

dry properly. Some attention should be given to the udders, milking them out when needed that no quarters may be spoiled. As soon as the ewes are dry I believe in getting them in condition for fall breeding. By late fall they should be in smooth condition; not fat, but smooth with a nice layer of meat.

Having fed the lambs grain since birth, which I believe should be done with all classes of lambs, they will hardly know that they are being weaned, especially if they are given a fresh run over the best of green foods, such as second-crop clover, rape, fall turnips or rye. Before weaning the grain fed produces the best results if it has been ground or crushed, but for lambs after weaning it does not matter so much unless very rapid gains are desirable. Lambs after weaning should get at least half a pound a head daily of some good grain mixture, with the best pasture or green fodders that are obtainable. For the lambs that are being fattened for market the grain mixture might be corn and oats, equal parts by weight, or if it is a neighborhood where peas are grown or pea screenings are obtainable at customary prices I would include cracked peas in the ration, making it one-third by weight. With rape or second-crop clover or a field of rye to graze healthy lambs should make very profitable progress. For the ewe lambs I believe in just as heavy feeding as they will stand of such foods as bran and oats. I do not believe that there is any other time in the lambs' existence that the good shepherd shows his qualities to more advantage than in forcing the ewe lambs ahead at the time they need the best care and feed, as at this season. To have stout and strong yearlings they have to go through the winter in proper condition, and to be put in that condition they require good feeding in the fall. The ram lambs need to get good feed also to do well. In fact they are given to such restless activity that they require fully better feed to make as satisfactory appearances as the ewe lambs. Good oats with the green fodders that have been named will likely be satisfactory if the lambs are free from worms, clean in fleece and without maggots, which are all things that should be carefully watched for at this season.

The way lambs are pastured and the green stuff that they get has a great deal to do with their thrift. Close feeding is likely to result disastrously both on the appearance of the lambs and their health. Some one has said with more than common aptness that to get the most out of pasturing stock there should be pasture enough for two head and only one to eat it. Fresh pasture is of as much importance as an abundance of it, and if possible it should be so arranged that the lambs may be changed from one field to another at intervals. This can be accomplished by the use of hurdles and for safety should be followed in the instance of any green food that is very luxuriant and abundant. While clover and rape are admitted as very satisfactory crops it has seemed to me that rye has not received the credit for this purpose that should be awarded to it. Rye is benefited by having the sheep run on it in the fall, and it is certainly excellent for the sheep. If the rape fails on account of the drouth, or the clover aftermath does not furnish the required feed, it is a safe plan as a rule to sow some rye early in the fall, for if there is any crop that will produce under adverse circumstances it is certainly this.

## What Constitutes a Good Beef Animal

It was not until within recent years that the heavy, inordinately fat, or rough and patchy bullock, became unpopular to such an extent as practically to drive his class from the market and to banish the type from the breeding herds. It is well that this was done; for the modern type makes beef at decidedly more profit and economy to both the producer and the butcher and furnishes the consumer a far superior article.

The parts furnishing the high-priced cuts must be thickly and evenly covered with firm, yet mellow, flesh, of uniform good quality, and alike free from hard rolls and blubbery patches. Coarse, harsh, and gaudy animals will no longer

be tolerated, much less those that are bony and bare of flesh on the back and ribs. The men who buy our cattle and fix their market value are shrewd enough to know, almost at a glance, how much and just what kind of meat a steer or carload of steers will cut out, and if the producer overlooks any of the essential points he is compelled to bear the loss.

Then, in addition to securing the general beef form and make-up, together with good backs, ribs, and loins, there is a certain quality, character, style, and finish that constitute an important factor in determining the value of beef cattle. One of the first indications of this is to be found in the skin and coat. A good feeding animal should have a soft mellow touch and a soft but thick and heavy coat. A harsh, unyielding skin is an indication of a sluggish circulation and low digestive powers. The character and finish exemplified by a clear, prominent yet placid eye, clean-cut features, fine horn, and clean, firm bone, all go to indicate good feeding quality and a capacity to take on a finish of the highest excellence, and consequently to command top prices. Coarse-boned, rough animals are always invariably slow feeders and hard to finish properly. A certain amount of size is necessary, but it should be obtained without coarseness. The present demand exacts quality and finish rather than size.

Besides these qualities, and, above all, it is necessary to have vigor and constitution. We find evidence of these in a wide forehead, a prominent brisket, broad chest, well-sprung ribs, full heart girth, and general robust appearance; and without these other excellence will not have its highest significance.—*Prof. C. F. Curtiss, in Fourteenth Annual Report of Bureau of Animal Industry.*

---

## CORRESPONDENCE

---

### A Ten Days' Milk Test

To the Editor of FARMING:

I read with much interest the remarks of Professor Dean and Messrs. Boden and Rice in your issue of Oct. 25th, concerning the milk test, with much interest. The one thing that suited me in Mr. Boden's letter was that it meant straight business. That is just what we want, as what is right is wrong to no one.

In regard to Professor Dean's view that it would be difficult to carry on the test, I think we could have the test in question without so much expense. I should think if one man were appointed to represent each breed the question of food could be arranged for. All we need is to know what the ration to be fed will be, so that we can get our cows used to it, and, by all competitors feeding the same feed, there should be no difficulty as to the cost of the feed consumed. If all were to feed what might be considered an every-day feed, the public would have a better idea of what was going on.

I think Mr. Rice is about right when he states that a cow should be judged by a milk test. A dairy cow should have a good constitution and udder, but, best of all, the ability to show up well in a test. By judging in this way we should soon have a lot of useful cows. I do not mean that we have not such now, but we would know more about them. I have often heard people say that they had a cow at home that could beat the cow which the milk test. They must remember, however, that a cow at home is not in a public test, and all I have to say to such is to bring out their cows and try their luck. I was surprised to hear the remark at the Toronto Fair that milk was the last consideration in judging a cow. If that be the case, what is the use of breeding dairy cattle? I say, breed for business, and then you will have the kind that fills your pocket. Not many would be in the dairy business if this were not the object.

N. DYMENT.

Clappison's Corners, Ont., Nov. 2nd, 1898.