

Southdowns and Leicesters. It is quite surprising to observe how fully reconciled the sheep become to this new mode of life. Timid as they proverbially are they do not seem alarmed by the approach of strangers; and when the attendant uses his besom close at their heels, they remain undisturbed. After feeding they lie quietly down; and this state of repose has unquestionably a tendency to encourage their rapid fattening. We had the opportunity a few days ago, of seeing this new system in operation at Birchwood Park, and have given the result of our observation for the information of our agricultural friends; and we have no doubt that any of them, desiring more fully to inform themselves on a subject of so much importance, and to witness this novel and interesting sight, will be treated with the same civility and attention which were shown to us on the occasion of our visit.—*Staffordshire Advertiser.*

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In our last number we stated that the disproportion in the price of butchers' meat, dairy produce and the other productions of agriculture, was greater than it ought to be, under a judicious system of management. We refer particularly to the state of our markets, lately in Canada, that meat, cheese, and butter were unusually high in price, and other productions of land at a low price. No doubt a given portion of land will produce much more nutriment, in the shape of bread and vegetables, than it would in butchers' meat, but certainly it is unprofitable farming, when hay and inferior grain is at a very low price, and meat, cheese and butter at a very high price, because one could be readily manufactured into the other. We shall endeavour to submit what we conceive to be the production of land in several ways that it may be employed. Our views may not be perfectly correct, but from our own experience, we believe they approximate to it as nearly as necessary for enabling a farmer to apply his lands and produce to the most profitable uses for himself and for the community. In estimating the comparative production of land employed in raising and feeding neat cattle and sheep, and in arable culture, producing crops, supposing the land in both cases good, and of equal quality, we shall first calculate the cost of raising a heifer or steer, intended for beef, to the age of three years. For the first year one acre of land would be required to give the calf milk, grass or hay, up to the time of becoming one year old. This would be the lowest estimate possible, but we believe it would be sufficient

because a cow might give milk for two calves for three months, and they need not get milk longer, and she might pay for her keep by her milk for the remainder of the year. We think, therefore, that one acre of land should provide all that was necessary for a calf the first year. The second year, it would require one acre and half to give it grass and hay. The third year, two acres would be necessary, and to fatten the animal the last half year, from May to November, one acre and a half would be required. This would make six acres for the three years and a half, or up to the period that the animal would be fat on grass and ready for the butcher, or fit to be put up to be stall-fed for the winter. We shall compute the value of the animal fattened on grass when three years and a half old, in the ordinary way, without any extra food but what the land we have assigned for its use might produce, allowing manure to pay for attendance. An animal raised in this way we could not estimate to weigh over eight hundred pounds, beef, hide, and tallow. If it should weigh more, the extra average would not be too much to allow for the risk of disease or death of animals. We shall not pretend to follow up our estimate further than to show that it requires six acres of land to produce an animal that, at three and half years old, will give 800 lbs of beef, hide, and tallow. Animals may be brought to a much greater weight, but the cost of doing so will be considerable. We have not included in this estimate any charge for the calf when born, but we shall allow this item to make up any overcharge we may have made, though perhaps were we to add half an acre more of land; making the cost of an animal at three years and a half old, six and a half acres, it will be found nearer the real expense. A heifer raised for the dairy would cost about the same as an ox, annually, up to the time of her first calf. This may be at two years old, but we should think it might be as well when three years old, and make very little difference in the profits, as the animal would be so much improved by remaining in the heifer state until three years old, that she would pay the additional expense of a year's keep. We would estimate the value of a heifer when having her first calf at two or three years old as fully equal to an ox or steer when half a year older, and from this circumstance raising neat cattle of the heifer kind would be more profitable than raising the male animals. We have thus submitted our opinion of the cost