Oat Sheaves for Feeding Steers.

During the winter of 1915-16 an experiment was carried on at the Brandon Experimental Farm with two lots of steers, 10 in each, to ascertain the advisability of feeding oat sheaves and thus save the labor of threshing, grinding, etc. This may be of interest to farmers in Eastern Canada, especially at this season of the year when the threshing is not all completed. Other feeds were combined with the oat sheaves and fed against cut straw and oat chop. Briefly, the steers fed on oat sheaves returned an average profit of $17.46, while those fed on cut straw and chop showed a profit of $16.44 each. The two systems of feeding and the itemized results may be found in the following paragraphs.

The cattle were obtained during the month of November at the Winnipeg Stock Yards. The purchase price was $6.00 per cwt, but the transportation, feed consumed, shrinkage, etc., made the cost $6.57 per cwt. at the beginning of the experiment.

The steers were divided into two uniform lots; one lot received oat sheaves as the principal part of the ration, while the other lot was fed as nearly as possible the same amount of feed in the form of cut straw and oat chop. In addition to these feeds, both lots got barley chop and corn silage, and part of the time roots instead of silage. In the spring, after the corn and roots were finished, both lots got a little bran.

The amounts of feed dispensed to the cattle varied according to the appetite of the steers. The grain ration was gradually increased, starting with 2 pounds of grain per head for those on cut feed it was increased to 14 pounds at the finish, in the spring. The lot on oat sheaves got no additional grain for six weeks, but after that barley chop was added and gradually increased. The following table shows the results of the experiment in tabular form:

Lot 1—Cut Straw and Oat Chop.

Number of steers	10
First weight (total) December 4, 1915	9,600 lbs.
Finished weight, (total) May 1, 1916	11,965 "
Total gain in 149 days	2,365 "
Gain per steer	236½ "
Average daily gain per steer	1.59 "
Initial cost of steers, at $6.57 per cwt	$630.72
Cost of feed	182.48
Total cost	813.20
Receipts from sale at $8.60 per cwt., 5% shrinkage	977.56
Profit and labor income	16.44
Cost of 100 lbs. gain in weight	7.71

The feed used by lot 1 amounted to 5,780 lbs. oats at 34 cents per bushel; 588 lbs. barley at 40 cents per bushel; 390 lbs. bran at $16.00 per ton; 14 980 lbs. straw at $2.00 per ton; 8,400 lbs. roots at $3.00 per ton; 33,990 lbs. corn silage at $3.00 per ton.

Lot 2—Unthreshed Oat Sheaves.

Number of steers	10
First weight (total) December 4, 1915	9,683 lbs.
Finished weight (total) May 1, 1916	12,275 "
Total gain in 149 days	2,592 "
Gain per steer	259.2 "
Average daily gain per steer	1.74 "
Initial cost of steers at $6.57 per cwt	$ 636.17
Cost of feed	192.04
Total cost	828.21
Receipts from sale at $8.60 per cwt., 5% shrinkage	1,002.85
Profit and labor income	174.64
Profit and labor income per steer	17.46
Average cost of 100 lbs. of gain in weight	7.41

The feed in this case amounted to 2,171 oat sheaves at 4 cents each; 4,620 lbs. barley at 40 cents per bushel; 390 lbs. bran at $16 per ton; 8,400 lbs. roots at $3 per ton, and 33,990 lbs. corn silage at $3 per ton.

It will be observed that the oat sheaves have given better results than the oat straw and oat chop. While it would not be wise to state that threshing and grinding are a waste of time, one can safely come to this conclusion, that feeders are safe in starting off a bunch of feeding steers with oat sheaves. The Superintendent of the Station writes, that steers will make a good start in the early winter with them as the only feed. However, additional grain should be given in the latter part of the feeding period, or else the sheaves fed in sufficient quantity that the cattle may waste some of the straw and get enough grain to make a fattening ration.

Remedies for Ivy Poisoning.

Direct contact with the poison ivy plant is not always necessary to produce poisoning, as the poison may be transferred from clothing, gloves, and implements, also from towels used by those who have been in contact with the plant. When there is reason to believe that there has been exposure to the poison, repeated washing with warm water and strongly alkaline soap as soon as possible is advisable.

There is no one remedy that will cure all cases of ivy poisoning, and in severe cases a physician should be consulted. Specialists of the department have found the following methods and formulas useful in many cases. At the outset, removal of the cause of the irritation may be accomplished by cleaning the inflamed surface repeatedly with alcohol, or with a saturated solution of sugar of lead in alcohol, using a fresh bit of lint or absorbent cotton each time, to avoid spreading the irritant. The sugar of lead cannot be used over extensive areas, because of risk of lead poisoning. Covering the inflamed parts with lint or absorbent cotton kept constantly moist with lime-water or with a saturated solution of bicarbonate of soda will afford relief. When this cannot be used, a simple ointment, such as zinc oxide ointment, is recommended. A solution containing 1 ounce of fluid extract of grindelia to 1 pint of water applied on cloths and allowed to evaporate may afford relief. Black wash, prepared by adding 1 dram of calomel to 1 pint of lime-water, may be applied two or three times a day, allowed to dry, and followed with zinc-oxide ointment. This treatment must be used with caution in extensive cases because of the possibility of mercury poisoning. The acute inflammation of ivy poisoning is sometimes followed by eczema and secondary infections of the skin, which, in mild cases, will yield readily to treatment with bland antiseptic ointments. A formula highly recommended for ivy poisoning and often especially helpful at this stage is the following:

Carbolic acid, 2 grams; resorcin, 2 grams; bismuth subgallate, 4 grams; equal parts water and lime-water to make 250 cc.

This solution may be dabbed on the affected parts several times a day.

Gossip.

Last Call for the O. A. C. Sale.

This is the last call for the big sale of pure-bred stock to be held at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Thursday, October 26. Shorthorns, Holsteins, Ayrshires, Yorkshire and Berkshire breeding sows and young pigs and choice representatives of several of the best-known breeds of sheep will be sold at the buyers' own prices. This is a rare opportunity. Make the best of it by reading the advertisement in another column and a description of the stock in last week's issue, and then go to the sale prepared to bid and buy. It is not too late yet to get a catalogue from Prof. G. E. Day or Prof. A. Leitch.

During the cross-examination, the would-be benedict was asked:

"What salary do you make?"

"$1,000 a year," with all due importance.

"Why that wouldn't keep the girl in handkerchiefs," the father replied.

"I'll wait," was the answer, "until her cold gets better."