

Smithfield Show Facts.

WEIGHTS AND DAILY GAINS.

This the greatest and most important of the English fat-stock shows was held from the 9th to the 13th of last month. Its entries numbered as follows: Cattle, 273; sheep, 157; pens of pigs, 96; and for the carcass competitions, 24 head of cattle and 46 head of sheep.

The championship honors of the show in the cattle department, alive, was secured by Brunhilde, an Aberdeen-Angus heifer, property of the Earl of Strathmore, weighing 1,832 lbs. at two years and nine months. The champion honors for best animal under two years was secured by a grand young white Shorthorn steer weighing 1,478 lbs. at one year and eight months (and showing an average daily gain of 2.38 lbs.), the property of H. M. the King.

The Long-wool champion prize in the sheep section was secured by a pen of Cheviots, property of Mr. J. McDowall, and that for the Short-wools by one of the grandest pens of Southdown yearling wethers seen for many years at this show, from Col. McCalmont's flock.

In the carcass competition premier honors and champion in the cattle section was secured by an exhibit of H. M. the King's, a grand heifer of the Aberdeen-Angus breed, weighing, fasted, 1,848 lbs. at two years and eight months, dressing 889 lbs., or 65.94 per cent., and showing a daily gain from birth of 1.44 lbs. The carcass afterwards sold for the English record price of 16 shillings per eight pounds, net weight.

The Suffolk breed came out into clear prominence in the carcass sheep competitions, the champion prize going to the carcass of a wether by a Suffolk ram, out of a Black-faced mountain ewe.

The cattle section was a fair average of former years, the Shorthorns, the Devons and Herefords being hardly so good as in some previous years, whilst, on the other hand, the Sussex cattle have not been so good for many years.

We give the number of entries present in each class named, the average daily gain of the whole class, and the highest and lowest daily gain in the same:

CATTLE.

Herefords.—Steers under two years—Average, 2 lbs. 0.55 oz.; highest, 2 lbs. 1.76 oz.; lowest, 1 lb. 13.49 oz.; number present, seven. Steers over two and under three years—1 lb. 12.90 oz.; highest, 1 lb. 15.27 oz.; lowest, 1 lb. 11.30 oz.; number present, five. Heifers under three years—Average, 1 lb. 7.73 oz.; highest, 1 lb. 10.23 oz.; lowest, 1 lb. 4.97 oz.; number present, three.

Shorthorns.—Steers under two years—Average, 2 lbs. 2.61 oz.; highest, 2 lbs. 10.25 oz.; lowest, 1 lb. 14.24 oz.; number present, nine. Steers over two and under three years—Average, 1 lb. 13.51 oz.; highest, 1 lb. 15.31 oz.; lowest, 1 lb. 11.08 oz.; number present, six. Heifers under three years—1 lb. 15.96 oz.; highest, 2 lbs. 3.48 oz.; lowest, 1 lb. 9.00 oz.; number present, eight.

Aberdeen-Angus.—Steers under two years—Average, 2 lbs. 9.23 oz.; highest, 2 lbs. 5.22 oz.; lowest, 1 lb. 11.92 oz.; number present, nine. Steers over two and under three years—Average, 1 lb. 14.32 oz.; highest, 1 lb. 14.36 oz.; lowest, 1 lb. 14.27 oz.; number present, two. Heifers not exceeding three years—Average, 1 lb. 10.25 oz.; highest, 1 lb. 12.72 oz.; lowest, 1 lb. 6.00 oz.

Galloways.—Steers under two years—Average, 1 lb. 15.18 oz.; highest, 2 lbs. 3.25 oz.; lowest, 1 lb. 13.67 oz.; number present, five. Steers over two and under three years—Average, 1 lb. 9.47 oz.; highest, 1 lb. 12.43 oz.; lowest, 1 lb. 6.61 oz.; number present, eight. Heifers not exceeding three years—Average, 1 lb. 5.84 oz.; highest, 1 lb. 7.97 oz.; lowest, 1 lb. 4.71 oz.; number present, three.

Cross-bred.—Steers under two years—Average, 2 lbs. 3.38 oz.; highest, 2 lbs. 7.40 oz.; lowest, 1 lb. 14.26 oz.; number present, twelve. Steers over two and under three years—Average, 1 lb. 13.91 oz.; highest, 2 lbs. 1.81 oz.; lowest, 1 lb. 6.14 oz.; number present, twelve. Heifers under two years—Average, 1 lb. 15.10 oz.; highest, 2 lbs. 1.92 oz.; lowest, 1 lb. 12.79 oz.; number present, nine. Heifers over two and under three years—Average, 1 lb. 10.72 oz.; highest, 1 lb. 13.61 oz.; lowest, 1 lb. 5.17 oz.

SHEEP.

This department was throughout a good one, Mr. J. Pears' remarkable pens of Lincoln wether lambs and Col. McCalmont's pen of Southdown yearling wethers standing out above any other pens in the show. Each breed had two classes, one for three wether lambs and the other for three yearling wethers. We give the number of entries in each class, and the average daily gain of the same for each of the breeds named; also average weight in pounds of the first-prize pen of three lambs and yearlings:

Leicesters and Border Leicesters.—Lambs—Average, 9.75 oz.; number present, four; weight, 164. Wethers—Average, 6.79 oz.; number present, five; weight, 271 lbs.

Cotswolds.—Lambs—10.08 oz.; number present,

ent, two; weight, 185 lbs. There were no yearlings entered.

Lincolns.—Lambs—11.81 oz.; three pens; weight, 236 lbs. Wethers—8.55 oz.; four pens; weight, 345 lbs.

Southdowns.—Lambs—8.09 oz.; seventeen pens; weight, 178 lbs. Wethers—4.84 oz.; ten pens; weight, 235 lbs.

Hampshire Downs.—Lambs—10.48 oz.; nine pens; weight, 226 lbs. Wethers—6.72 oz.; ten pens; weight, 308 lbs.

Suffolks.—Lambs—10.91 oz.; nine pens; weight, 218 lbs. Wethers—7.45 oz.; five pens; weight, 316 lbs.

Shropshires.—Lambs—9.24 oz.; five pens; weight, 165 lbs. Wethers, 6.26 oz.; four pens; weight, 267 lbs.

Oxford Downs.—Lambs—10.35 oz.; four pens; weight, 193 lbs. Wethers—6.31 oz.; two pens; weight, 283 lbs.

Dorset or any other pure Short-wooled.—Lambs—9.10 oz.; two pens; weight, 203 lbs. Wethers—5.89 oz.; three pens; weight, 278 lbs.

English Cross-breeds.—Lambs—10.56 oz.; eight pens; weight, 240 lbs. Wethers—7.34 oz.; five pens; weight, 308 lbs. Oxford-Hampshire cross in both classes.

SWINE.

The entry of swine was a small one in number, but good in quality, and is noticeable as being the first one at which the live weights were collected at this show. The following is the average daily gain of each class named, the number of entries present, the age in days and weight in pounds of first-prize pens:

Large Whites.—Two pigs under nine months—1 lb. 5.02 oz.; age, 267 days; weight, 332 lbs.; two pens. Above nine and under twelve months—1 lb. 8.17 oz.; four pens; age, 358 days; weight, 455 lbs.

Berkshires.—Two pigs under nine months—1 lb. 3.14 oz.; age, 270 days; weight, 336 lbs.; ten pens. Above nine and under twelve months—1 lb. 4.01 oz.; eight pens; age, 358 days; weight, 486 lbs.

Tamworth.—Two pigs under nine months—1 lb. 3.37 oz.; four pens; age, 247 days; weight, 364 lbs. Above nine and under twelve months—1 lb. 3.41 oz.; four pens; age, 247 days; weight, 499 lbs.

Single pigs, any white breed, under twelve months—Average of class, 1 lb. 4.29 oz.; eight pens; age, 358 days; weight, 503 lbs.—A. Hiscox, Yorkshire. Any black breed—Average, 1 lb. 0.62 oz.; two pens; age, 359 days; weight, 370 lbs. Berkshires, under 12 months—Average, 1 lb. 3.25 oz.; age, 318 days; weight, 442 lbs.—N. Benjamin. Tamworth—Average, 1 lb. 4.92 oz.; five pens; age, 357 days; weight, 478 lbs.—R. Ibbotson.

Canada Wools.

What is the remedy for the continued low price of wools and the indifferent demand for them by the merchants and wool dealers. Since my previous letter the price for Canada combing in the States has dropped 1½c. The continued depression of our worsted factories has kept them out of the purchasing market, so that the demand to-day is for "Down" wools, and it may surprise the wool-growers to know that the demand is very much in excess of the supply. The result is that foreign cross-bred and English Down wools are being imported in considerable quantities.

The sooner our farmers know that coarse wools are not wanted, the better. There is little enquiry for this type of wool from any source. They are only fitted for carpet warp, and for that there is limited demand. For blankets the trade requires a softer wool to give the fabric a big, bulky feel. These long, coarse wools make a heavy, cold blanket. As a proof of this, the manufacturers endeavor to secure the softer wools of Central Canada, Quebec and the Lower Provinces, in preference to our Ontario wools.

Now, what is the use of sheep-raisers persisting in retaining breeds of sheep the wools of which are not wanted? Would it not be better to try a change? There is an unlimited demand at present, and it looks as if the demand will continue for "clothing" wools. Why not get the large-bodied Down sheep? The wool is more valuable. To-day clothing wool commands from 3c. to 4c. per pound more than combining wools. A bright, silvery Leicester with a fine staple is always marketable, but the coarse, dull Leicester is no more wanted than is the straight-haired Lincoln—a wool without a redeeming feature for the Canadian market. The same remarks also apply to the coarse, kinky Cotswold.

It is not my desire to advocate any particular breed of sheep, but it is said in reference to the Dorset Horns that they are "dog-proof," and this is an important consideration; while the sheep is well bodied and hardy. The wool yield compares favorably with the Downs and its nature is not "brashy" and tender. In the British market to-day the Dorset lamb wool is 2c. to 3c. above any other home-grown wool. The beauty of

this wool consists in its glistening, silvery nature, being peculiarly adapted for the better grades of underwear.

Another satisfactory breed is the "Cheviot." Thousands of pounds of this wool is being imported to fill the demand for a soft Canada "extra" pulled which cannot be obtained. Where is the sense in sheep-raisers persisting in maintaining coarse, carpet-wool sheep when every wool dealer in the country could tell them that these wools mixed among other and better wools in the local buyers' hands degrades the pile. Again, these coarse-wooled sheep are more apt to have cotted fleeces than are the Down sheep. It is a safe assertion to make, that every pound of wool now held by our merchants and wool dealers would have been marketed ere this, at good figures, had those wools been clothing instead of combing, while the importation of substitutes would naturally be that much less.

Consider this carefully, and in the next letter it may be possible to suggest some better method of marketing the wool and some suggestions about conditioning and grading the wool so that the grower can get the full value, which he at present is not getting.

"PITREAVIE."

The Bacon Pig of the Future.

FROM THE COMMERCIAL POINT OF VIEW.

Mr. John M. Harris, Calne, Wiltshire, says: Speaking as a bacon-curer who personally sees weekly, both alive and dead, some thousands of pigs from nearly all the West of England counties, I am sure it is most important to breeders, feeders and curers that pigs be well bred, and by this I do not mean the pigs one often sees at the agricultural shows, winning prizes, which are masses of fat, with heavy shoulders, necks and jowls.

The most profitable style of hog to produce, both for the consumer and for the producer, is one with a light jowl, small head, narrow and light shoulders, long and deep in the sides, thick flank, square hind quarters, tail well set up, fine hair, and made to weigh from 140 lbs. to 160 lbs. before it is seven months old, or 4 scores at five months old, if required for pork.

The pig is the only animal for which the feeder gets paid for the whole of the carcass, as the head, feet and skin are weighed; whereas, in the bullock and sheep, these parts are not weighed; this is an advantage of nearly 20 per cent. in favor of the pig.

A farmer can feed his pigs entirely on the produce of his farm without going to the expense of any artificial and costly foods; tail wheat, barley, oats, peas, beans, potatoes, of which top price cannot be made, can, by being ground into meal, be turned to good profit, especially if mixed with separated milk, whey or buttermilk, which is otherwise of little value; and it is a strange fact, though nevertheless a true one, that pork is the only meat of the same or greater value than it was twenty or thirty years ago. The influence of food upon the quality of meat produced by different foods is most striking; pigs fed on maize, rice, linseed, kitchen refuse from hotels, workhouses and other large establishments, also butchers' offals, making a very soft, bad-quality meat, whilst barley, wheat, beans, peas, with skim milk, whey or buttermilk, will make the very best quality. On the proper feeding and management, then, depends whether pig-keeping pays or not. The frequent complaints heard of pig-keeping not paying are attributable to this, for while one farmer never keeps a pig, "because it does not pay," his neighbor fatts some hundreds in the course of a year, to the considerable advantage both of his farm and his pocket.

The value of manure from fattening pigs is considerable; I have, with many practical men, seen the difference in the crops and produce of a farm where pigs have for some years been fed and those of other farms where the milk has all been sold.

The great opponent of the British dairy farmer, viz., the Dane, when in 1887 he was prohibited from sending his live pigs to Germany, as he had done for years, started bacon-curing factories, and since then, by improving his breed of pig, he has, to a large extent, captured the English bacon trade, besides enriching himself and his country. The Canadian bacon now coming in such enormous quantities to England is, and will be, a keen competitor with Denmark, as the Canadian and Danish farmers are intelligent enough to learn what is required and then to produce it!

The English and Irish farmers have, in many cases, kept to the same breed as their father and grandfather before them, doubtless thinking that what was good enough for them will do now, with the result that through breeding in and in, and from all shapes and forms, the English and Irish pig has become the thin-bellied, heavy-shouldered wretch, alike unprofitable to the breeder, the curer, and the merchant.