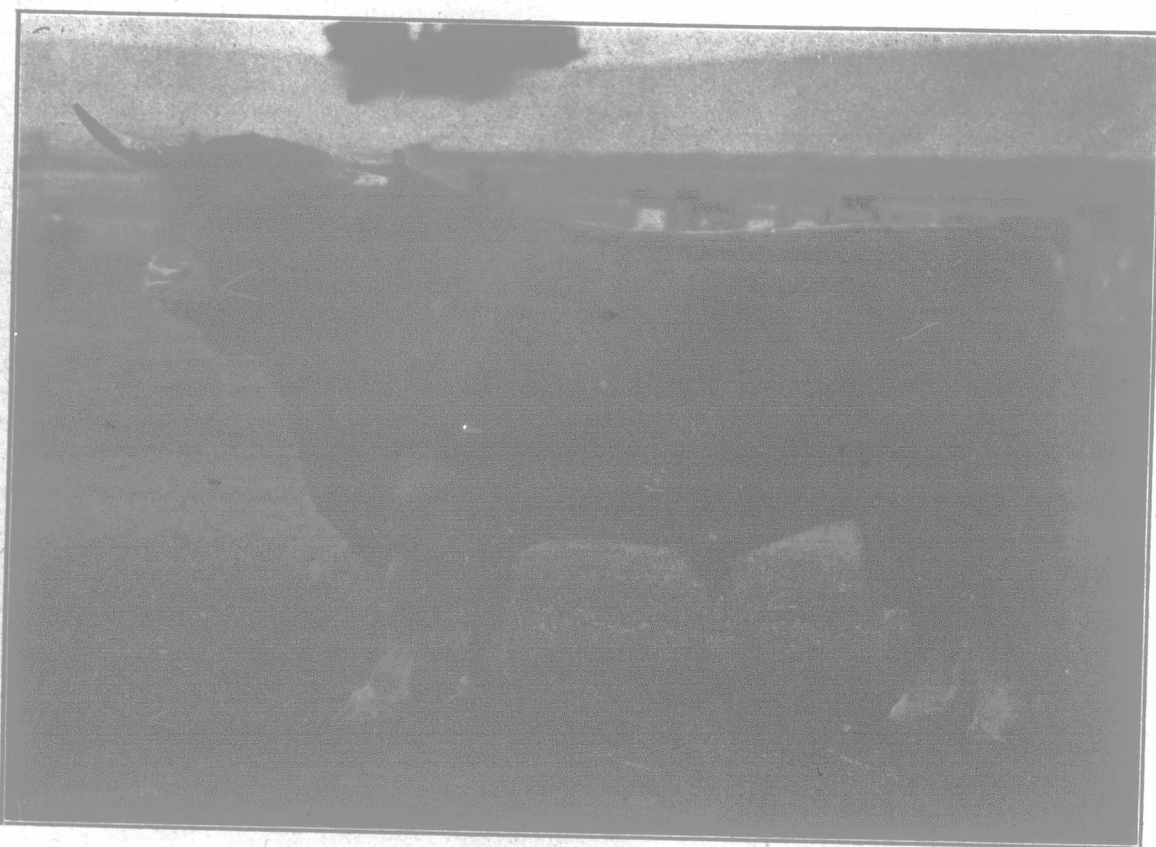




Highland Bull.

Champion at Highland Society's Show, 1912.

vigor proved a boon to his get, the result of his being crossed on finer females.

Animal's are bred for a purpose. The real basis of all market classifications of all farm live stock is utility. Breeders in the past have shown an unmistakable tendency toward the production of animals suited for market demands. What more could be expected? The beef animal which on the block showed the largest percentage of valuable cuts gives the most immediate profit. Butchers want as much meat and as little bone as possible. It seems to matter not what the dairy cow can claim in the way of a robust constitution so long as she fills the pails with high-testing milk. Immediate gains are most attractive to people generally, and naturally so. True, there often appears to be no imminent danger of severe losses from continued breeding upon lines to suit the market demands, but if persisted in indefinitely the result may not be so favorable. At the present there is noticed among feeding steers many which suit the butcher admirably, but which have not the rugged constitutions, the feeding capacity to give best returns for feed consumed. Some dairy cows in the country which have been literally "stuffed" to make and break records have proved unsatisfactory breeders. The excessive stimulation of one characteristic cannot, when carried beyond reason, have other than a detrimental affect upon the remainder of the body of the animal. Thus constitution, vigor or vitality suffers with a far-reaching result upon future generations.

Vigor is valuable in another way. The ravages of disease among animals are a great loss to stockmen. Disease-resistant animals are those having greatest constitutional vigor and constitutional vigor is largely hereditary. Therefore, vigorous stock means healthy stock and few losses.

Breeders have the matter in their own hands. Experienced men need not be told the indications of vigor and prepotency; they see them at a glance. Good judgment tells them that strength of body or "character" in the animal is from a breeding standpoint absolutely essential if the value of the race is to be enhanced. This year's gains and next year's gains must not be allowed to be the prime influence in breeding. Calculate carefully every phase of breeding and what each move means to future generations and the ultimate outcome of the breed and constitutional vigor or vitality will never be unduly sacrificed to any craze fad or demand.

I should like to express my appreciation of "The Farmer's Advocate." I know of no publication that covers its chosen field and does its work better than yours does in its field. It is an excellent publication. Peter McArthur is admirable—a most wholesome influence. More power to you, altogether.

(REV.) EDWARD B. HORNE.

Lambton Co., Ont.

With silo filling and threshing coming on right together, there is likely to be a September demand for more help than is available. How would it be to run a few harvest excursions down from the West?

Weaning the Pigs and Breeding the Sow.

The growth of pigs depends entirely during the first weeks of their life upon the mother's milk. This may be said of calves, but the milk given is more often skimmed than whole. The pig must have all that is in it. He is a "hog" from the start, and his weaning is not a partial weaning like that of the calf at the time it is taken from whole milk to skim milk, but when his dam's milk supply is cut off he must depend upon other food for his living and growth. The change is, to say the least, quite violent, and for best results it is necessary to provide some food closely approximating the sow's milk. Skim milk from the dairy is the best available substitute, and where this is plentiful and the pigs have become accustomed to eating from the trough, they will do very well weaned at six weeks of age. Where skim milk is not to be had, it is often better to leave the litter on the sow until they have reached the age of eight weeks. Some breeders of show stock allow the pigs to remain with the sow ten or twelve weeks, but every sow in a herd kept for pork production should produce two litters yearly, and to do this eight weeks is long enough to leave the pigs with their dams. Skim milk and shorts or middlings, the latter soaked a few hours or scalded, make about as good feed for the newly weaned pigs as can be obtained. Feed the pigs frequently following weaning and increase the feed as time goes on.

Many sows will breed two or three days after farrowing, but this is not good practice, as it is too great a strain upon the system to be suckling one litter and nourishing another. It is better to leave her until after the pigs are weaned. After weaning the litter, feed her on dry oats and if her udder gets very full turn her in with the pigs once daily for a few days. If the

sow is in good condition she will show oestrus in from three to seven days after the pigs are weaned, and this is a good time to breed her. If she is run down in condition and not thriving, she may not show the period of oestrus, and if she did in such cases, it is often well to defer breeding until she has recuperated. To promote oestrus many have had good results by feeding on dry peas or some other strong grain feed. Usually as soon as the animal begins to gain in flesh these periods become regular.

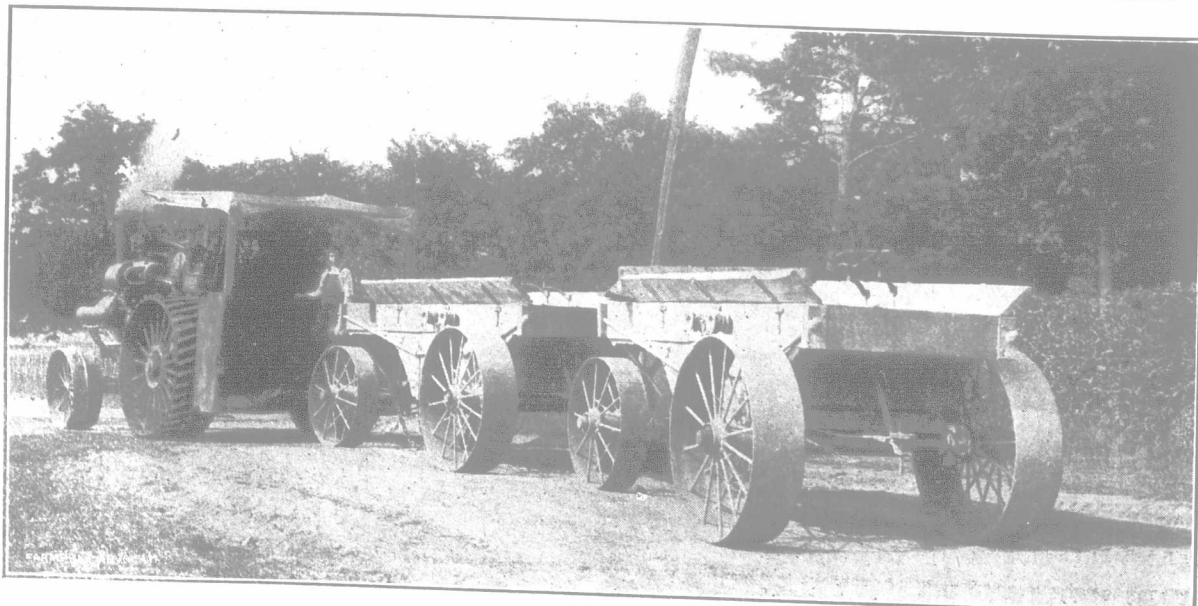
Pigsty vs. Pasture.

"The greatest stumbling block in the pathway of the average man who contemplates the possibilities of pork production is the old-fashioned pigsty," writes Dr. Geo. M. Twitchell, of Maine, in the Massachusetts Crop Report. "Habit is so exacting that its full force can hardly be imagined. The pig-pen must go before pork making can become either a lucrative or even an attractive industry. It is one of the relics of olden times to which New England clings tenaciously. Pork may easily be made the cleanest, sweetest and most healthful of all the meat products. Naturally the hog is one of the neatest of animals, so that in judging the industry it must be from the viewpoint of the man who conforms to the demands and conditions of to-day.

"Economic pork production hinges upon the utilization of forage crops, the pasturing of the herd and the cutting out of all purchased grain. The problem is, can this be made effective in actual practice as in the west? Here is the crux of the whole situation. Fortunately, we have the experience of a number sufficient to maintain the claim.

"While good results will follow the pasturing of a herd on an acre sown to rape, clover and barley, at the rate of 3 pounds of dwarf Essex rape, 7 pounds of red clover and one bushel of barley, I am convinced that the plan outlined by Commissioner Huson, of New York, and practiced yearly by him, is more economical and will insure better results.

"Mr. Huson divides this acre into three or four paddocks, with movable hurdles thirty inches high. In September he sows rye in one and turns onto that in early spring, where the shoats thrive wonderfully. By the time it is gone over, but not eaten too close, the paddock of rape, sown in early spring, as soon as the ground is warm, is ready. Then follows one of clover and one of oats and peas. By the time these have been fairly eaten down the rye will have come again and matured a fair crop of grain, every kernel of which will be utilized. Naturally, the process of change from one paddock to another will be modified by the conditions, the best results obtaining when excessive growth is checked by changing from one to another and each one watched to see that it is not eaten too close. Of course the amount of ground demanded will be determined by the number of hogs kept, but this process of supplying the most healthful and cheapest food possible is so simple that it must commend itself to every would-be pork maker. March pigs grown in this way should be ready for market in October, requiring only enough grain to be carried along steadily, and finally finished in short order for the early market. For this finishing, corn and pumpkins, grown alongside the paddocks, constitute the best and most economical food to be obtained, reducing cost of production and labor of feeding to the lowest dollar, while insuring a quality of product impossible to mature in close pens or with swill-fed animals. There is good evidence in support of the claim that one has but to establish himself in



Hauling Gravel by Locomotive Traction on Oxford County Roads.