

Fall and Winter Feeding.

"An animal well summered is half wintered," is an old but true adage. It is based upon reason as well as experience. It is far easier to run down an animal by neglect than to bring it up again by care, and is far less expensive to keep it constantly in good condition. "What is once lost can never be regained," is true in the feeding of cattle. The animal may be re-restored it is true, but only at a large loss of food, which otherwise might have been made into flesh, fat, milk or wool. Sheep are especially subject to the adverse influences of neglect in this respect. Once a flock is permitted to run down in the fall or early winter, the chances are all against recovery, and the sheep are apt to perish, or to lose their lambs, or bring weak and unprofitable progeny in the spring, after much pains and expense in coddling them and nursing them through the latter part of the winter. This is also true of all the young stock which are more hurt in this way than the older ones. It is common to put away the best of the todder for spring in the belief that the stock will need it the most then—in the worst way. But this is working at the wrong end. To permit any animal to run down while there is a store of good food kept back for the purpose of bringing it up again is very bad policy and a losing business. It is a waste and frequently insures a poor condition all through the summer. If the meadows are eaten down too close at this season, and the stock must be stinted of good food, the farm is certainly overstocked, and overstocking results in loss.

The true principle is to apportion the stock to the food and not to reduce the rations in the desire to carry more stock than can be well fed. It may pay in many cases to purchase some nutritious foods to help out the coarse fodder now, while these are cheap, but a liberal provision should be secured for full feeding of all the animals from this time until spring. A great many animals are fed in the fall on the wastes of the farm, the stubbles, the pickings of the corn fields, the rough weeds of

the swamps and marshy ground. This is unwise. It would be better to leave all this stuff on the ground to serve as manure than to feed it. It is full of unwholesome germs, and apt to encourage the prevalent diseases of the season by which many animals perish. No farmer can afford to keep a swamp on his farm. When drained it will be the most valuable part of the land, but, when used as a fall pasture to carry the stock on to winter, it is a source of disease and will only result, at the best, in lowering the condition of the animals to a most unprofitable point. A drained swamp will make the very best grass land and will return interest easily on \$100 per acre. Besides this, a pestiferous nuisance will have been abated.

Chunks of Wisdom for the Farmer.

Winter no stock that is not productive. To feed a dry cow through the winter is to foolishly waste good money.

Less beef and more mutton means better profit for the farmer and cheaper food for the workingman, both ends worth keeping in view.

If "blood will tell" in one branch, it will in another. It pays as well, in proportion, to keep well-bred poultry as to keep well-bred cows.

The grading-up process will be very slow if grade animals are used for sires. A full-blooded sire should always be used for breeding purposes.

Sheep breeders have two strings to their bow: whatever the condition of the wool market, good mutton and lamb always find ready sale at paying prices.

Warm quarters in winter will save feed. It is not economy of fuel to keep the house doors open in winter, or to feed corn to warm cattle in an open barn.

Individual attention to the milch cows, in the way of kindness, cleanliness and comfort will be directly rewarded by the increased value of their products.

As a rule, sell an animal when it is ready for market; after that the cost of

the food will be very likely to offset any advance in price. Besides, the price may not advance.

There is always a cash market for good young mules. They are no more trouble to handle than horses, and are rather less liable to disease and accident than the latter.

It is just as bad policy to give poor food to good stock as to give good food to poor stock. Both should be good, the food, and the stock; then there may be some profit in the combination.

Weat bran is not rich in fat-forming elements, but is especially valuable for promoting growth of muscle. Also, when liberally fed will increase the flow of milk, but will not give a desirable butter color.

It is not wholly sentiment to say that "The foot of the sheep is golden." This is the only one among our domestic animals that is increasing in value in the face of the present agricultural depression.

A colt should never be broken. In this relation the phrase "to break" should become obsolete. We should never have to break the colt any more than a boy. Both should be taught "from their youth up."

Disposition is a quality to be considered with all farm animals. In the dairy, in particular, the quiet, gentle cow is worth more than a fractious one. The latter is not only troublesome to handle, but is a disturbing element among the others.

It is not good management to feed fall pigs valuable grain through the winter, and then let them shift for themselves through the summer. If you have not made arrangements for good pasturage next summer, better sell the pigs now and save the grain.

The profit in "finishing off" an animal for market is that thus a better price may be obtained for the whole. There is less gain for the food consumed toward the close than at any other period. Unless assured that a higher price will result, better not try too long for the extra pounds.