

different families sold quite freely at from \$75 to \$90, while year-old sows carrying their first litter exceeded the \$100 mark, in some cases going close to \$200. Some March male pigs went at from \$75 to \$100; others went a little lower, depending somewhat upon their condition and quality. The males sold averaged a little over \$95 each, and the females averaged \$109. This includes a good many March and April, 1920, pigs, so that the average might be considered fairly good. Mr. Brethour was by no means dispersing his herd, but was disposing of a lot of choice show and breeding stock which he had been preparing for some time to offer to the public at auction.

The Present Cost and Selling Price of Hogs.

When a man states that there is no money in hogs he bases his contention largely on more or less accurate records of feeding costs, and feeding costs only. If the market hog cannot even pay for his feed, what then of interest on investment, labor, risk, losses, marketing expenses, etc.?

The feed cost to produce one hundred pounds of pork may be calculated by including the cost of maintenance of the breeding stock responsible for the market hogs. Applying this method, one hundred pounds of pork would require about 600 pounds of meal. American farm survey figures indicate even a higher meal cost, 615 pounds. Valuing meal and grain at \$70 per ton, which is conservative enough, the herd feeding charges per hundred pounds of pork would amount to \$21.00 on the 6-to-1 basis. Even this does not cover all farm costs.

Figures available from herds on the Experimental Farm System compare very closely with those obtained in farm survey reports, i.e., that approximately 78 per cent. of the cost of pork production is for feeds, and the remaining 22 per cent. to cover farm costs exclusive of shipping charges. To produce 100 pounds of pork under average Canadian conditions requires from 450 to 500 pounds of grain or the equivalent. At \$70 per

The above article by G. B. Rothwell is of rather a pessimistic nature, but from the standpoint of raising pigs on a wholesale basis with the present price of feed and labor one would find it difficult to make accounts balance. However, this condition does not apply to the raising and marketing of the bulk of the hogs produced in Ontario. The main supply comes from the average farm where one or two brood sows are kept, and from two to four litters raised during the year. Individual farmers have proven that hogs can be raised and finished at a smaller cost than is usually given where the ratio of feed to gain is worked out on a large scale. Then, too, the feed grown and fed on the farm does not always cost market price to produce. If the farmer can break even by feeding his own grain and valuing it at what he would have to pay on the market, he still has the profit on the grain fed. Where pasture, roots and various by-products can be utilized the cost of producing a hundred pounds of pork is considerably reduced.

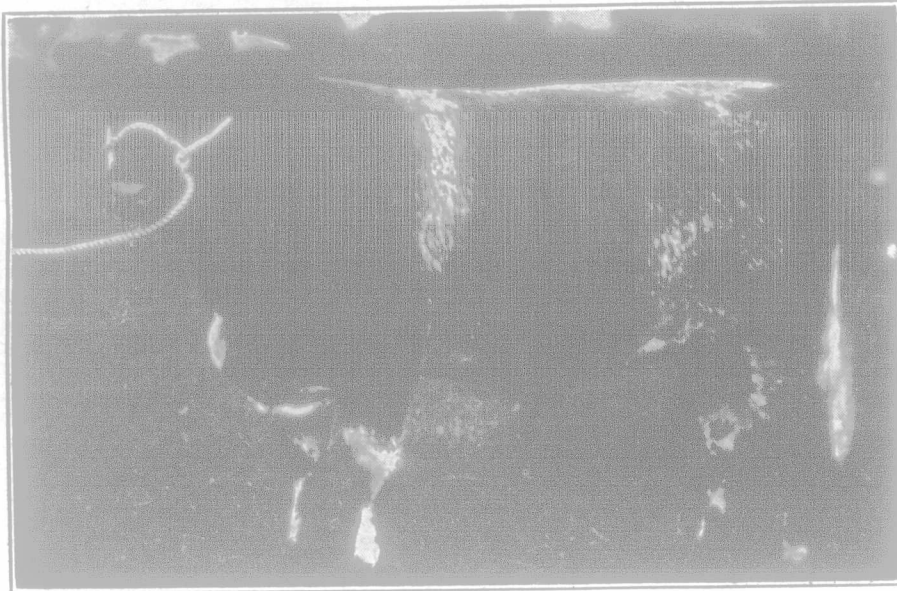
The present time may be a rather trying one for the hog feeder, in as much as prices of live hogs are not commensurate with the price of feed on the market, but what business is there that does not at one time or another pass through a period when the balance shows on the wrong side? If one went out of business at a time like the present he would not be in a position to take advantage of the situation when feed becomes more plentiful and ultimately lower in price. The in-and-out in the hog business, as well as in other lines, is seldom as far ahead in the long run as they who consistently stay with the business and endeavor to reduce the cost of production so that there will be a minimum of loss when cost of production is high and the price of the finished article comparatively low, and then the maximum of gain when the situation is reversed. Every farmer is well advised to keep at least one brood sow. There is a good deal about the place that she will pick up and turn into pork which would otherwise be wasted.—Editor.

A set of scales at the barn is handy for weighing feed, stock, etc. It will enable the attendant to determine accurately just what he is feeding and what gains the animals under his care are making.

coming more alive to eradicating reactors from their herds, and it seems that it would be a good thing if reactors were barred from entering the show stables or rings. In order to combat this disease it is important that all interested in the live stock industry give their support. It may be more difficult to clean up the grade or commercial herds than it is the pure-breds, but ultimately something will have to be done to lessen the amount of tuberculosis in the cattle stock of this country. Some men who breed ordinary stock may be little concerned about the health of their animals when it does not touch their pockets directly. However, if animals from their herds, when sent to the abattoirs, are unfit for human consumption, there is a loss to the entire industry, and the owner of the animal suffers indirectly. There should be concerted action on the part of all cattle breeders and those interested in the industry to stamp out this infectious disease, which not only causes a direct loss but imperils the lives of humans. Why not start at the live stock shows and demand a certificate of health from the owner of every animal being shown.

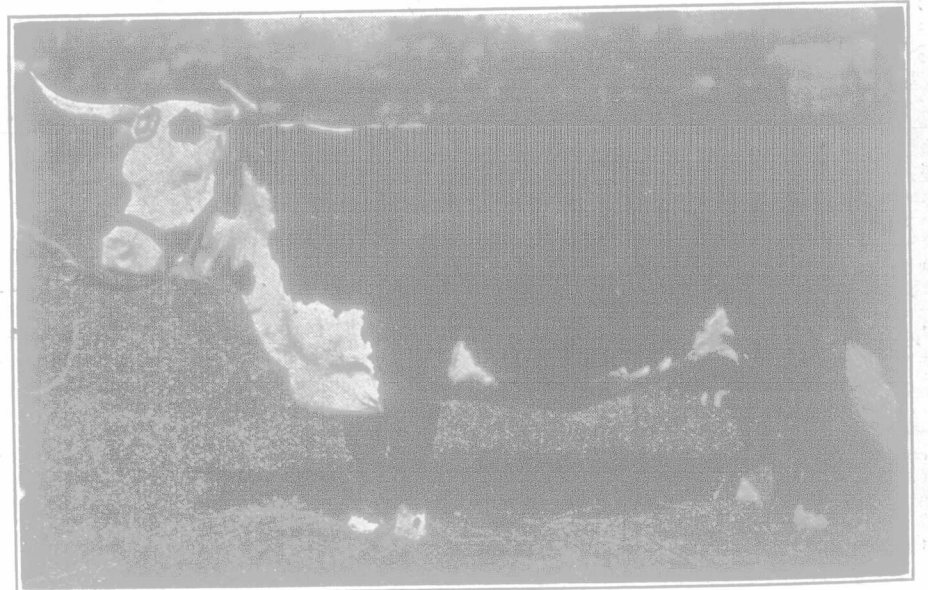
The Flock Header.

There are some who would go entirely out of sheep because of an easing off in the market for mutton and wool; they are the in-and-outers in the business, and owing to this practice seldom make substantial headway. There is and always will be a market for wool and mutton, but it is important that the producers cater somewhat to the market demands. At this time of year sheep breeders are looking out for a flock header. It is advisable that the ram be selected a considerable time before the breeding season, so that he may become accustomed to his new surroundings. While a well-matured ram lamb may give good results with small flocks, it is generally found that a vigorous shearling, or older ram, is more satisfactory. With the older ram the breeder has an opportunity of studying the character and development of some of his progeny, and thus arrive at a more accurate estimate of his value as a flock header. The man with a pure-bred flock has the question of breed already settled, but with the man with the grade



Diamond Butterfly.

A winner at the Royal, and sold for 4,000 gs. at auction.



Garland.

Champion Hereford female at the Royal.

ton for meal this would represent a feed cost per cwt. of pork of \$16.62, which figure represents only 78 per cent. of the total cost. One hundred per cent. or the feed plus the farm charge would amount to \$21.28 per cwt.

The above figure may appear startling. There are hundreds of small feeders who can feed a litter or so of pigs on a much cheaper basis. Otherwise there would be very little pork produced. Why can a few hogs be raised comparatively cheaply on the farm? Simply because of the fact that a considerable proportion of the feed is in the nature of a by-product or perhaps home-grown. Multiply the swine activities on the farm, and it is necessary to purchase more meal and grain at market prices. The cost to produce mounts alarmingly. So with the farm flock of poultry.

What shall we feed hogs? Grain, millfeeds and by-product feeds are becoming scarcer than ever. Wheat by-products are practically off the market. The feed markets of the future are most discouraging in prospect. The wholesale price of hogs has not appreciated correspondingly. The man who can feed hogs profitably to-day, must have a comparatively cheap product or by-product to replace meal as largely as possible. Such are scarce. Milk products form the greatest of all. City and hotel refuse is another. Green feed intelligently used, soiled or under the right conditions, pastured—is a third. Barley is one of the best of Canadian hog feeds—too little appreciated. Elevator screenings, if of standard quality, must be utilized wherever available. The man who is raising young pigs, who plans to feed them almost entirely on a grain ration, who has little or no milk or green feed available, will almost certainly be forced to place a high valuation on manure and experience if he is to get an even break next fall.

G. B. ROTHWELL.

Dominion Animal Husbandman.

Cattle at Fairs Should Have Certificate of Health.

Tuberculosis has, from all accounts, gained considerable headway among our herds of cattle and hogs. The loss each year due directly to this disease is enormous, and it is high time that an effort should be made to clean up the pure-bred and commercial herds of the country. The accredited herd system, which is under way, provides for the regular testing of the herd with an ultimate certificate of health. It stands to reason that the breeder who has such a certificate of health for his herd will have a greater opportunity of working up a trade in other provinces, or on the foreign market, than will the man who has not his herd officially tested. While there are comparatively few herds entered in the accredited herd system of Canada as yet, United States breeders have gone in for it very strongly. Breeders of pure-bred cattle are loath to pay a high price for an animal that has not a clean bill of health. Not only may the animal be a reactor, and thus an ultimate loss, but may spread disease to other members of the herd. Would it not be a good thing if cattle breeders showing at our exhibitions be required to present a health certificate with each entry? There is every opportunity for infected animals to transmit disease to other animals at the show. Then, too, there is usually considerable trade in pure-bred stock at our fairs, the breeding stock being purchased as herd headers or for herd foundation. If prizes are awarded to reactors, how is the health of our common stock to be raised to a higher standard? Demanding a certificate of health with each animal shown might be deemed a hardship by some breeders, but why should it be? If they have the interest of the breed and of the live stock industry at heart, they should be willing to do all in their power to prevent the spread of infectious disease. Many breeders are be-

lieves, or the one who is starting in the business, the breed of ram to use is of importance. All breeds have their admirers, but the beginner should be governed by the market he intends to cater to and by the nature of his soil. As a general thing the long-wooled breeds and heavier downed breeds give better results on heavier soils where the pasture is good than on hilly land where the feed is liable to be scanty at certain seasons.

Having decided on the breed, it is necessary to select a good individual of that breed. Quite a few purchase their flock headers at the shows, and while they get an exceptionally good individual, it must be remembered that careful handling and proper feeding are necessary to get the show ram into breeding condition. A good deal of importance should be attached to those characters which indicate prepotency. The ram possessing a strong, decidedly masculine head, and short, strong well-created neck is likely to be a more prepotent sire than the "ewe-looking" ram. Constitutional vigor and digestive capacity must not be neglected. A depression at the heart, and the legs set close together, indicate weakness. Well-sprung ribs are looked for by most breeders. The size of nostrils indicates whether an animal has a good respiratory system or not. The fleece should be typical of the breed, and should be dense on all parts of the body. A ram that is bare of wool underneath is not desirable. When selecting the flock header, mutton production as well as wool production must be kept in mind. It is important that a person get the proper mutton conformation, as well as good fleecing. It is a mistake to put off the selecting of the flock header until close to the breeding season.

Flies have a tendency to loiter around a sore or an abrasion in the skin of an animal. This is very aggravating and painful to the animal. Applying cod liver oil to the parts will not only keep off the flies but has a soothing effect on the wound.