

### Stallion's Boxes.

Boxes suitable for Stallions, though requiring but little novelty of arrangement, should receive some attention, regarding the design of the elevation, in order to render the building a more prominent and pleasing feature in view of the Stud Farm. Each box should have a separate yard, in order to allow the horse to exercise himself at times. The walls and gates of the yard should be at least ten feet in height, and the materials of the box strong, well seasoned and substantial, to avoid constant repairs. The boxes must be well ventilated, that the atmosphere may be even, pure and mild, sufficient to prevent the walls being tainted by the slightest closeness or damp. They should be lined inside with elm boarding, (or a proper substitute), about five feet high. No racks should be used, but the corn, hay, and water should be given side by side. The corn and water in separate iron mangers, or troughs, and the hay in a boarded well between them. The small doors communicating with the fodder house should be protected inside by strong half-doors of the above material. The large doors opening into the yard should be made to slide into the wall, as otherwise the horse, when left alone, and at liberty, is apt to play with or to gnaw them. All the fastening should be of the strongest description, and in every instance where it is possible, worked flush inside.

Fourteen feet square is a good size for a stallion's box, and twenty-five feet by twenty a good dimension for the yards. The yard doors of the boxes should be provided with side-rollers, to prevent any accident, or "hopping" in galloping in or out suddenly. Each yard should be provided with a water-manger, fixed in the corner, made of cast iron, with a hole in the bottom, stopped with an ordinary wooden plug. The boxes should be paved with brick, laid on edge in sand, upon a concrete foundation, formed of five parts of coarse gravel to one of unslacked lime, having a fall from each corner to a center perforated drain stone. The drains should be carried to a cess-pool outside, as far removed as possible from the building. Everything—windows, doors, locks and fastenings, should be made flush inside—and all protected as far as possible from the gnawing propensities. Let all be perfect and appropriate, and remember, "that whatever is at all worth doing, is worth doing well."

**BREAKING OXEN.**—The editor of the *Massachusetts Farmer* recommends the following method of breaking oxen: When you first put a yoke on your two-year old steers, coax them with an apple or an ear of soft corn, (soft corn is allowable in this case). Then they will hold up their heads and be glad to follow you. No whip will be needed at the first yoking. Let the yoke and the soft corn be associated in their minds, and they will never be shy of the yoke; but if you make use of force alone they will hold down their heads to keep them from the blows. After you have taught them to follow you around in the yoke, and that it will not injure them to carry it, you can hitch them on before the older oxen and make them take the lead. The driver should go beside them occasionally, with a switch, stick or a light and short whip, but he will not have any need to beat them, except in extreme cases.

**DEVON CATTLE.**—The *Valley Farmer* for January has the following paragraph respecting Devon Cattle. The demand for this breed of cattle is considerably on the increase. We have frequent inquiries from our subscribers, where pure bred Devons can be obtained, and whether we can recommend the breed. Some of the best cows for milk that we are acquainted with, are of this breed. This breed can be recommended for their milking qualities. It is a breed that is easily kept. The Devons will thrive well where some of our breeds will grow poor. It is an exceedingly hardy breed—the hardiest that is known. Attended to as many of our Western farmers, attend to their stock, they surpass any other breed—we mean, by giving them no shelter during winter but the lee side of the fence, and expose them to storms of rain and snow, with little or no food except such as they gather by browsing in the forest. But we don't wish to be understood as recommending such treatment, even for the hardy Devon. They make remarkably excellent working cattle, on account of their active gait and excellent bottom, enduring more work and greater heat, without fatigue than any other breed with which we are acquainted.

**A BIG THING ON FEET!**—The week before Christmas some of our city readers were surprised by seeing a splendid specimen of an enormous ox led around the streets, decorated with ribbons. A few of them no doubt fancied it to be a sort of bovine "Turvey-

drop" giving a lesson in "deportment," as it walked so soberly; but although San Francisco is a very go-ahead gentleman, he paused in his money-making for the fraction of a second to look at it, and to make eulogistic remarks about it—a compliment which he does not pay to every big thing on feet, stalk it never so majestically. Well, it proved to be an ox of the pure Durham "persuasion," raised in Canada West, imported by Mr. Emerson, fattened by Mr. Henry Miller, in Santa Clara County, and purchased and slaughtered by Messrs. Weller & Fisher, 12 Washington Market. His oxship weighed 2,480 pounds, and was cut up and sold for Christmas dinners, and as we were the recipients of a nice roasting piece, we can bear testimony to its being "first chop."—*California Wine, Wood and Stock Journal*.

**FEEDING WORKING CATTLE IN SPRING.**—Jonathan, in a back number of the *American Agriculturist*, thus discourages on feeding cattle in spring, and it appears to us that his remarks thereon are quite reasonable and natural. "I have a way of feeding cattle when they first begin to work in the spring, which seems to agree with them, and so of course, it suits me. They need grain when they are put to hard work, as much as a farmer needs pork or beef, and if they don't get it, then you don't get the work they might do if they were treated reasonably. But I find my cattle appear to feel a good deal as I do when warm weather comes on. Meat and hearty food don't seem to relish without something green along with it. Pork and potatoes will do as a 'stand-by,' but I'm always in a great hurry for spinnage or some garden 'saw' to help along with, and if I can't get it, my food makes me dumpy and stupid. I think it is a great deal so with the cattle. They'll eat the corn or meal, but I don't seem to be exactly the thing for warm weather, and I've noticed that after eating plenty of it, they acted in the afternoon just as I felt when I had nothing but hearty food for dinner. So I have, for some years past, given them a good mess of potatoes, cut up small, to eat with their meal. They appear to relish it well, and I think it keeps their blood cool, and makes them more cheerful and active before the plough."

**PIG PROTECTORS.**—The baby pigs will be along soon, and the careful swineherd will have his hospital pens in order for their accommodation. A maternal swine is generally a very affectionate animal, and takes just as good care of her children as she knows how; but with a large family on her hands—or somewhere else—she is liable to make mistakes, and if a baby pig should get into the straw on the side of its mother, opposite to where it gets its dinner, a little upward roll of her dinner side, to accommodate the hungry family, would bring the other side down upon the luckless pig and straightway make a flat of him. To guard against such mishaps, various little arrangements of the pig nursery have been resorted to. One good way is to fix a shelf along the side of the pen some eight or ten inches from the floor, so that any little pig which chances to get on the back side of its mother, could take refuge under this shelf, and avoid being rolled out flat while the mother was asleep. We have seen another contrivance for the same purpose, being a triangular shelf across the corners of the pen, as it is in the corners of the nest that pigs are most likely to be overlaid, where there is no chance of retreat. Whatever is to be done in preparing for the safety of the pigs, should be done some time before the sow is put up for the occasion, so she may become entirely accustomed to all the arrangements, and not be irritated by hammerings and strange noises, when she requires to be perfectly quiet.—*Ohio Farmer*.

**FEEDING SWINE.**—Different experiments have been made in fattening hogs, but the one most deserving notice was in the State of Maryland. The Agricultural Society of that State instituted an inquiry into the relative merits of two modes of feeding, and the following is one of the results: On the first day of December, four shoats of the same breed nearly of a size, and as much alike in every respect as could be selected from a herd, were made choice of, each being carefully weighed, and placed in a single sty where their food could be exactly regulated. Two of them weighed together one hundred and eighty-five pounds. These were fed on one gallon each of shelled Indian corn, the gallon weighing seven pounds. This was the allowance for twenty-four hours, and as much water as they needed. The other two were fed on half as much by weight, of Indian meal made into hasty pudding, with a little salt. The seven pounds of meal when cooked weighed thirty pounds, and measured three gallons. Before the experiment had progressed a fortnight, it was perceived that the two fed on hasty pudding were outstripping the two fed on whole corn, and on the thirty-fourth day they were again weighed, the corn-fed ones together weighing twenty-five pounds more than they did on the first of December; while the two fed on mush—half the quantity—had gained forty-four pounds.

### Sheep Husbandry

#### Breeding and Rearing of Sheep.

The *Mark Lane Express*, of Jan. 11, devotes a large amount of space to the report of a discussion on the above subject, which took place at Watton, under the auspices of the Wayland Agricultural Association. The discussion was opened by an able and interesting address from Mr. Woods, out of which we cull a few extracts on various points connected with sheep husbandry:—

#### SELECTION OF EWES FOR BREEDING.

There is not sufficient attention paid by those gentlemen who breed your flock ewes; they pay little attention to the shape and make of the animals they breed, or to the quality of their wool, because many persons, I am sorry to say, make a point of getting a sheep because it is a cheap one. I think that is very poor economy, because I hold that sheep to be the cheapest which will produce you the lamb that shall pay you the most money, whether you sell it, or whether you graze it. Now, I hold that the production of a better class of flock sheep depends very much upon the farmers themselves. If they were to say, "We will have none of your bare-poll ewes, with little or no wool on the belly and neck, and no wool under their tails; but we will have those that possess wool, and of a quality of flesh which shall produce us good mutton; if not, we will not have them at all," breeders would produce them because they would know that they could not sell bad ones.

#### POINTS OF A GOOD RAM.

He ought to possess merits peculiar to himself. Let us say, he ought to have a good masculine countenance, he ought to have his neck neither too long nor too short, and placed upon his body as though it formed part and parcel of him. His breast ought to be well thrown out in front, and wide and expansive between his fore legs. There is one thing which is being lost sight of in many pure breeds of sheep,—that is, the important point of the shoulders; because I hold that all male animals ought to be so constructed as to have the right power of locomotion. Now, what I do say of many of the pure breeds of sheep, and alas! of many others, is that the shoulders are placed upon their bodies as though they were pieces of waxwork—as if the body had been made first, and the shoulders had been a second thought, and had been stuck on after the body had got cold. Well, if we could get their shoulders right, I should like to have wide and expanded loins. I should like his tail well placed upon his rump, and well surrounded with mutton; his backbone should be straight, but better a little arched than the other way. I should like to see what I call "legs of mutton," deep, full, and weighty. Then I do not want to see them too long upon the legs, because if they are too long upon the legs they cannot travel. Another great and important point is to see that the wool is of the right character, and plenty of it, and that you get a skin not blue, but of that nice cherry hue that every farmer acquainted with breeding knows must propagate good stock, and stock which will graze.

#### HOW TO HAVE PLENTY OF LAMBS.

My experience tells me that if we want to produce plenty of lambs, and if we desire the single ones to come strong and healthy, it is very much within our own control. Flush your ewes two or three weeks before the rams go to them, and continue that for two or three weeks afterwards: I will answer for the result. Now I will give you my own experience last year. We were rather deficient in early turnips. I tapped some upon layers, some upon the park, and gave them a certain quantity of cake, and one lot upon turnips and no cake at all. We had 25 per cent. more twins from those on turnips than from those on the new layer, or with cake besides.

#### LAMBDING.

Through the over anxiety of our shepherds, many ewes and lambs perish. Generally, unless the man is experienced and well up to his work, he causes the deaths of many lambs and ewes by injudicious haste. There can be no question whatever that nature is the grandest nurse and the surest doctor, therefore my opinion is that you should let nature do its own work. When the ewes are lambing, do not be in too much haste. Watch them; but give them time, and they will right themselves; and never have recourse to the use of the hand until you see that the ewe has given up using her own efforts, and she appears exhausted.