

petitors follow a system of grading implies that if our wool is to find a market abroad or maintain a proper market at home some discrimination must be exercised in buying.

It is true the local wool dealer is to blame in a large measure for the present state of the wool market, but even if all wools were bought on the basis of quality there would still be ample room for improvement. Many of the large wool-producing countries have not our Canadian winter to contend with. Their sheep graze in the open during the entire year and wool free of chaff or vegetable matter in any form is produced. Our winters necessitate housing and winter feeding, which, where carried on under improper methods, are responsible for lowering the quality of Canadian wool. The crux of the matter in a great many cases lies in the feeding rack. A feeding rack properly constructed for feeding will insure almost absolute cleanliness for the fleece. The best type of rack for either inside or outside feeding is hoarded down in front to within 12 inches of the bottom. This prevents chaff or straw falling on the necks from above. The slats are placed three or four inches apart so that the hay is pulled through from below, and the sheep is not allowed to put its head through between the slats. This ensures against the sheep rubbing their necks as well as excluding dirt. For inside feeding the top of the rack should be closed and provision made for feeding from the alley. When sheep are fed in the yard, they should be removed while the rack is being filled. Cleanli-

ness in feeding, combined with cool, airy buildings, ensures wool of the best quality.

The preparation of good wool for market must not be overlooked. It is a common practice to wash the sheep before shearing, but this has no intrinsic value, as in any case, although a higher price is paid for washed wool, yet the shrinkage in weight will partly offset this, and considerable labor is involved. Shearing is often delayed by washing until the warm weather causes discomfort and injury. The practice of tub washing is especially injurious as the fleece is broken up and it is impossible to make a proper sort in the mill. Tub-washed wools can only be used for the manufacture of the coarser garments, hence command a lower price in the larger factories. Where the wool is spun at home or used for yarn tub washing may be practiced, but it is questionable if the labor involved will justify the practice. Any portion of the wool containing manure should be removed from the fleece. Paint is decidedly injurious in wool and the custom of marking with paint is objectionable.

A fleece should never be tied with twine or any cord that will mix with the wool as it is impossible to separate the vegetable fibres in the manufacture and they will not carbonize out. A fleece that is properly rolled may be tied securely by twisting one of the ends into a band and turning under. Large sacks manufactured for shipping wool may be used in transportation.

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Garbage Spreads Hog Cholera.

Outbreaks of hog cholera have occurred recently in Middlesex Co., Ont. The disease was found on three different farms and upon investigation by the officers it was discovered that in each and every case the hog owners had been feeding city garbage to the pigs. This means of spreading the disease has been blamed for much of the prevalence of the scourge in the United States. Up to a short time ago, the Government reimbursed owners of hogs which were ordered destroyed if these hogs were fed on the ordinary farm feed or upon garbage which had been thoroughly cooked. A new order has been recently issued that no payment will be made in future for hogs fed on city garbage, whether it be cooked or not, so that owners feeding this material run considerable risk. It is often the case in large institutions where garbage is made, such as hospitals, hotels, restaurants, etc., that the rind and some of the fat adhering thereto are discarded before the meat is cooked and the refuse is thrown into the garbage can. It is believed that if this meat contains the germs of the disease, as is quite possible where the hogs come from a cholera-infected district, these germs remain virile and are likely to produce the disease in hogs which are fed on this material. If the owner sees fit to use the garbage and take the risk of loss he should, under all circumstances, have it thoroughly cooked before offering it to the pigs.

Results of Steer Feeding at Weldwood.

Is there any money in feeding steers? This is a question which many feeders and would-be feeders debate without ceasing. At present prices we are sure that there is a little in fattening cattle for the man who feeds good stock and feeds it well. By well we mean a good ration economically compounded and judiciously distributed throughout the feeding period. There is very little in trying to finish common or poor cattle, and a man's time and feed are too valuable to waste on them. A careful study of the following account of steer-feeding operations at Weldwood this winter reveals some points which are worth noting, among which are: Good cattle are the only profitable class for the feeder. A fair estimate of the feeding propensities of an animal may be made from his make-up, type and conformation, but sometimes a likely-looking individual has a poor appetite and a steer without an appetite is a steer which makes little profit. After an animal is very well finished it is not generally profitable, if the market is at all good, to feed him on, as he will eat almost as much and make comparatively small gains. It pays to finish well, however, as highly-finished cattle command a premium on the market. In short the right kind of cattle, the right kind of feed and plenty of it, and the right degree of finish will place the returns on the right side of the ledger.

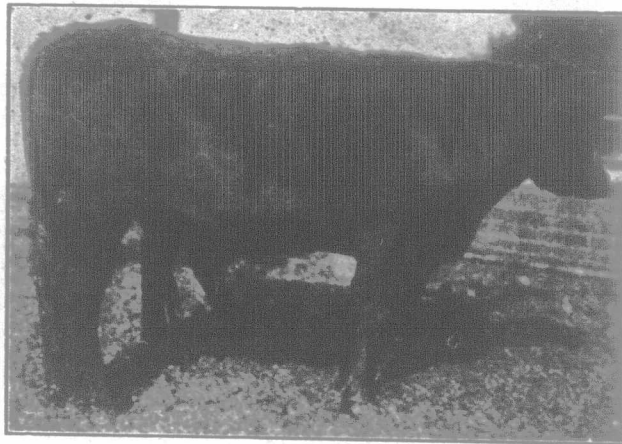
WEIGHTS AND GAINS.

On May 22nd, 1913, five steers, three of them being Angus grades, and two Shorthorn grades, were purchased for Weldwood farm and placed on pasture. The price paid for these five cattle was \$42 per head, or \$210. They pastured on a rough, hilly, permanent pasture for six months, at the conclusion of which they were stabled, three in a loose box stall and two tied, and finishing was commenced.

On November 17th, a week after being placed in the stalls, these steers were weighed, it being the intention to carefully calculate gains and cost of feeding for the entire period. At the first weighing these steers totalled 4,950 pounds. On March 3rd they were delivered to the butcher and weighed off the farm scales, totalling 6,127 lbs., being a gain of 1,177 lbs. during the feeding period of three and one-half months. It must be remembered, however, that the cattle were weighed comparatively empty upon the day of sale, not being fed on that day. This means a gain of 235 2-5 lbs. per steer, or just a little over an average of 2.2 lbs. each per day, which is a very good gain for steers of this weight.

Some very good points, indeed, were brought out by the monthly weighing of the steers, and by keeping strict tab on feed and gains of the different individuals. Of the blacks the heaviest steer in the first weighing weighed 1,060 lbs. On December 18th, one month and one day after this steer, weighed at the same time in the day, tipped the scale at 1,200 lbs., just 140 lbs. more than at the first weighing, which is almost a phenomenal gain. The second best black weighed 1,030 lbs. on November 17th and on December 18th weighed 1,120 lbs., being a gain of 90 lbs., almost three lbs. per day. The lightest and poorest type of the Angus grades weighed 1,010 lbs. at the first weighing and 1,085 lbs. second weighing, a gain of 75 lbs. or about 2 1/2 pounds per day. The two Shorthorns were lighter steers, one weighed 930 lbs. at first and the

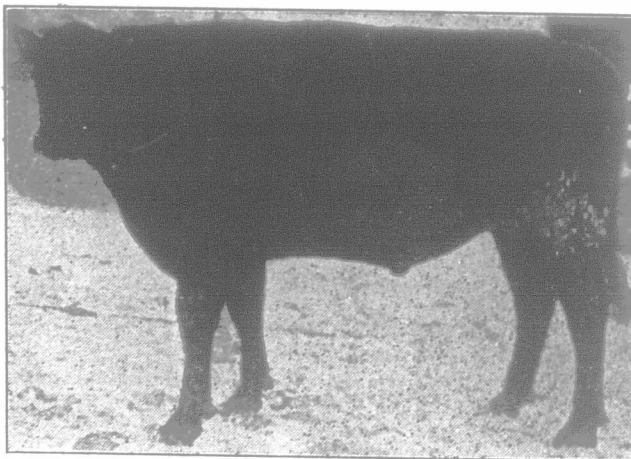
other 920 lbs. There was a very marked difference in the gains of these two steers, which brought out the point very clearly that it is rather a difficult matter to estimate by the look of a steer just how well he will feed. Different judges picked the lighter steer to be just as typey and perhaps a little better steer than his mate, but the scales told a different story. The heavier steer on second weighing balanced 1,055 lbs. or



The Heaviest Steer at the Beginning of Feeding.

a gain of 125 lbs., while the lighter one of the two only gained 35 lbs. This latter steer could not be induced to eat as much feed as he should have taken, and as both fed out of the same manger it is quite possible that the other steer, being a hardy fellow, helped himself to part of the poor feeder's rations.

We did not lay a great deal of importance upon the gains shown by the second weighing, as it is often the case when cattle are brought in late in the fall that they fill up rapidly on feed



The Heaviest Steer Finished.

and it is quite possible that the gains showed a little high, but the third weighing, made on January 17th, showed that the steers were doing well. The heaviest steer in the lot weighed 1,275 lbs. at this weighing, making a gain during the second month of 75 lbs. The second best steer, however, gained on his mate and was heavier by 90 lbs. than at the previous weighing, making a gain of 3 lbs. daily. The lightest steer

of the three Angus also did well, gaining 70 lbs. Of the two reds the heavier one more than maintained his lead on his mate. He just gained 75 lbs and tipped the scales at 1,130, while the poorer one only gained 65 pounds, which was better than during the first month.

A fourth weighing was made February 17th after the steers had been in the stalls three months. The second heaviest steer of the blacks very nearly caught up to the best of the lot, their respective weights being 1,310 and 1,290 lbs., the best steer gaining only 35 lbs. while the second heaviest gained 80 lbs. The lightest steer of the three also made good gains, this month at 75 lbs. The heavier of the two reds weighed 1,200 lbs., a gain of 70 over the last previous weighing, while the poorer individual only gained 20 lbs., weighing 1,040. This latter steer was a poor feeder throughout, and kept the average of the others down considerably. He was a good, straight, sappy-looking steer, which one would have taken to have been capable of making 2 1/2 to 3 lbs. gain daily.

A few days after this weighing the cattle were sold to a local London butcher at eight cents per pound to be weighed off the farm scales, it being stipulated that they should not be fed the morning of delivery. The last and final weighing was made March 3rd, the day the steers left the farm. The heaviest steer then weighed 1,335 lbs., gaining in the 14 remaining days from the previous weighing only 25 lbs. The next best steer weighed 1,297 lbs., just 7 lbs. more than the previous weighing, while the lightest steer was 15 lbs. lighter, weighing only 1,215. Of the two reds the heavier was 10 lbs. lighter, weighing 1,190; while the light steer, which had made such poor gains all through the feeding period, gained in those 14 days just 50 lbs., and tipped the scale at 1,090 lbs.

These figures are interesting from many viewpoints. The heaviest steer in the lot was recognized by those who saw him at the commencement of feeding period, as possibly the best proposition from a feeder's standpoint. Early in the feeding period he made the highest gains, but a higher degree of finish was reached on him than upon some of the others, and when nearing the finish the gains were much smaller and made at greater expense. The poor-feeding Shorthorn steer began to eat during the last two weeks he was fed, and consequently made first-class gains of over three lbs. per day during that time. As shown in the illustration, all these steers were of very good type, fairly low set, deep, thick fellows, with indications of good feeding qualities, however, none of them were of the extra top-notch class, they were just good farmer's cattle.

COST OF FEEDING.

To show that there is a little money to be made by feeding the right class of animal account was kept of the feed which these cattle consumed. It was not all weighed out each day as fed, but a feed now and then was put on the scales and the whole averaged up, which brings us very, very close to the actual amount the animals got. One dollar per head per month was charged against the cattle for pasturing for the six months which they remained on grass. This made \$30. The five steers during the first month of the feeding period received 2 quarts of oat and barley chop twice per day, and about 1 1/2