

then hunting up a buyer and asking, "Well, what are you paying for hogs to-day?" Does that look as though the producer has been handling the reins. I am glad to say that some of our most intelligent farmers are grasping a tighter hold to the reins, and I daresay, if the packers follow the writer's ramblings, and pull too hard on the short-price rein, the business will assume, not a very healthy state, but rather a paralyzed state. What do some of our extensive hog-raisers think of matters in this case. Let us hear you speak for yourself.

A. E. BROWN.

Kent Co., Ont.

Management of Young Pigs.

Having seen an article in the Jan. 10th issue of "The Farmer's Advocate" entitled, "Questions for Pig-raisers," I thought I would offer a few suggestions from experience in the hog business, as I have been following this branch of stock-raising in particular for the last few years.

I favor a very light diet for the brood sow for a few days after farrowing. The first couple of days I prefer to give her nothing but a little scalded wheat bran, with a small quantity of skim milk or swill. The sow, as a rule, is generally in a very feverish condition at farrowing, and the less grain she gets the better. About the third day after farrowing a small quantity of oat chop may be added, and the mixture of bran and oat chop gradually increased till the sow is on a full ration, about the tenth day after farrowing. I have always been in favor of scalding the feed for the brood sows, as I think they raise their litters much better when fed in this way. Feed it three times a day, with enough skim milk and swill to make up a large pail of feed, till the pigs are three weeks old, when sow and pigs should be getting all they will clean up until weaning time. I think about eight weeks is the most satisfactory time to wean the pigs. Where plenty of skim milk is at hand, they may do very well weaned at six or seven weeks. But, even with the skim milk, I think much better results can be obtained from leaving the young pigs on the sow for at least eight weeks, feeding sow and pigs together from a long trough about three inches deep. I think it is much better to let the young pigs feed with the sow in this way than to feed them in a separate pen and trough, as they are healthier and less likely to scour.

I am strongly in favor of castrating the young boars while on the sow. The main thing, after the operation, is to keep them dry and warm.

After pigs are two or three weeks old, a small quantity of sugar beets or mangels, pulped, may be fed the sows. This keeps them hearty, and is generally eaten with a relish. But I am not much in favor of feeding large quantities of roots to the sows while nursing their pigs, unless the mixture I have named, of oats, bran and shorts, cannot be scalded conveniently, then a larger portion of pulped roots may be fed, with enough shorts and oat chop to make a balanced ration. When young pigs are left on the sow for eight weeks or more, they will come right along when weaned, and do not seem to miss the sow as when weaned at five or six weeks, when they are generally so small that they have to eat too much in order to get enough nourishment and satisfy their hunger, which often results in indigestion and a pot-bellied pig, which is sometimes stunted and often ruined for life.

After the pigs are weaned, and milk is scarce, I think there is nothing better than a mixture of wheat, barley and oats, ground fine, scalded, and fed in quantities that will be cleaned up four times a day. It is very important to add a little salt to the feed while scalding it, as it makes the feed more palatable and more easily digested. After pigs are weaned, and skim milk is plentiful, very good results may be obtained from feeding oats ground fine and the coarse hulls sifted out. But even with a plentiful supply of skim milk, I am in favor of scalding the oats, wheat and barley-chop mixture till the pigs are about three months old. After they reach this age, I think a mixture of ground oats and barley, fed dry, with pulped roots in winter, and rape or clover pasture in summer, until fattening time, give better results than cooking. I consider whey of very little value to young pigs after weaning, but I have had splendid results from feeding whey to sows while suckling their pigs, giving them all they would drink of it, both sow and pigs, till eight weeks old. I would consider whey worth about three cents per cwt. fed in this way. In feeding separated milk to young pigs, I like to feed it sweet and warm from the separator, using a little caution till the pigs get used to it, in order to avoid scours. I consider separated milk worth about twenty cents a cwt. I prefer to feed the milk sweet and warm from the separator, as it is easier digested, and is drunk with a greater relish by the young pigs.

Bruce Co., Ont.

WESLEY POLLOCK.

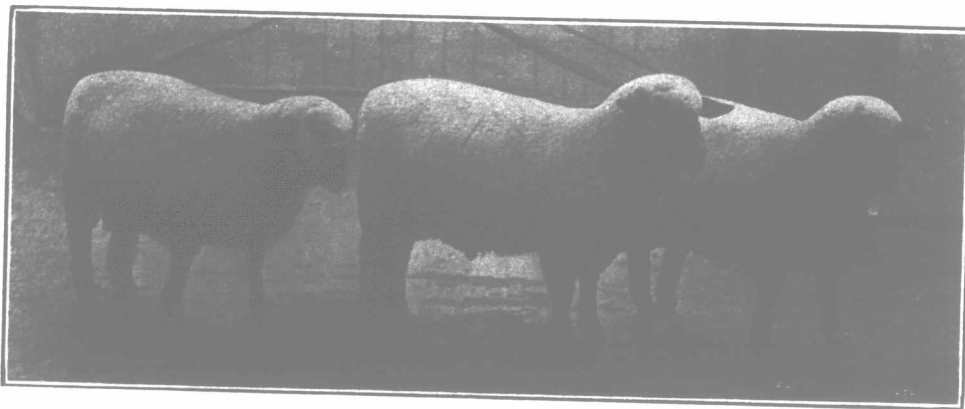
If I Grow a Little Beef, How Should I Grow It?

Prof. J. H. Grisdale, B.S.A.

The man who contemplates going into beef production, or who, already in, is willing to give a little thought and attention to methods of conducting his business—the steer—most economically and profitably to its legitimate end—the block—cannot help but be struck by the particulars and peculiarities of some of the courses or routes followed by different men claiming to be in the business. A brief consideration of some of these methods might be a pleasure for and a profit to all of us.

The farmer, great or small, who does anything in this line has two plans to choose between. He may breed and feed his own steers, or buy and feed some other breeder's steers. He who breeds and feeds his own is the one likely to produce the best class of cattle and the one likely to make the greatest profits, or at least the one likely to suffer the least losses in the long run. He who would both breed and feed has again a choice of methods—a choice as to the way in which he shall raise his stock to the stocker or feeder stage.

The interest excited by tales of "The Round Up," indicates the line of beef production appealing most strongly to our tastes and imagination.



Hampshire Down Yearling Wethers.

First-prize and champion pen of the breed, and reserve for Short-wool championship, Smithfield Club Show, 1906. Average weight, 312 lbs. Bred and exhibited by Mr. J. Flower.

Besides, where lands are cheap, large profits usually add a zest and flavor to the romance (?) of cow-punching on "the mighty plains," or wherever else the ranch may happen to be located. I am informed that the cost to run a steer for a year under ranching conditions in Canada varies from \$2 to \$10. Taking the up-set price, it is evident that seldom will the finished four-year-old cost over \$50, all expenses paid. Taking prices as found under average ranch conditions, the cost of the four-year-old is somewhere around \$30 or \$35. Four-year-olds usually sell at the ranch for from \$40 to \$55. There is thus usually a fair good margin of profit. Conditions are changing with exceeding rapidity, however, and already many of the one-time largest and most profitable ranches in the West are things of the past. In but a few years they will be practically all ancient history. The ranch swallowed by the multitude, up goes the price of land, and the cost of beef-production naturally keeps pace, for it must then be produced by the farmer.

Occasionally farmers, on dear lands, with a horror of milking, or lacking the necessary help, let the calves run with the cows. Where carried right along after weaning, they make, as a rule, first-class steers, ready for the block at an early age. But here, however, even greater care must be taken than with calves that have roughed it more or less, to see that they suffer no setback the first winter, since such a check would be quite disastrous in their case. Cow-raised steers not infrequently sell for beef at 2½ years old, weighing 1,200 to 1,300 pounds live weight. They may quite easily bring from \$55 to \$65, and will cost the producer—well, let us see: For food, from \$40 to \$50; for dam, one year's keep with calf at foot, \$30; proportion of cost of raising cow to breeding age, \$5; total, \$70 to \$80. The cow gave her first calf at three years old, she produces six calves (a fair average), and when disposed of brings about half what it cost to raise her, say \$30, or \$35. This allows nothing for bull service, which is likely to cost \$2 or \$3 more. Calves raised on the cow are good; all who see them must admit it, but they are relatively more expensive than they are good. This is the lazy man's method. It brings its own financial reward.

Where butter and cheese factories are attainable by not too great a haul, the practice is usually to deliver the milk and return for the calves, expectant at home, some nicely-tainted skim milk or some well-rotted whey. Such calves as live through the ordeal usually look it in the face. Steers fed under such conditions in their youth, and similarly cared for through adoles-

cence and to maturity, have been known to weigh 1,000 pounds live weight at four years old. They have been sold under favorable conditions for from \$30 to \$35 each, having cost the producer from \$50 to \$60 for feed alone. Such producers are not always proud of their product, but would be still less so did they know the cost thereof.

Farmers not so conveniently (?) situated with reference to cheese or butter factory, yet anxious to make as much as possible out of their cattle, not infrequently make use of the cream separator, and feed the warm skim milk to the calves as separated night and morning. Results are usually exceedingly satisfactory so far as calves are concerned, animals so fed weighing not infrequently 1,000 pounds alive when scarce two years old. They may weigh, if well fed, 1,500 pounds or over at three years old, and often sell for \$75 or \$80 at that age, having cost about as much or a trifle less than this selling price for feed, according to prices of feeds or the price of beef. If pastured on cheap lands, the cost of production would be proportionately lowered, but steers carried to three years old on high-priced lands are practically certain to have cost all they will bring by the time they reach their third birthday. The cow, however, is likely to have done more than paid her own way with the cream, and she starts the new year with a cash as well as a calf credit on the balance sheet.

The man who raised the skim-milk calves has apparently come the nearest to making a profit. He is quite certain to be a prosperous farmer. Did all our farmers do as well, the story of Canadian prosperity would to-day be even more striking than it is.

To the writer, however, it has always seemed that even such a comparatively successful method should not by any means be the Ultima Thule—

the top notch—in beef-production on our high-priced Canadian farms.

There is another way. Let me lay the idea before you next week.

Winter Care of Sheep.

There is a saying that we get out of any business just about what we put into it; but this is not true of the sheep business, for we generally get more out of it than we put in. Sheep will make their owners money if treated in any old way, but they respond readily to good treatment. So long as the ground is bare and the grass is plentiful they will do well on pasture, but as soon as the ground is well covered with snow a balanced ration should be provided for them. More sheep become diseased from the want of proper nutrients than from any other cause. Think what that machine we call a ewe is doing. She is not only maturing an unborn lamb, which should be dropped in the spring well developed, but she is also growing wool. The lamb and wool both require the same elements of food—a narrow ration. A narrow or nitrogenous ration produces blood. Let a ewe become deficient in blood, and you soon detect it in her general appearance. Flockmasters have been known to put off feeding their sheep grain until they have quite run down. Here the old adage—an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure—applies with much force. It is wrong to allow sheep to begin to run down. A light grain feed should begin as soon as the grazing season closes, and this ration should be kept up until the sheep go to grass again, unless the sheep have plenty of good clover or alfalfa hay. In fact, if the farmer has none of these hays, he is not prepared to handle sheep successfully. Again, sheep should be housed, especially while it rains. They can withstand severe cold weather, but wet weather soon causes them to become diseased.—[Shepherd's Bulletin.]

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W. D. MACKAY.