

The Short-Horns for the Dairy.

BY H. LEWIS IN AMERICAN FARMER.

If any one doubts the value of short-horns for milk, I will refer him to the great dairy show held in October last, at London, where they are best known as milkers and where they have been longest and most carefully bred for milk. The short-horns at that show carried off the great prize of one hundred guineas offered for the best milkers, and, in fact, every prize but one offered for dairy cows, except those offered for Jerseys.

[Mr. Harris gives an extract from the report, showing that at the show the prizes for cows for "dairy purposes" were carried off by the short-horns, over Yorkshires and Ayrshires, and all others but the Jerseys. The report includes the following: The London *Field* says of sixteen groups entered to compete for the magnificent prizes, fourteen groups were short-horns or crosses, and two groups were Ayrshires. In class four, the one hundred guinea cup for the best Channel Island cows, there were six competitors. The Jerseys took the first honors; the second prize went to Guernseys, and the second on a single cow was awarded to an Alderney.]

I could present a great many records of enormous yields of milk by short-horns and their grades, but will say that the best dairy cows I ever owned or milked, were short-horns or grades, possessing from one-half to seven-eighths short-horn blood.

To sum their milking qualities up in a nut-shell, I will declare them capable of giving from one pound of milk per day to one hundred, if the records here be true; and that the quantity of milk they produce is in exact proportion, as a rule, to their breeding, food and care. And this very quality possessed by them in a greater degree than by any other breed of cows adds vastly to their value as dairy stock.

For certain reasons of my own, I prefer thoroughbred short-horn cows of the Princess family, to any others for the dairy. Yet I am willing to admit that the calves raised from our best native cows, sired by a thoroughbred short-horn bull of a milking family, if properly managed in rearing, will insure cows of equal value to the thoroughbred for dairy purposes only. In conclusion I will give my reasons for the choice I have made for my dairy as follows:

First. The short-horn cows have good teats and nice square bags.
Second. They are very quiet and docile.

Third. They make the best use of the food consumed of any breed.

Fourth. If not giving milk will lay on flesh.

Fifth. If not good for the dairy they can be cheaply turned into good beef.

Sixth. They yield a large quantity and good quality of milk, well adapted for the manufacture of both butter and cheese, and also well adapted for the market.

Seventh. The well-bred short-horn cow is decidedly good looking. Now if any man in this association objects to beauty in the dairy cow, I hope he will arise and remain standing until he can be counted.

Eighth. I prefer the short horn cow for the dairy because she will produce the most milk, the most butter, the most cheese, and the most beef, for the food consumed, of any breed of cows we have.

In Bretagne horses are fed on parsnips instead of oats, and no complaints are registered as to falling off in condition. M. Le Bian feeds his carriage horses exclusively on parsnips, and the animals that he now exhibits in Paris are superb. He gives each horse forty pounds of the roots daily, distributed in three feeds; the expense of cultivating one hundred weight of parsnips is one franc, so that the daily ration of each horse is about seven sous, or four times dearer.

CATTLE FOOD.—Experience teaches us that cattle thrive best on a mixed diet. All hay or all grain will produce less beef than hay and grain. The animal structure of the ox also demands bulk in food, as well as richness; the feeding of concentrated food being only profitable so far as the animal assimilates it—beyond that of simply increasing the manure heap, at a cost far beyond its value. The ox has approximately eleven and one-half pounds of stomach with only two and one-half pounds of intestines, to each one hundred pounds of live weight; the sheep has less stomach and more intestines, giving a smaller per centage of digestive apparatus; while the pig for every one hundred pounds of his live weight has only one and one third pounds of stomach to six pounds of intestines. A steer would thrive on a bulk of straw, with a little oil meal, that would shrink a sheep and starve a pig. Pork can be produced from clear corn-meal, while mutton requires a greater variety of food, and beef cattle would become cloyed and diseased with its exclusive use. A thoughtful attention to these broad facts will change much injudicious feeding into cheaper meat production.—*Cultivator*.

"Magie," or "Poland China" Hogs.

SIR,—As the subject of hog raising is being so generally discussed by the farming community of your country, as well as in the United States, I trust and hope that a few lines from my pen may prove interesting if not instructive to those of your numerous readers who are especially interested and devoted to the raising and improvement of that

the other most noted breeds, has invariably terminated in favor of the "Magie" or "Poland China" hogs. These hogs are unquestionably the favorite hogs for the farmer.
D. M. MAGIE.

Soiling Cattle.

On our own farm soiling has been practiced quite extensively for more than twenty-five years. At first we were not inclined to recommend the practice to farmers in general, but only to those who might, like ourselves, be located where good pastures all the summer long are entirely out of the question; but as our reading and observation has been extended we are inclined to believe that partial soiling, at least, is a practice that might well be adopted on nearly all, or quite all, dairy farms.

Feeding green food to cattle in their stalls in summer was formerly advisable only in villages, or near cities where grazing lands were held at prices too high for ordinary farming purposes, and those writers who treated the subject through the newspaper press almost spoke disparagingly of the soiling system, except under such circumstances as we have named. On comparatively cheap lands, away from the cities, and especially at the West, it was believed that the expenses of soiling cows would always far exceed the advantage that might accrue. But within the past few years, since the dairy interest has assumed such an important position among the agricultural industries of our country, it has been discovered by hundreds of enterprising farmers in all the Northern and Western States, that feeding cows at the stall during portions of the summer season, for the purpose of

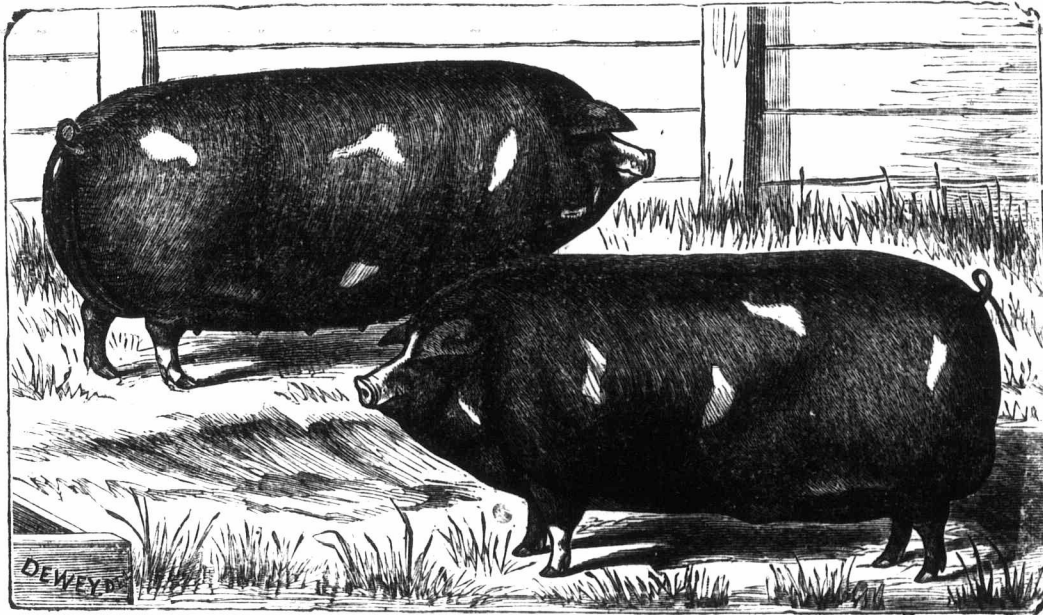
keeping up a regular and uniform flow of milk, is not only a commendable, but almost an indispensable practice.

During the past year we have seen urgent appeals from leading Western dairymen to the farmers of Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, and other far Western States to raise special forage crops for feeding to cows in summer, and we no longer feel diffident about urging farmers everywhere to practice this system of summer feeding to such an extent as each may find profitable in his own particular case.

Spring rye, if sowed very thick, say four bushels to the acre, and cut as soon as it begins to blossom, or a little before, will, if well cured, make hay that will be eaten by horses in winter with a fair relish, but we should not recommend its use on a large scale for cows in milk without further trial. We raised a field of it last year, and intend to repeat the experiment this season, although it was not fully successful last year as a substitute for cows. It probably stood a little too late. What is true of spring rye is equally true of the winter variety. Both make excellent green feed for cows if cut early enough, but they are in perfect condition but a short time. We consider both indispensable on all farms where soiling is carried on, or one wishes to keep a heavy stock of cattle in proportion to the number of acres.

We should not mix oats and rye together, as they do not ripen at the same time. The spring rye will be several days earlier than the oats, and if allowed to stand till the oats were grown would be almost or quite worthless as feed. Better sow them separately and cut of each what will be needed for feeding green, and cut the remainder at the right time for winter fodder. Oats, we think, will be liked rather better by your cattle than rye, although much depends on the age at which they are cut and the quantity of seed to the acre. The finer the fodder, other things being equal, the better it will be, and the earlier it is cut the better it will be if it has nearly reached its full height and thoroughly cured.—*New England Farmer*.

Manitoba, as a grazing country, has few if any equals in America; a man can have hay in abundance for the cutting alone.



"MAGIE," OR "POLAND CHINA" HOGS, THE PROPERTY OF D. M. MAGIE, ESQ.

department of rural pursuit which yields such an extensive remuneration for the capital invested.

I am frequently asked:—"When did you originate the breed of swine known as 'Magie' or 'Poland China,' and what bloods did you use in their production?" &c. I originated this breed of swine from the years 1837 to 1840 inclusive. The breeds I used to establish the "Magie," or "Poland China" hog were four, namely, "Poland," "Big China," "Irish Grazier," and "Byfield." The "Magie" or "Poland China" hog is of fine bone, but large size, combining more eminently than any other the excellencies of both large and small breeds, being docile, very good feeders, breeders and sucklers, fattening readily at any age and yet attaining great weight at maturity. They sometimes dress 350 pounds at from ten to twelve months old—from eighteen to twenty months old, 500 to 600 pounds. They have long bodies, short legs, broad straight backs, deep sides, with square, heavy shoulders. They are dark colored, drooping ears, and are of very superior style generally. These hogs have been growing in public favor every year, and the more they are known the better they are liked.

In the Middle, Western, North-Western and South-Western States they are more extensively and universally bred and raised than all other breeds of swine combined. The result of the experience of many of the best breeders of hogs in the U. S. who have tested the merits of the "Magie" or "Poland China" swine with that of

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