

FOUNDED 1886

ewes. This is where numerous instances of inferior milking qualities begin. Any one of the above causes may result in the ewes producing little milk, and it behooves every owner to give his flock the best possible care at all times.

No matter whether one is breeding pure-bred or grade sheep, he will find it of much importance to devote considerable attention to determining the milking qualities of his ewes during the time the lambs are depending upon their mothers for their entire food supply. He may rest assured that he has plenty of room for improvement, no matter how well or how long he has been directing attention to the improvement of his flock along this particular line.

Johnson Co., Ill. W. H. UNDERWOOD.

### Are Your Calves Neglected?

It is surprising how little attention some farmers give their young stock. Especially is this true of calves. It is the common practice in a good many districts to fill the stables with larger cattle and other classes of stock, and crowd the calves into small, dark, dismal, dirty corners, where the sun seldom enters, and where the best of health and growth is impossible. Too many people think that any old place does for the calves, forgetting that the youngsters are the future herd, or if not must be grown and matured as rapidly as possible, and at the smallest cost in order to make a reasonable profit on them. In many of the old-fashioned stone stables with about one-tenth the light which they should have, one wonders at finding the calves in the darkest stall at the end or tied perhaps in a corner behind the cows and receiving the smallest amount of attention of any of the cattle in the herd, when to do them justice they should have the lightest stalls in the stable, preferably large box stalls, be fed on the best feed and their portion of the stable kept even cleaner than that of the older cattle.

The spring days are almost here when the calves would be much the better of a daily run in the farm yard. We do not favor the close housing of young stock, especially when the weather is such that they do not suffer from the cold or storm out of doors. Let them out for two or three hours during the middle of the day, and see how well they will enjoy a romp in the well-bedded farm yard or around the remnant of the straw stack. It is not well to let the calves, accustomed to close housing during the winter, get chilled, but if judgment is used there is very little danger of this. Start them on a warm day and leave them out a short time at first, gradually increasing the length of the play hour until practically half a day at a time is reached.

### Making the Calf Hornless.

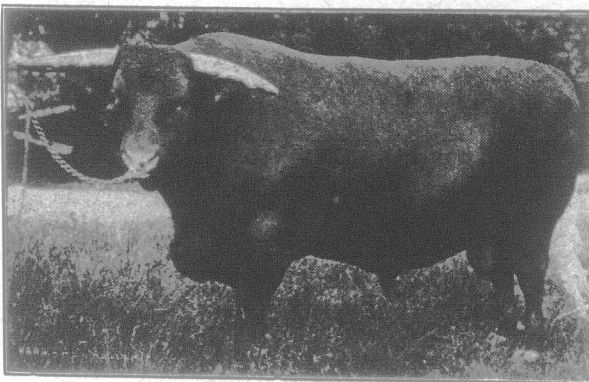
In another column in this issue there appears a short article from the Toronto Union Stock Yards management on the subject of dehorning cattle. It will be remembered by readers of "The Farmer's Advocate" that some two years ago dealers on the Toronto market made a rule, which was to come in force April 1st, 1914, that all horned cattle appearing on the Toronto market would be docked \$2.00 per head. It would seem from this article that the dealers are likely to make some change in the regulation. They are now asking that the tips of the horns of all cattle be sawed off before shipping. Whether or not the rule, as formerly laid down, comes into effect the fact remains that where cattle are bred and raised for beefing purposes or even for dairy purposes and not for sale as fancy stock, they are better with the horns removed.

The proper time to treat the horns is when the calf is very young. It requires little time, causes no pain to the animal, and no setback to do it at this time. Get a stick of caustic potash from the druggist. Keep it in a stoppered bottle or jar, and when applying wrap the end of it carefully so that none of it is smeared on the hands. The best time to apply the caustic is when the calf is from four to nine days of age, but it will do the work up to three weeks of age. However, we would advise attending to the matter the first week of the calf's life. Clip the hair off around the scurs and moisten one end of the caustic pencil and apply it to the scur until it turns white. Be careful not to allow any of the dissolving caustic to run down the calf's face or to come in contact with the skin around the scur. It will burn and leave an ugly sore, but if properly applied the calf does not suffer from it, and it does no harm whatever. Remember do not put treatment off until the calf is a few months of age and then condemn the caustic as being no good. It only takes a minute or two and is much more easily accomplished when the calf is four days old than when two or three weeks old. It will save a good deal of hooking and bruising of the animals to have them all dehorned. Right now when so many of the cows are freshening and calves are numerous is the time to commence this operation if it has never been done before.

### The Sussex as a Breed.

The Sussex is a breed of cattle, native to the southern counties of England, which has never become universally popular in America nor even gained anything like what might be called a foothold in Canada. In 1891 a few head were imported to the Agricultural College at Guelph, but since that time they have discarded them, and very seldom do any of their progeny come up at live-stock shows or exhibitions.

As a breed they are noted for their beefy conformation and inferior ability for producing milk. In 1885 at the American Fat Stock Show a year-



A Successful Sussex Sire.

ling Sussex steer received the class prize on the butcher's block, and came within one vote of winning sweepstakes. They are very good grazers, and in this respect are comparable to the Hereford. Their early maturing value has been emphasized by some, but it is doubtful if they are as good in this respect as the aforementioned breed. The Sussex is associated with the Devon and Hereford in history, tracing back several centuries. They were formerly bred for draft purposes, and used to till the soil.

### A Record Board.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

There is no doubt about it but that it pays to keep farm records. I was amazed this winter to find out how few attended to this matter in any satisfactory manner whatsoever. We were having a discussion regarding the profit to be had from feeding cattle for the market, and I was persuaded that I should have no difficulty in ascertaining what my neighbors were doing in this particular. To my great surprise a very small per cent. of them could give me even a relative estimate of their profit. They knew what their bullocks cost them, but the amount of feed supplied was an unknown quantity. "Really, I do not know what amount I feed them, but I know it takes a lot." And so the replies

method will apply. When it comes to working a field the same attention to detail will prove an eyeopener to many a man.

This is one of the ways in which a farmer can estimate relative values of crops. Labor and time are gold to the farmer, and unless he can account not only for the hours but for the minutes he is a far bigger loser than he knows. Further, unless he drives his efforts to the productive point he is falling out of the race. Every farmer should have and he may have figures that show why he gives his time and effort to raising the commodities of his farm. Merchants and manufacturers all over the country tell us that they never commenced to win till they made each department of their business rest on its own feet, and eliminated all the parts of their industry that were not paying their way. And what are farmers but manufacturers and merchants? Why should they not effect a thorough search for the waste that is keeping them back and making their burdens extraordinarily heavy? The task is not so difficult as many farmers think. Referring again to the discussion in regard to the profit of feeding grain to dairy cows I induced a neighbor to keep tab for a couple of months. The other day he smiled as he met me, "Say," he remarked, "I have those figures." "Well?" I queried. "Guess I'll make a sale or two. I never thought there was the difference. Thanks for the hint." That neighbor has found out where some of his profits have been going. This man's experience has been repeated over and over again to my knowledge.

I mention the board as a good record bearer rather than a book, because it may be tacked up in sight and so serve as a reminder and because it is not readily lost. Ten minutes a day will serve to keep all farm records, and a very short time at the end of the month will be sufficient to make clear where the profits are coming from or going to. The result will be a disappearance of the old hit-and-miss way of doing things that served to keep the farmer so hopelessly in the dark.

York Co., Ont.

W. D.

### Great Interest in Purebreds.

Possibly never before in the history of this country was so much interest shown in the breeding of pure-bred live stock. This is particularly true at the present time of the cattle of both beef and dairy breeds. As an indication of the value which breeders, deep in the game of pure-bred stock breeding and those just commencing the business places on them, one only needs to point to the high prices and keen bidding which prevail at the sales of pure-bred live stock this spring. Sales are numerous, but their numbers do not seem to be keeping the prices of good stock down. Western Canada is waking up to the fact that she must go into mixed farming, and mixed farming means the keeping of large numbers of live stock. Eastern Canada, already engaged in mixed farming, is seeking to strengthen her position, and realizes full well that the only means of doing so is by using the very best blood of the different live-stock breeds available. Breeders from the East and West gather in large numbers at each pure-bred live-stock sale of any magnitude, and consequently prices run high. While many sales are being held they cannot be taken as an indication that we have an over-supply of pure-bred stock, even in the most thickly-settled districts of the old Province of Ontario. There is a keen demand, and breeders



A Poland China Sow.

ran. In the matter of feeding hogs it was little better. The same was true of a very large percentage of those engaged in the milk business. Here is a method which, though it is not absolutely exact, has proven a fair guide: Keep tab on the oats placed in the feed box for the horses. This is an easy affair when the oats are rolled—as I have found best for the horses. The miller will always let one know the amount rolled. When the oats are fed whole a little measuring will do at the beginning of the season. After that it is simply a matter of marking up on a board or a shingle, convenient to the bin, that may be taken to the house for entry in a book. The general or total cost of feeding a herd will be kept in the same way. The meal can readily be kept tab on. For the roots and silage it is a practical method to weigh, place in a feed box and to note the height of the feed in the box. After this it is but a small thing to estimate quite accurately what is fed in the aggregate. If records are desired of individuals the same

are taking advantage of this to disperse their good stock amongst a number of the smaller breeders, and ultimately do a great good to the stock-breeding industry of the country. One cannot estimate the stimulus a district receives when a member of the community goes out and buys a good sire for use on his own herd and those of his neighbors who see fit to patronize him. Even though he only buys one or two females, the very fact that these are to be seen in his herd encourages his neighbors to get some good stock for their herds. The season of highest prices is not always the best time to buy. A man in search of the best individuals with the blue blood behind them must pay a good figure at any season. Present indications point clearly to the fact that now is a good time to keep the best stock already in the herd, and put forth the most strenuous endeavors to improve that stock by breeding to the best sires available.