausted, when a Mr. Macpherson and his system will require to be put upon them and some other place be made barren that they may in turn be made to produce \$40 per acre yearly, and so on, *ad infinitum*.

The principal factor in Mr. Macpherson's system is the purchasing of cheap steers, county bulls, and cheap ordinals, as pea meal, bran, shorts, etc. (all of them ordinary farm products), and converting the whole into high-priced foods and a highly-estimated fertilizer balance. But if his suggestions were adopted by our Government, and all the counties of Ontario, for instance, be eventually brought under this system, where will they obtain the cheap bran, shorts, pea meal and oil meal to carry on their extensive feeding operations? Who will grow the steers at 2½ cents and the bulls at 1½ cents laid down on the farms to enable all these farmers to make a large profit by buying and feeding \$2,700 worth each of unfinished product? For I notice that Mr. Macpherson sells 60 veal calves—his proximity to the Montreal market enabling him to dispose of a large number easily. But if all the farmers of Canada—850,000—were to produce even 40 each annually, where will they obtain sale for 26,000,000 veal calves?

Mr. Macpherson does not tell us that it is profitable to raise them. We infer that he does not consider it is when he sells them for the extremely low figure of \$2.50 on an average.

Why does he not do some self-contained farming, and raise those 60 calves to maturity, thereby obviating the necessity of a yearly outlay of \$1,500? and also why does he not grow the necessary food required on an ordinary farm of 125 acres?

The farmers who are selling their stockers and their grains need not an agricultural awakening, but a commercial awakening to the fact that they are selling at a great loss to their farms what Mr. Macpherson and other large feeders are converting into profit on purchase money and fertility into their old wornout farms.

Why do not those farmers feed their own grains and finish their own beef and pork, the most profitable part of farm work, as Mr. Macpherson himself testifies?

It is plain to the most obtuse understanding that any system of farming adopted and propagated by a government, if it is to be for the benefit of a whole agricultural country, must be a self-contained system, or else one part of the country will contribute to the other to its own positive loss.

Northumberland Co., Ont. R. C. ALLAN.

### Figures from Feeders Wanted.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR—I notice in the last issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE some very good letters on feeding cattle. All of the writers feed pea meal. Why not add bran with the meal? Bran is the safest and best feed to mix with meal that I know of. I have fed a few lots of cattle and I never had good success in feeding meal alone. Some of them feed three gallons of meal per day to each bullock. I would like very much if some one would figure out a profit in feeding three gallons of meal per day to cattle from the 1st of February to the 20th of May, with two feeds of hay and roots per day. I cannot believe it can be done with cattle at 4½ cents per lb., and it does not look as though we can expect a better price than this.

Peel Co., Ont. JOS. G. SNELL.

[NOTE.—No doubt some of the feeders who have been giving their experience in these columns will respond to the above request for information as to the profit of feeding meal.—EDITOR.]

## STOCK.

### The Feeding and Management of Swine.

The development of the Canadian pork industry in recent years has been most gratifying, but there are doubtless considerable quantities produced at a little or possibly no profit, and as we know that a loss for such an industry need not be sustained when the best methods in care and feeding are practiced, we are anxious to publish for the benefit of our readers the methods in vogue on the farms of men familiar with this branch of stock rearing. We therefore append the following questions, which, answered in the light of experience, will cover the ground fairly well. If any points of importance are omitted, our readers will feel free to deal with them as may be necessary. The subject is of peculiar importance at this time of dairy development, especially so when we recognize the high estimation in which Canadian bacon and hams are held in Great Britain, together with the extensive market yet awaiting our hog products in that country. The questions are as follows:—

- 1.—At what age do you choose to have sows farrow their first litters, and do you prefer one or two litters the first year, and also after that time?
  - 2.—(a) Which do you find most success with—fall or spring litters? and (b) how do you manage your spring-farrowing sows during the winter season with regard to quarters and food with a view to economy in feeding and welfare of the offspring?
  - 3.—How do you summer your brood sows, and what value do you place upon pasture and by-products of the dairy as summer foods for them?
  - 4.—How do you manage the sow and pigs from the birth of the litter to weaning time, and at what age do you prefer to wean them?
  - 5.—What would you recommend in the housing, general care, feeding, and exercise of pigs from weaning till marketing, looking to growth and good health?
  - 6.—At what age and weight would you market live hogs or dressed pork in order to obtain the greatest profit?
  - 7.—What is your estimate of the advantage or disadvantage of keeping the young pigs gaining rapidly without a halt from the time of weaning until they go to market?
  - 8.—What do you consider the most profitable ration to feed during the last two months of fattening?
  - 9.—Have you made any calculations as to the cost of a pound of pork, live or dressed, according to your method of producing it, and with what result?
- If any important points are omitted our readers will oblige by dealing briefly with them.

### Successful Management in Swine Breeding —Extra Care for Fall Litters.

1.—I prefer having a sow farrow her first litter at about a year old, and as to her having one or two litters in a year, it depends very much on circumstances. To be successful with fall pigs the first thing to be considered is, have you good warm quarters for them, and if so, at the price pork is now selling and feed so low, I think they can be made profitable; but as a rule fall pigs do not do as well as spring pigs, as they cannot at all times get sufficient exercise, which I think is essential. I would not advocate turning young pigs out of a warm pen into the barnyard on a cold day, and we usually have a good many of them in winter; and as I have seen so many people make failures of fall litters, I think it is probably best to not have too many fall pigs, and to have them come as early as possible, say in September or early in October.

2.—I have been as successful with fall pigs as I have with spring litters, but they require more care. I never feed young pigs in winter cold slop feed till they are three or four months old, as it is apt to chill them. I always provide my spring-farrowing sows comfortable sleeping quarters, and allow them exercise in the barnyard part of each day; and as to what I would advise as the best and cheapest food depends on the price the different kinds of grain are selling at. I think barley is probably the cheapest food we have, and after they are safe in pig a few pulped roots might be mixed with the barley meal.

3.—I usually turn my brood sows out on grass in summer where they have access to water, and unless it is a very dry season I don't give them any feed. If the pasture is good, a brood sow that cannot make a good living on it should be disposed of.

4.—For the first few days after farrowing, feed sparingly on lactative food, and about a week after farrowing she may have full feed, and when the pigs are about three or four weeks old they should be provided with a trough, apart from the sow, and supplied with a little sweet milk for the first week or so; after that a little meal or shorts might be added. I prefer letting them remain with the sow till they are six or seven weeks old.

5.—Young pigs should be provided with comfortable quarters, and if the weather is warm I prefer letting them run out when they like; if not, let them have a run every day for a few hours, as they will as a general rule do better.

6.—Market when about 200 pounds, live weight, as after they attain about that weight it costs more to make a pound of pork. It costs much less to make a hundred-pound pig weigh 200 pounds than it costs to make a 200-pound hog weigh 300 pounds.

7.—I think it more profitable to attain the desired weight as soon as possible.

8.—That depends on the price of the different grains. I consider barley at the present price is the cheapest feed. I always feed it ground as fine as possible. But it is not always best to feed one kind of food exclusively, as I think a change is desirable.

9.—I have never made any exact calculation as to what a pound of pork has cost me, but I am satisfied at the present price of pork and feed it can be fed at a profit.

York Co., Ont. THOMAS TEASDALE.