

there is no good reason why a farmer may not have a herd of pure-bred hogs if he wish. Let him purchase a sow in pig now, and by the autumn of 1884 he may have as many young brood sows as most farmers care for. In five years the progeny of one sow may become a good-sized flock.

With larger animals the rate of increase is slower; but from a cow in calf, purchased this spring, there may readily grow a herd of twenty females, old and young, in ten years. A good brood mare, in like time, may be the ancestor of at least all the horse stock needed on the average-sized farm.

This is not "mere theory." There are now large herds of fine stock entirely descended from one, two, or three cows purchased not many years ago. Probably many readers will recall cases where a brood mare belonging to a neighbouring farmer "has made him as much money as all the rest of his farming," to quote a saying we have frequently heard.

To a young man ten or fifteen years seems a long time, and many of them neglect efforts to improve their stock because the process seems a slow one. We are labouring to hasten the time when "improved stock" shall be "common." The number of farmers who see that it pays them to use nothing but well-bred males is rapidly increasing. A large percentage of this number can well afford, and would find it to their profit, to also purchase at least a few well-bred females. —*Breeders' Gazette.*

SUGGESTIVE TO BREEDERS.

In this country the very general habit among farmers has been to so manage as to have cows drop their calves, mares their foals, and sows and sheep their young in the springtime, after the warm and bright days have brought forth the fresh and juicy grass to feed the dam, and later to tempt the young things to eat. This plan may be the best, in fact the only plan which the farmers in new districts can profitably follow. The difficulty those living in such place or condition that they cannot afford proper housing for their animals have to meet is so great that they cannot reasonably hope to profitably raise young animals born in winter.

But there are some reasons for managing so that the domestic animals may drop their young in the cold weather of autumn, winter, or early spring. If they are born in autumn their dams have the benefit of grass, free exercise, and water in the pasture; the young animal has the benefit of a free supply of milk and is tempted to eat of the grass which may still be green and succulent, and neither are annoyed by flies. With comfortable stables in which to spend the cold days and nights of winter, the young animal, supported by the milk of its dam or fed carefully and liberally, will have a ready appetite and will grow continually. When fresh grass shall come the next spring it will be ready to eat heartily and grow rapidly, until when it shall have reached its twelfth month it will not infrequently be in every way equal to the animal of like breeding born three to five months earlier.

Animals born in mid-winter and housed comfortably may be so fed and cared for that as soon as the grass becomes advanced enough in the spring to warrant turning the stock upon it they will be ready and able to take full advantage of the new food, yet be old enough to be in a measure independent of the natural supply of food from its dam and in some degree insensible to the attacks of flies.

Born with the coming of grass in the spring the young animals have to meet at a very tender age the chilling air of spring nights, the attacks of

myriads of insects, the burning heats of mid-summer, and not infrequently a short supply of milk and succulent food consequent upon the drying up of the pastures. The growth is retarded at a critical period of the young animal's life and injury done from which it will require weeks or months to fully recover. Many a farmer knows from experience that animals born in winter are not infrequently in every respect as good heaves, sheep, colts, or pigs when one year old, as are those kept under like circumstances but born from three to six months earlier. —*Chicago Tribune.*

SHORT-HORN COLOURS.

So much has been said in reference to colours of this pre-eminent breed of cattle that the heading above may prevent some from reading the little I have to say upon this subject. An experience of many years in breeding justifies the opinion I hold upon this question, that the red, white, and roan are colours naturally belonging to the race, and that there is neither merit nor demerit in either, but are simply matters of taste. For my own part, I have my decided preference for the rich roan, which is not found in any other breed, but is clearly and distinctly found in the purely bred as well as in the grades of this grand race of cattle. The clamour for red short-horns has kept large numbers of bulls in the stud that should have been consigned to the shambles, while many valuable animals of light colours have been sacrificed to this craze, entertained mostly by young or very inexperienced breeders. The English breeders have not given way to this prejudice as, I regret to say, some have done in this country, but adhere to their favourite colours, largely of roan and white, judging by the exhibits last year at their three largest fairs, when seventy-six prizes were awarded in the short-horn classes, forty-six of which went to roans, ten to whites, fourteen to red-and-white, and six to reds. Would not a little more firmness on the part of short-horn breeders in standing by their colours soon overcome this prejudice and be of general benefit to the country? —*Breeder's Gazette.*

FEEDING STOCK.

The employment of cocoa meal in the rations of French cavalry horses has produced such satisfactory results that the practice will be continued permanently.

M. Goffart, the happy discoverer of conserving green fodder in trenches or silos, states that there is nothing in the process (*ensilage*) but can be varied, such as the form of the silo, its construction as to materials, etc., save the most rigorous attention to the close packing of the mass, so as to keep out the air—the exclusion of the latter is the secret of *ensilage*. Swiss farmers generally employed oil cake, by dissolving it, when in morsels, in hot or cold water, and then pouring the liquid over the cut roots or hay—straw and chaff are never employed, being considered unfit for milking or fattening cows. The mixture is given as the first feed, never after drinking, as, if the turnips enter into the ration, the cattle drink too largely. The cake must not be dissolved too long in advance, as it would become sour; the vessels ought to be rinsed and dried every three or four days.

In the northwest of France, and on lands adjoining the coast, parsnip culture is rapidly extending. All stock relish the root; it produces excellent butter, rich and well-flavoured. The renown of the Jersey and Alderney butters is said to be due to feeding the cattle extensively on parsnips. Jerusalem artichokes are being favoured for finishing off fat stock. Parsnips fetch half the price of hay. —*N. E. Farmer.*

THE "COMING COW."

The position that the "coming cow" is to be one well adapted for both beef and milk production, we believe to be correct if it be not pushed too far. There is an increasing number of dairy farmers who find it best to give almost exclusive attention to the quantity and quality of the milk given by their cows; caring little about their merits as beef makers. So there are beef-producing farmers who properly count it a disadvantage if a cow give a large flow of milk. This is true on the western plains. It is true of such farmers as J. D. Gillette, who only asks of a cow that she shall produce and feed a calf each year. Both these classes form but a minority of cattle raisers. The most successful dairymen and the producers of the very finest beef animals may be found in these classes, but the great majority of cows and of steers for beef are, and long will continue to be, raised by men who cannot afford to ignore either the milk-giving or the meat-producing quality. For such men the popular breed must be one with deserved claims to good quality in both directions. It is quite possible that several breeds may, in the future, be claimants for highest merit for this double purpose, but the course of breeding now adopted by the special friends of most leading breeds is calculated to develop one of these qualities at the expense of the other. The Shorthorn has never been surpassed, or equalled, as a "general purpose cow." Ought she to lose all reputation as a dairy cow? —*Breeders' Gazette.*

"DOCTORING" FARM ANIMALS.

It is a poor practice to be continually dosing animals. When we see a farmer frequently visiting the drug store for medicine for his stock, the impression is that there is something radically wrong in his management. He is the "sick one," and needs the aid of a good physician—some one to show him that sickness rarely happens on a well-ordered farm; that clean, warm stables, and plenty of good feed, pure water in abundance, etc., are far better than their opposites, with all the physic that the largest drug store can supply. Nothing is more clearly proved than the importance of care and keeping of the right sort for the health of the farm animals and their profitable growth and increase. Sickness will sometimes come with the very best management; and when it does, it is better to employ skilled hands to cure than to "doctor" and "physic" and perhaps kill the valuable animal yourself, that under proper treatment might have been saved at a trifling expense. —*Agriculturist.*

HOW TO JUDGE A HORSE.

In judging a horse he should always be made to stand still. Defects in the limbs or feet that would be unnoticed while in motion will be plainly seen by his care to rest weak or diseased muscles when standing. If perfectly sound he will stand firmly on all his legs, the feet flat on the ground and without moving. If one heel is raised disease of the metatarsal bone, or at least tenderness, is probable.

REMEDY FOR HEAVES.

One of the best remedies for heaves in horses is to feed with their grain or meal once a day the following mixture: Three grains arsenious acid, one drachm bicarbonate of potasse, one-half drachm iodide of potassium and two drachms of ground ginger. The ginger alone is excellent for horses only slightly affected; but for arse heaves the mixture above described is better. The oats or hay fed should be moistened, while clover hay should not be given at any time to a horse whose wind is affected.