

Smithfield Carcass Competitions.

LONDON, ENGLAND, 11TH DECEMBER, 1901.

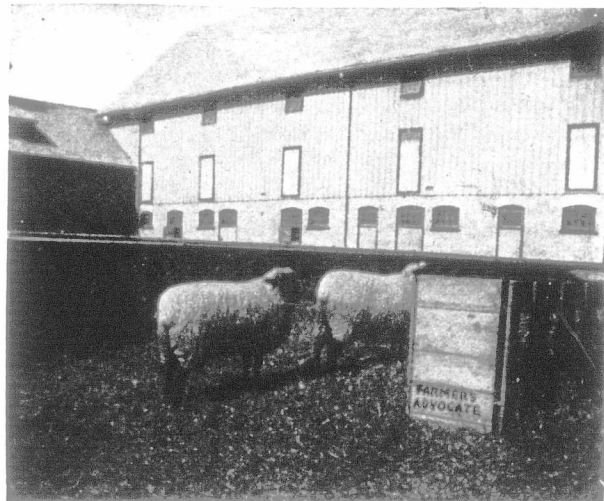
STEERS UNDER TWO YEARS OF AGE.				STEERS OVER TWO YEARS OF AGE.			
Prize.	Exhibitor.	Breed.	Weight on arrival.	Age in days.	Average daily increase, lbs.	Fasted live weight, lbs.	Cold dead weight, lbs.
1.	Col. Henry Platt, C. B.	Black Welsh	1,063	721	2.28	1,624	1,070
2.	J. Douglas Fletcher	Aberdeen-Angus, dam Hereford	1,366	723	1.97	1,585	1,070
3.	F. R. Sallard	Red Sussex	1,282	696	2.16	1,570	1,070
4.	H. G. Murray Stewart	Black Galloway	1,047	683	1.57	1,043	718
Average of the ten exhibits.						1,292	836
1.	His Majesty the King	Aberdeen-Angus	1,469	1,051	1.39	1,398	914
2.	G. Young of Cadboll	Aberdeen-Angus	1,397	unknown	—	1,368	885
3.	Sir Walter Gilbey, Bart.	Shorthorn	1,392	994	1.42	1,371	881
4.	Thomas Biggar & Sons	Galloway, dam Highlander	1,283	950	1.35	1,252	820
Average of the eight exhibits						1,335	869
1.	His Majesty the King	Aberdeen-Angus	1,372	966	1.44	1,348	889
2.	G. Young of Cadboll	Shorthorn	1,280	unknown	—	1,226	790
3.	The Duchess of Newcastle	Shorthorn	1,324	1,034	1.28	1,324	856
4.	J. Douglas Fletcher	Aberdeen-Angus, dam Hereford	901	576	1.55	885	541
Average of the six exhibits						1,153	744
In 1886 steers under two years old dressed							64.52
In 1900							65.20
In 1901							65.26
							65.45

The Suffolk Sheep.

BY J. M'CAIG.

The question of the making of breeds is an interesting and instructive one to the shepherd. Methods vary considerably. In some cases the work is done by straight transformation by the help of another breed, or in some cases of more than one breed; in other cases it has been done by a change of environment combined with selection, and in others by crossing and selection combined. Selection, indeed, may be assumed to be always operating; for to anyone who is trying to institute or improve a breed, particularly by crossing, there must always be more or less chaos, or perhaps, rather, variation, in the individuals before him, out of which he seeks to bring order by the preserving and perpetuating of types of animals that more truly represent his ideal than do the animals rejected.

The Rambouillet differs quite distinctly from its Spanish progenitors, though it received no help to its transformation by the infusion of new blood. It is differentiated from the Spanish Me-



11-MONTHS-OLD SUFFOLK EWES AT THE O. A. C.

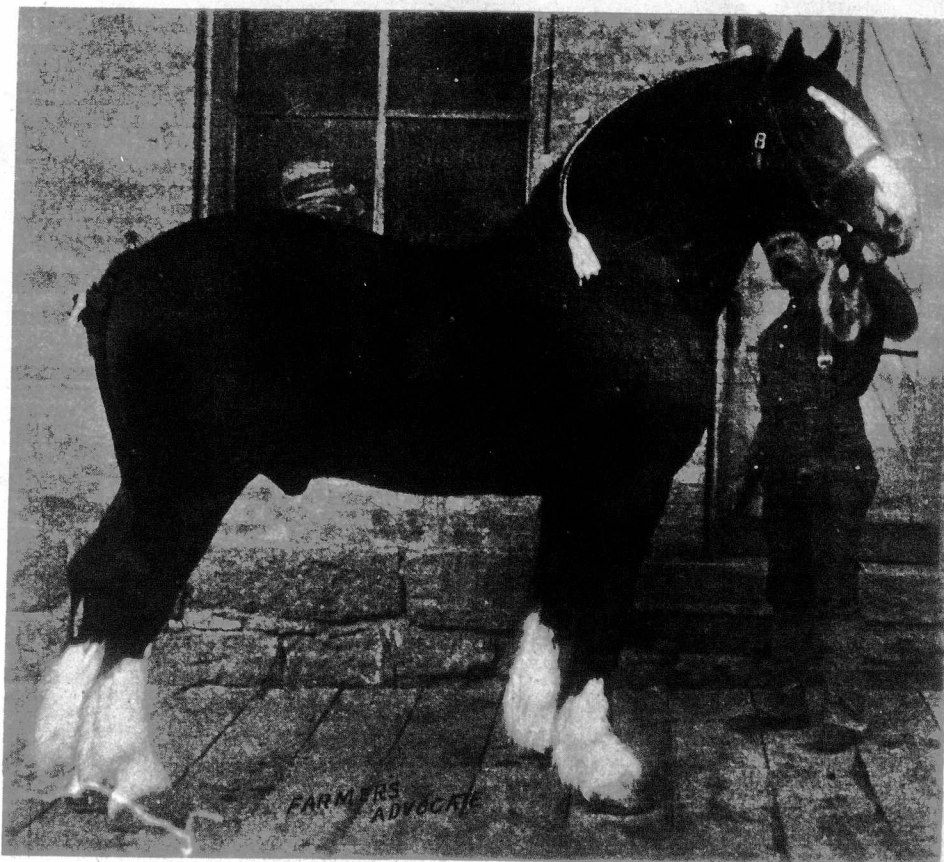
rino by having a longer and less yolky fleece and a fleshier and larger carcass. This difference is due to a change of environment, combined with careful selection. The fine wool of the Saxony is the product of special treatment and management for the production of wool of the character desired.

Existing English breeds owe much to the help of the earliest improved of English sheep, particularly the Leicester and Southdown. The Long-wool breeds have been helped by the Leicester. The chief benefit conferred has been that of giving early maturity and of improving the quality of the wool. Both the Lincoln and Cotswold probably owe to the Leicester a reduction of coarseness of bone and an improvement in the fleshiness and roundness of rib.

The Southdown has operated in a still wider sphere. The Hampshire, Shropshire, Suffolk, and indirectly the Oxford, are all indebted to it. It is a somewhat remarkable thing that the derived breeds have perhaps outstripped in popularity the original improving breed. This is perhaps due to the fact that the original perfections of form that have been secured in such hands as those of Bakewell and Ellman are higher than can be successfully maintained by the bulk of inexperienced breeders, and the product of the outcrossing of these breeds on local varieties have shown a very satisfactory sheep, and perhaps one that carries with it a ruggedness of constitution resulting from the infusion of new blood into a hardy primitive breed. The favor in which these derived or improved breeds stands has led to the greatest perfection in these breeds themselves, to such a degree that scarcely any perfection of form can be claimed to exist in one breed, either original or derived, that cannot be paralleled or claimed for any other. The best types of all the English breeds are good sheep, showing variations of fleece, form, habits and size that differentiate them and make each separately suited to a special class of circumstances and environment.

The old Norfolk sheep is the last class of local sheep that has risen to prominence among English breeds. It was formerly a heath sheep. It was originally a very black-faced, horned animal, with long legs, accented by a long face, narrow, flat body and light hams. This type has given way to a modern sheep, showing an approximation to the Southdown type, which in other words may be designated as an early-maturing type, and it now is brought closer to the ground and has a broader-set, fleshy body, and has attained greater weight.

Concurrently with the improvement of carcass has come an improvement in wool. Primitive black-faced sheep show a tendency to darkness of skin and wool. These defects are essentially to be counteracted by selection and breeding, and this matter has been assiduously attended to in modern English flocks. This along with the high mutton qualities of the breed, both as to form, quantity and quality, give the Suffolks a specific and important place among the English breeds. Breeders of Suffolks in the Old Land might deem a defence of their breed uncalled for, and might claim in certain flocks a steady improvement and development and a consistent pursuit of pure breeding over a period of seventy-five years. They can also point to the triumphs of the breed at Smithfield, the most distinguished battle-ground of the meat animals in the world. It is the case, however, that the adoption of the breed has not reached any widespread proportions on this side of the water. Recent years have been marked by a steady stream of importations of the Lincoln, Leicester, Cotswold, Oxford, Shropshire, Southdown, and Dorset, in different numbers suited to the tastes and relishes of fanciers on this side of the water. It is to be noted, too, that last year and this have brought in some fine types of Hampshires, the typical hurdle and fast-maturing breed of the live-stock farm of the world. It is in order to expect a more general introduction of the Suffolk by reason of their home reputation and the success that has attended the introduction of all the other prominent English breeds.



PRINCE WILLIAM JR. 8708.

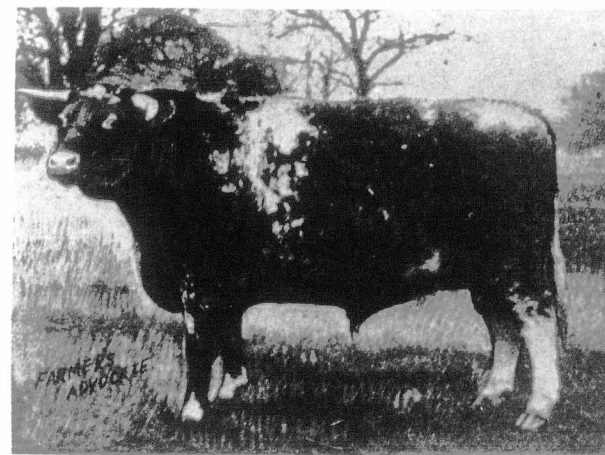
Four-year-old Clydesdale stallion, champion over all ages, International Show, Chicago, 1901. Weight, 2,050 pounds.

OWNED BY ALEX. GALBRAITH, JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN.

To Make the Drumsticks Tender.

One who has once drawn the tendons from a chicken or turkey, no matter how the fowl is to be cooked, will never again use one having the tough sinews unremoved. A marketman will draw a fowl's tendons for the asking, but it is a task every housewife ought to know how to perform herself. Buy a fowl with its legs left on, turn it on its breast and hold the back of each leg, one at a time, of course, in the left hand. With a sharp knife in the right hand cut very carefully just below the knee joint, through the skin, not any deeper. Inside will be found a group of tendons, there being eight in each leg, lying snug in a groove. They are attached to the foot, but through the dark meat they run away up into the leg, well into the upper joint. With a strong wire skewer lift each tendon separately, hold the chicken firmly, and pull. If the chicken is young and tender, each tendon will come out easily, and it can be pulled by a slight effort. If the bird has seen several Thanksgivings, all the muscle that can be put into the job will be required, but it is exactly such a bird that demands most the tendon-drawing process.

A turkey calls for more muscle, and "a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull all together." Cut the skin in the leg about half way between the knee joint and foot, and there will be discovered immediately the group of shining white tendons. Slip a strong skewer, or if the bird is quite elderly, the point of the sharpener that belongs to a carving set, under the bunch of tendons. Lift them carefully, then twist around two or three times, acquiring a firm hold. Give a strong pull and out they will come, together. Count them, and if there are not eight, go after the ones that are left. With these tough sinews removed, the dark meat is so delicious and tender that the drumsticks of one turkey will be found scarcely a large enough supply for the family table.—(Good Housekeeping.)



TWO-YEAR-OLD SHORTHORN STEER.
Exhibited at the Scottish National Show, 1901, by Lord Roseberry.