

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN
THE DOMINION.

PUBLISHED BY
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED),
LONDON, ONTARIO, AND WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

LONDON, ENGLAND, OFFICE:
W. W. CHAPMAN, Agent, Fitzalan House,
Strand, London, W. C., England.

JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE is published on the first and fifteenth of each month.
2. It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most profitable, practical, and reliable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, and stockmen, of any publication in Canada.
3. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—\$1.00 per year in advance; \$1.25 if in arrears; sample copy free. European subscription, £1, or £1.25. New subscriptions can commence with any month.
4. ADVERTISING RATES.—Single insertion, 30 cents per line. Contract rates furnished on application.
5. DISCONTINUANCES.—Remember that the publisher must be notified by letter or post-card when a subscriber wishes his paper stopped. All arrears must be paid. Returning your paper will not enable us to discontinue it, as we cannot find your name on our books unless your Post Office address is given.
6. THE ADVOCATE is sent to subscribers until an explicit order is received for its discontinuance. All payments of arrears must be made as required by law.
7. THE LAW IS, that all subscribers to newspapers are held responsible until all arrears are paid and their paper ordered to be discontinued.
8. REMITTANCES should be made direct to this office, either by Registered Letter or Money Order, which will be at our risk. When made otherwise we cannot be responsible.
9. ALWAYS GIVE THE NAME of the Post Office to which your paper is sent. Your name cannot be found on our books unless this is done.
10. THE DATE ON YOUR LABEL shows to what time your subscription is paid.
11. SUBSCRIBERS failing to receive their paper promptly and regularly will confer a favor by reporting the fact at once.
12. NO ANONYMOUS communications or enquiries will receive attention.
13. LETTERS intended for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.
14. ALL COMMUNICATIONS in reference to any matter connected with this paper should be addressed as below, and not to any individual connected with the paper.

Address—THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, or
THE WILLIAM WELD CO.,
LONDON, CANADA.

Poultry Fattening in England.

All who in any way are concerned in the growth of Canadian poultry-rearing will peruse with special interest the letter from one of our English contributors, who recently visited several farms where this industry is made a specialty, in order to make a study of their methods for the benefit of our readers. There was a time, doubtless, when the keeping of one breed (the Game fowl), for sporting purposes, monopolized a large share of attention, but now the main idea is the economical value of poultry as furnishers of food in the shape of flesh or eggs. We on this continent are setting about the business in a more energetic manner; hence the special interest attaching to the English letter published in our Poultry Department, in which a good many useful suggestions are made. In it attention is again called to the all-important fact that if large success is to be attained great care must be taken in the initial stages of the industry, such as breeding the right class of fowls. Our poultry breeders have the proper foundation stock, but it is upon the general run of farms that the greatest improvement must be made, because from them the supply for home use and export is drawn. Breeds such as the Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes appear to be in high favor at the English establishments referred to, but others have their admirers, and our correspondent notes the special popularity of the Dorking-Game cross. In Canada the Brahma holds a higher place than it does, according to our correspondent, in England. Several other crosses are described, and he lays much emphasis upon the profitability of cross-bred birds as flesh-producers. The aim is to get a plump, compact, fine-boned bird, with a good meaty breast and leg, with white flesh and white, clean legs. The "nice yellow legs" that some of our breeders talk about are apparently not the proper thing about Old London. The cramming system, described and illustrated in our issue for Nov. 1st, is reviewed at length, in actual operation. The birds are put in at about four months old and fattened in from three to four weeks, being fed three times daily with a mixture of ground oats, sour milk, and fat. By means of a machine, as many as 200 have their crops crammed per hour by an expert attendant with a boy to assist him! While companies or individuals of large capital may embark in such enterprises, we wish to see a general advance in farm poultry-keeping. One feature of these big English fattening concerns is that they do not breed their own birds, but buy them, and it may be that they make more profit than the farmer who raises them. As a general system, we would advise our farmers to do their own fattening, which, in the meantime at all events, they can do on a more modest plan than cramming thousands of birds by machinery.

ATTENTION!!

Of Inestimable Value.—EUSTACE SMITH, "Park Farm," West York, Ont., writes: "I enclose my subscription for the FARMER'S ADVOCATE to April, 1899. I have much pleasure in saying that without doubt your paper is of inestimable value to farmers, and I only wish I had known of it when I was managing Lord Aberdeen's ranches in British Columbia. It would have helped me there in many difficulties as it helps me now in my dairy farm. I get quite a number of English and Scotch agricultural papers, the *North British Agriculturalist* amongst the number, and in my opinion, for practical facts and methods, your paper excels them all, and this is also the opinion of some eminent agriculturists in the Old Country to whom I regularly forward the FARMER'S ADVOCATE after reading it right through myself. It seems to me that every issue contains just the solution of the difficulty you were in."

A New Dress.—Among the many improvements in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE for 1899 will be a complete new dress of type, which will add greatly to its present handsome appearance. It will be worn for the first time in the Christmas number to be issued December 15th next.

Our Christmas Number for 1898.—It will be unique in agricultural journalism, and we hope worthy the splendid attainments of the Canadian farmer. The pictorial features will, perhaps, be the most striking, embracing views of a large number of the best-appointed farms in every Province of the Dominion, examples of what has been accomplished in different branches of farming, such as stock-raising, fruit culture, dairying, grain-growing, etc. Many of them will be full page representations, and others over one-third page in size. There will also be engravings of the Dominion Experimental Farms, and the Agricultural College at Guelph, Ontario, and a score of other attractive illustrations. They will be executed by the foremost artists on the continent, and accompanying them will be articles of interest and practical value written by various members of our editorial staff. A fine series of contributed articles out of the beaten path, and a few in lighter vein suited to the season, together with a glimpse at the home life of a typical European farmer, will afford something of interest to every reader. On the part of artists, engravers, editors, and contributors, it entails some six months' labor, and a very heavy outlay on our part. The price has been fixed at fifty cents per single copy, but all regular subscribers will receive it without extra charge.

New Subscribers Get It.—Every new yearly subscriber receives the balance of the present year's issues, the magnificent Christmas number, and all the issues for 1899 at the ordinary subscription rate of \$1.00.

Grand Cash Prize Competition.—As a special inducement to our friends who will aid in extending our subscription lists, we have decided to offer a cash commission of 25 cents for every new subscriber sent in, together with \$50 in cash, to be divided as follows among those sending in the seven largest lists during November and December. Prizes: 1st, \$15.00; 2nd, \$12.00; 3rd, \$10.00; 4th, \$6.00; 5th, \$4.00; 6th, \$2.00; 7th, \$1.00. Everyone sending in one or more new subscribers will receive at least the 25 per cent. cash commission, and also stand a chance of earning one of these handsome cash prizes. Names and money should be sent in as fast as obtained, and will be credited the person getting into the club. Renewals will not count in competition. Our regular salaried agents and agricultural society or farmers' institute lists are excluded from this competition. Send for free sample copy and subscription forms and begin work at once, in order to make the best possible use of the two months' time. Every new subscriber receives the balance of this year, the Christmas number, and every issue of the paper issued in 1899. No subscription must be taken at less than \$1.00. The 25 per cent. commission may be retained as the names are sent in. Final lists in cash competition must be mailed before January 1st, 1899.

A Great Teacher's Bible Offer.—Many of our readers will remember the beautiful new Bagster's Teacher's Bible which we gave last year to those sending us in the names of three new subscribers. We are glad to be able again to bring this volume of inestimable value within reach of our readers, and on even more favorable terms. A copy will be sent post free to each one sending us the names of only two new subscribers, at \$1.00 each, during the months of November and December.

Our New Self Binder.—Each copy of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, as received, is safely secured as in a fine cloth-bound book. Handy, handsome, durable. Will be sent post prepaid to any subscriber sending us two new yearly subscriptions, or to any subscriber who, during November or December, sends in his or her renewal for another year, accompanied by one new yearly subscription.

How to Get the Paper Free.—Any present subscriber sending in two new subscribers and \$2.00 will have his or her subscription extended for one year.

STOCK.

Influence of Food Upon Firmness of Bacon.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—the question of the influence of food upon the quality of bacon is an extremely important one. If we are to maintain our footing upon the English market, it is necessary that we should look carefully after the quality of our product, for it will be of little use to us to produce cheap bacon, if by so doing we ruin the reputation of our goods. For some years our packers have encountered more or less soft bacon, and it seems as though softness were on the increase, so that it is high time for us to look after our laurels in this matter.

Soft bacon does not mean fat bacon. In fact, observations during the present year indicate that softness is more likely to develop in hogs that are too lean than in those that are too fat. The softness develops while the bacon is in the salt, and when taken out of the salt the fat is soft and spongy, reducing the value of the bacon according to the degree of softness.

During the past summer, some experiments were conducted at the College with different foods and methods of treatment, in order to test their effect upon the firmness of bacon. The hogs were shipped to the Wm. Davies Co., Toronto, and the condition of the bacon from the different groups was carefully noted when it came out of the salt. Though the results constitute merely a beginning, they are not without value.

A table is given below, showing the number of sides in each group, the way in which the hogs were treated, the food given to each group, and the condition of the bacon as to firmness.

The terms used in the table require some explanation. Wiltshire bacon is made from well-fed hogs, weighing from 160 to 200 lbs. live weight. Cumberland bacon is made from lighter and, generally, leaner hogs, and the side is cut differently. Group I. is the only group in which all the hogs were heavy enough for "Wiltshire." When the tenderness is barely noticeable, the bacon may pass as "number one selection"; when there is decided tenderness, it must go into a cheaper grade; but a really soft side is of very little value.

TABLE GIVING DESCRIPTION OF GROUPS AND CONDITION OF BACON IN EACH.

Description of Groups.	Condition of Bacon.
GROUP I.—8 sides. Previous to experiment hogs had been running on stubble fields. Average weight at beginning of experiment, 118 lbs. Fed six weeks on corn meal and rape, and given two-thirds as much meal as Group II.	Wiltshires—8 sides: firm.
GROUP II.—8 sides. Same previous treatment as Group I. Average weight at beginning of experiment, 107 lbs. Fed six weeks on corn meal.	Wiltshires—8 sides: firm. Cumberlands—2 sides: firm.
GROUP III.—8 sides. Same previous treatment as Groups I. & II. Average weight at beginning of experiment, 104 lbs. Fed six weeks on peas, barley and shorts, equal parts by weight.	Wiltshires—4 sides: firm. Cumberlands—2 sides: firm. 2 sides: tender.
GROUP IV.—8 sides. Hogs had no outdoor exercise from time of weaning. Previous to experiment were fed wheat middlings and shorts, with skim milk. Average weight at beginning of experiment, 160 lbs. Fed six weeks on peas, barley and shorts, with rape. Meal ration, two-thirds of that given Group V.	Wiltshires—2 sides: firm. 2 sides: showing slight indication of tenderness. Cumberlands—2 sides: firm. 2 sides: soft.
GROUP V.—8 sides. Same previous treatment as Group IV. Average weight at beginning of experiment, 94 lbs. Fed six weeks on corn meal.	Wiltshires—2 sides: firm. Cumberlands—6 sides: firm.
GROUP VI.—6 sides. Same previous treatment as Groups IV. and V. Average weight at beginning of experiment, 107 lbs. Fed six weeks on peas, barley, and shorts; equal parts by weight.	Wiltshires—2 sides: firm. Cumberlands—4 sides: firm.
GROUP A.—24 sides. Pure-bred hogs, comprising two hogs of each of six different breeds. Purchased when from 7 to 9 weeks old. Kept in pens with small outside yard. Fed wheat middlings from June 14th to Aug. 19th; barley and shorts, equal parts by weight, until Sept. 12th; peas, barley and shorts, equal parts by weight, until Oct. 21th.	Wiltshires—4 sides: firm. 2 sides: showing inclination to tenderness. 2 sides: tender. Cumberlands—2 sides: firm. 8 sides: tender to soft.
GROUP B.—24 sides. Same as Group A. Same treatment and same meal ration as Group A, but fed whey with meal ration; about two lbs. whey to one of meal.	Wiltshires—20 sides: firm. Cumberlands—2 sides: firm. 2 sides: tender.
GROUP C.—22 sides. Same as Groups A and B, except that three unthrifty hogs were put into this group. Hogs ran in a half-acre lot during whole of experiment. Lot furnished some grass until about middle of August. Fed same rations as Group A.	Wiltshires—10 sides: firm. 2 sides: very slightly tender. Cumberlands—2 sides: firm. 8 sides: tender to soft. Decidedly superior to Group A.

A careful analysis of the results brings out some rather interesting points, but care must be exercised in drawing conclusions at this early stage of the investigation.

In the first place, it will be noted that the condition of the first three groups was generally satisfactory. All these hogs had received the same treatment previous to the experiment. It is scarcely probable that the tenderness developed in Group III. was due to the food, since only one hog was tender, while the remaining three were remarkably firm. Neither must it be assumed that corn cannot produce soft bacon, for it must be borne in mind that the hogs in these three groups were strong, fleshy hogs before the corn feeding com-