

SHEEP AND SWINE.

PIGS FOR PROFIT.

The care of pigs in summer can be made less troublesome and more profitable than is usually the case. Unless confined in restricted quarters, pigs are liable to break out and do mischief. They are not adapted to being kept with other stock, as no animal likes to feed after pigs, and while this dislike is so marked that animals will not eat out of the same vessel from which pigs have been fed, or in which they have "mussed," they may be forced, from hunger, to eat the grass in the pasture where they run, but it is not wise to compel them to do so. For these reasons, farmers generally keep pigs shut up in pens, where they must be supplied with all the food they require. Sometimes this condition is improved upon by allowing them a small range on the ground. This is better than close confinement in the pen, as it makes them more comfortable and healthy, but it does not lessen very much the amount of care they require, as the supply of food is soon exhausted. It is a better plan to have the enclosure so large that the pigs cannot readily consume all the grass and make it bare of any kind of vegetation. When pigs are not rung, to prevent their rooting, they will soon spoil a small enclosure, and also damage a larger one. This injury to the pasture can easily be prevented by inserting in their snouts two or three rings made of malleable wire. Care should be taken to have the ends of the wires straight, so that they will not pull out. Every farm should contain a pasture for pigs, set apart for their exclusive use. It should be large enough to afford them ample space, so that while they are feeding off one portion the grass will grow on the rest of it, to afford continuous feed. The size of the pasture must be regulated by the number of pigs to be kept. An acre is sufficient for three or four hogs, especially if the ground has been seeded with orchard-grass, which starts the quickest and furnishes more feed than most other grasses. The manure from the hogs will increase the growth. The fences should be of a substantial character, so that the pigs will not break out. An unruly hog is the hardest kind of animal to confine, hence the importance of good fences, to prevent them becoming breechy; a board fence, or a stone wall, is the best calculated for this purpose. There is no ground so well adapted for a permanent pig pasture as an orchard, and no grass so well suited to it as orchard-grass, which grows freely in the shade. In no other way can a crop be obtained so well under the apple-trees; the orchard is kept in a vigorous condition with little labour. I am not sure but the pasturing of hogs in an orchard will keep the trees in a more flourishing condition than tillage. The trees will not be bruised and the roots broken off, as when the ground is cultivated. The fine roots can come nearer the surface, and consequently feed on the richer soil than when the ground is ploughed, as they are then torn away and destroyed. Tillage is not necessary for the vigorous growth of trees, nor is it essential for bountiful yields of fruit. But for an abundant fruit harvest, richness of soil is of far more consequence.

Pigs solve the off-year problem the best of any plan I know of, by making the land so rich that a crop of fruit may be had every year. I have a small apple orchard which has not failed in an annual yield for years. During this period it has been used exclusively as a pig pasture. No manure has been put on it other than that made by the pigs. My faith in this remedy for off-years is so strong, that another apple orchard, embracing about five acres, has been prepared for a permanent pig pasture. The pigs will undoubtedly

improve the quality of the fruit by devouring all of the apples which fall prematurely, thus destroying the worms that would injure the apples. There is no mode of treatment which will cause breeding sows to be so healthy and to bear better pigs than when allowed to feed on grass. They are not delirious or ferocious when they have their young, as frequently occurs when confined in a pen. The losses which farmers often suffer on this account would equal the cost of preparing a permanent pig pasture. When pigs are kept confined and fed entirely on grain, their profit is often a doubtful question. But fed on grass their growth can be made so cheaply that there is no question about profit in hog raising. Under the system stated above, pigs are made valuable aids on the farm in producing other beneficial results. —Col. F. D. Curtis, in *American Agriculturist*.

WOOLS OF DIFFERENT BREEDS.

The following table gives the actual clip of wool from twelve to thirteen different breeds, at the shearing in June last, on the Experimental farm belonging to the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester, England:—

Breed of Ewes.	Weight of Fleeces.	Present price of Wool. per lb.	Remarks.
	lbs. oz. s. d.		
Lincoln	13 2 1 0		Long in staple, bright and silky.
Cheviot	8 6 1 0		A small-haired wool, of medium length, soft and rich.
Shropshire	7 5 1 1		Longer in staple and more lustre than other Down wools.
Border Leicester....	6 13 1 0		Not so soft and silky in staple as Lincoln.
Oxford Down	5 10 1 0½		Equal to Shropshire in quality, and heavier.
Leicester	6 6 1 0		Similar to Border Leicester.
Black-faced	4 8 0 9		Coarse and long.
Dorset	5 6 1 0		Longer in staple, and not so fine as the Down.
Hampshire	5 2 1 0		A short-haired wool, very similar to Southdown, but longer in staple, and not so fine.
Herdwick	5 0 0 0		Coarse and long.
Southdown	4 5 1 0½		A short, small-haired wool.
Exmoor	5 0 0 11		A long stapled wool of moderate quality.
Cotswold	8 0 1 0		Rather coarse lustre.

The above figures represent the average of three ewes of each breed. The sheep of each lot were all fairly equal, and the treatment of all the lots during the previous winter or spring had been exactly alike. All the ewes, also, had reared one or more lambs during the summer.

It is only by an experiment of this kind, in which all the different breeds are brought together, treated alike, and dealt with at one and the same time, that we can arrive at fair comparative results. It is more than likely, however, that if the trial had been made in another district, with a soil and climate different from that of the Cotswold hills, there would have been more or less variation in the results.

MORE MUTTON-SHEEP.

The breeding time for sheep is just ahead, and flock-masters should be planning for early lambs, to meet the wants of the market next season. We need more fine-wooled sheep, more long-wools, but especially more mutton-sheep. The manufacturers can get wool to suit their purposes, if they have to import it; but good mutton for the million, if had at all, must be raised within easy reach of the local markets. There is a lamentable dearth of good mutton in the village

and rural markets, as we know from a personal experience of thirty years and more. Lamb is quite plenty in the summer months, at the retail price of twenty to twenty-five cents, and mutton in the fall months at a little less price than good beef, but the rest of the year it is hardly to be had at any price, as if it were a thing out of season, like strawberries in December. We ought to have mutton the year round, so that delicate stomachs that eschew veal in spring and fresh pork in winter, can have a change from beef and poultry to mutton-chop at their convenience. Good dog laws have been passed in some of the States, so that sheep-raising is possible, and the owner gets damages when his flock is worried by the dogs. There is improvement, but it is very slow, and there is great want of information as to the best breeds for mutton, and the best way to improve the flocks of common sheep. The pure Southdown is the mutton-sheep of all other breeds, unquestionably. Then, after this, the various other families of Downs, as the Hampshires, and other English shires, taking the names of the counties in which they are bred. A Southdown ram, running with a flock of Merinos or common sheep, will bring grades giving an excellent quality of lamb and mutton, though not equal in flavour to the purely bred. If these grades are put with a Cotswold ram, we have a sheep much increased in size, with an excellent quality of mutton. This cross gives a carcass from one-quarter to a third larger than the grades, and sometimes one-half. The lambs mature early, and are great favourites with the butcher. We have found no better cross than this in our sheep breeding. It is not necessary now to pay fancy prices for good breeding rams, either of the Southdown or Cotswolds. They are quite widely distributed, and can be had at prices within the reach of any thrifty farmer. To get the best service out of the ram, he should not be left to run loose with the flock, as is the common practice, but should be kept by himself, on generous feed, and led out when the ewes are in heat. Kept under this restraint, he will serve a larger number of ewes, and the offspring will be more vigorous. Mutton-sheep are so easily raised, and the flesh is so wholesome an article of diet, that every owner of a good grazing farm ought to cultivate them for the supply of his table and the local market. The export of mutton carcasses to England has become a large business, and cannot fail to stimulate this industry. Get more Southdown blood into your flock.—*American Agriculturist*.

Hon. Wm. Sims, secretary of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, says of the condition of live stock in that State. "There has been an increase in all kinds of farm animals, and no adverse reports as to their condition have been received. Although diseases are mentioned as being present in some localities, they are not in epidemic form in any part of the State." He gives the number of sheep as having been 806,928 in 1881, and 1,086,662 in 1882, showing an increase of 280,380.

The English flockmaster has settled two points in British experience—first, that mutton is more profitable than wool; and second, that among English mutton consumers there is a decided preference for Down, or black-faced mutton. Tender, juicy flesh, with a fine grain and a rich flavour, ripe and yet carrying plenty of lean meat, is that which suits the English market. A combination of these qualities is found to most perfection in some of the black or gray-faced breeds or their crosses. This preference on the part of buyers is so marked that the butcher is enabled to give at least two cents per pound more for dark-faced mutton than for any of the white-faced and long-wooled sheep.