

## LIVE STOCK.

### A Discussion of Live Stock Questions

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate."

The letter of Mr. Peacock, in your issue of February 20th, is interesting to note. He is of the opinion that the small breeder is of insignificant value to any of our educative institutions, and more especially that part entailing his open competition in the show-ring. He feels with many other men who are breeding live-stock on a small scale, that the large breeders are monopolizing the shows for their own financial betterment. But is he correct in assuming such a conclusion? Is the large breeder gaining such a prominent hold on the best grades of live-stock that it is useless for a small breeder to gain admittance, or win? No. The small breeder has just as broad and fair a chance to gain distinction, and become enrolled as a first-class breeder now as any time in the history of stock breeding in Canada. The majority of our prominent breeders to-day, were competing for high honors against what appeared to them as an impossible task not many years ago. The large breeder was always prominent and they were accepting inferior honors, when they felt that something better should be forthcoming. But they were learning by open comparison of their stock with others, by the criticisms of the judge and by meeting and conversing with men who had adopted the best methods of caring for and feeding their stock. The path of the stockman who has risen from a common pursuit to one of a distinctive nature has never been one of smooth sailing and never will be. It is only the breeder who can face opposition and meet judgment with an impartial feeling that should enter the show-ring. If he is not receiving his dues, as he sees it, he should pay attention to the difference in type and evident care between his own and his opponents animals. He will, perhaps, find that, while his animals are of excellent development, that the market demands a different type, and this is the ruling feature in the judges mind. He will also profit by learning the feeding methods adopted by the successful men as we know that care and feeding plays an important part in an animal's development. This makes the general show a place of educative value instead of stern opposition and hard feeling, and the breeders will profit beyond the material value of show-yard awards.

The assertion "our large exhibitions would not be benefited if we should exhibit our stock," is in opposition to an exhibition policy. It is not necessary to benefit the large breeder other than by encouraging him to show his animals as examples of high-class breeding. He is the man who is taking advantage of his opportunities and developing them, and we should encourage him to show at all our exhibitions, even if he does not gain by it, the benefit will be noticeable and felt most by those who enter into competition.

The small fairs might be criticized for not offering premiums large enough to invite the large breeder to show. In this way the interest is kept down, and no benefit derived by the live-stock man. If substantial awards were offered, the object lesson in improved stock is more outstanding, and better animals are sought after by the breeders of that community. This same lesson will apply to other branches of agriculture. We know of fairs that were of passing interest until a method of drawing the prominent breeders was adopted, and the effort was noticeable in the interest taken by small breeders and others who sought education from the improved breeding methods exhibited in the animals shown. Further education could be gained from having the judge state the requirements of each class, followed by criticism of the animals entered and the reasons for placing. We often notice animals entered in a class for which they are not qualified, and unless the judge explains the breeder may not understand, and will put the blame to partiality or lack of judgement.

A National Dairy Show would be one of the greatest movements toward dairy education that might be adopted. The exhibit of dairy cattle would be of great aid in bringing the foremost breeders of the Dominion to a common gathering ground. It would do much to unify the type of each breed of dairy cattle, and when accompanied by other educative features as methods used, the general breeding of dairy cattle would be much improved.

The exhibit of dairy appliances would bring the dairyman in touch with modern methods of manufacturing and handling the products of dairying. By having the machines in operation the intending purchaser not only sees the test of one machine, but of machines in competition, and can choose the most efficient without further trouble or expense. Such an exhibition and demonstration could not be otherwise than of educative value to the dairymen, and through them to the development of the industry. It is "an adoption of business methods in a business

way in a business age," and the highest form of its adoption is none too good to be in keeping with our general agricultural development.

#### ONE INTERESTED.

[Note.—While on the matter of a National Dairy Show, why not advocate a national Show of all kinds of live-stock and farm products?—Editor.]

### Barley for Pigs

A two months' feeding test has just been completed at the Brandon Manitoba Experimental Station, in which chopped barley was compared with shorts as a winter feed for young pigs. The pigs used were early fall pigs, and had received no milk nor any commercial substitute for it. Up to the start of the experiment they had been fed on shorts, barley and feed flour.

They were divided on December 14th into two lots as nearly even as possible; there were three Berkshires and one Yorkshire in each lot. They averaged slightly over 70 pounds each at the start. One lot received barley chop, and the other shorts; in addition both lots received a small quantity of feed flour and some mangels. The quantities fed daily at the start were: Barley or shorts, two and a quarter pounds per pig; feed flour, three-quarters pound per pig; mangels, two pounds per pig. These quantities were increased as the pigs grew. It was found that the pigs on the barley could use more feed, and they were consequently given a little heavier ration. The quantities in each case were kept to what pigs would clean up with relish. The grain feeds were purchased at the following rates: Barley, \$15.00 per ton; shorts, \$20.00 per ton; feed flour, \$28.00 per ton. The mangels were



Strowan Clarion.

One of the stock bulls in Mr. Duthie's Shorthorn herd in Scotland, and sire of many of his high-priced calves.

grown on the farm, and were valued at \$3.00 per ton. The results follow:

	Lot 1	Lot 2
No. of pigs in lot.....	4	4
Weight at start of test Dec 14 292 lbs.	282 lbs.	425 "
Weight at end of test Feb. 14 492 "	425 "	143 "
Gain in two months .....	200 "	.58 "
Gain per pig per day .....	.81 "	
Total amount of barley fed... 708 "		637½ "
Total amount of shorts fed... 248½ "		248½ "
Total amount of feed flour fed 488½ "		488½ "
Total cost of feed.....\$9.52		\$10.58
Cost of feed per 100 lbs. gain in weight .....	\$4.26	\$7.40

This is certainly a decided victory for barley. Of course, it would not always be possible to buy barley at three-quarters cent per pound, but even if it were the same price as the shorts, the results would still be decidedly in its favor. It is possible that the similarity between the shorts and the feed flour made the ration that contained both not so palatable and well balanced as the one that had barley and feed flour, and part of the failure of the shorts is due to that cause.

### Pig Feeding.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate."

In the letter of Prof. G. E. Day, of the O. A. C., Guelph, I read that one of the greatest troubles in feeding hogs dry meal, is that some hogs take a mouthful of dry meal, back up, and scatter a great deal on the ground. This can, in most cases, be overcome by adding about a pint or so of whole dry peas to the meal. S. K.

### The Ewe at Yeanning.

Although many of the ewes in the country have already produced their spring crop of lambs the bulk have yet to yearn, and a large proportion of these will give birth to their lambs between now and the time grass comes. Where the ewes lamb on grass, very little preparation is necessary, as no extra pens are required. The ewes will invariably seek a quiet secluded spot, away some distance from the remainder of the flock. But where the ewes lamb inside, preparations for the event should be made some time before lambs are expected, in order that everything is in readiness when the critical period comes. Every sheep pen should be divided by one or more partitions during lambing time, and behind these partitions a number of portable panels should be on hand to place around the ewe about to bring forth progeny, and thus give her the desired seclusion and exempt her from the curiosity of the remainder of the flock. A couple of these short panels hinged together, or even one placed across a corner of the pen answers very well. All ewes should have this consideration, and they, with their lambs, should be kept by themselves for a few days after lambing to avoid an undue amount of trouble with ewes disowning lambs.

The ewe should be in good condition at lambing time. That is she should be in good flesh, but not too fat, and should have had throughout the winter sufficient exercise to keep the body fit to stand the strain which she is called upon to bear. Many beginners with sheep make the serious mistake of feeding as scantily as possible until after the lambs arrive and then "stuffing." True the feed should be increased after lambing,

but it never should be so scant as to allow the ewe to become weakened. Others wishing to be very attentive overdo it, by feeding too much, getting the sheep very fat, adding to lambing troubles, and very often large, weakly, flabby lambs result.

The shepherd must be very attentive during the lambing season. The greater portion of the ewes will go through parturition without help, but in a flock of any considerable size there are always enough which will require attention to, if such attention is not given, cause losses sufficient to take off much of the profit of the business. Then a large percentage of the lambs are benefited by a little attention at this time.

The signs of parturition are few but distinct. The ewe becomes uneasy, seeks seclusion, shows signs of pains by pawing, lying down and getting up frequently, soon commences to strain, and, as labor pains increase in frequency and intensity, she stretches on her side and remains there until the lamb is delivered.

The normal presentation is head first, with the fore legs forward. The attendant should, in cases where the pains are of long duration, see that the presentation is normal. Hastiness in helping the ewe should be avoided, and undue tardiness is often dangerous. As before stated, where the lamb is coming right, the ewe will usually expel it all right, but she can often be saved considerable unnecessary, weakening pain, by the attendant assisting gently, especially where the lamb's head is very large. Do not interfere until the time when the obstruction, whatever it may be, arrives at the point where it causes the ewe to struggle with violence to deliver the foetus. Press back on the skin of the vulva, or pull forward and downward gently on the fore legs. Normal rear presentations are not uncommon, and in such cases, of course, the only thing to do is to assist the ewe to expel the lamb in this position. Where mal-presentation is met with, no matter what the form, the operator should seek first to straighten the foetus into a normal presentation, and then proceed to deliver it.

As soon as the lamb is born, place it where the ewe can lick it. This licking is very helpful in starting the circulation and warming up the lamb. Sometimes it is necessary to rub some of the mucous from the lamb on the ewe to start her licking. As soon as possible, get the lamb to