

## STOCK

*Discussions on Live-Stock subjects welcomed.*

A big string of Canadian raised steers and Canadian grazed Texas steers was marketed last week in Chicago. The company marketing the bunch was the Bloom Cattle Co., with headquarters at Trinidad, Colorado. The Canadian steers sold at \$5.00 to \$6.00, the latter price being the top figure by a good margin for range cattle in Chicago last week. The Texans, Canada grazed, sold at \$4.35 to \$5.35. The \$4.55 lot were old southern cattle, averaging in weight 1,442 lbs., there being some in the lot that would weigh 1,600 to 1,700 lbs. They had been pasturing here for several years, and some were eight or nine years old. The Bloom Company is satisfied with results, and believe in grazing their Texans until the age of five or six, believing that they fatten at cheaper cost and give better returns one time with another than if marketed at four years old.

### Market Classes of Beef Cattle

The man who raises beef cattle in any number needs to be posted on the different classes of stock which he sees quoted in market reports and

thin cattle of all kinds, bulls, steers, stags and heifers, may be as common in the canner class as cows. As a class, cannery and cutters are discriminated against more than any other. As a rule, they are cattle that dress low, are large in the paunch, heavy in the bone, and relatively very sparsely fleshed. Cannery are not, however, the lowest grade of cattle, but they are within one of it. There is another class of stock, known in cattle markets by various names, the most common of which are "skins" and "bologna bulls," animals of very inferior conformation and condition.

"Stockers and feeders," are a very important class of cattle in some markets. In Chicago they form a very large class at certain seasons, and in all markets for which any considerable feeding is done, they are common. In this country they are not much met with, since few feeders depend on purchasing their feeding stock in any central market. They represent the beginning and the end of the processes of beef production. The class may include calves, yearlings, two-year-olds or older animals. As a rule, however, stockers and feeders range in weight from 900 to 1,000 lbs., and are a year and a half or more in age. They are not cull stock or animals lacking in beef conformation, but simply thin cattle of quality ready to commence the fattening process.

Veal calves are not difficult of classification. They run anywhere from 100 to 300 lbs. in weight, but weight alone is not the basis for determining

needs they are likely to be set back at the age, when for the food consumed they should be gaining most rapidly.

In weaning pigs it is a good scheme sometimes to let them continue running with the sow putting her on rather slim rations and giving the youngsters access by a small gate from her lot into another pen where they may be fed. The pigs will thus be changed from the dam's milk to the next diet gradually, while the decrease in the sow's rations causes a decrease in milk secretion in her glands. The result is that both dam and pigs are separated without either of them worrying very much.

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The Union Stock Yards, Toronto, were sold the other day to an outside buyer whose identity has not been disclosed, but who is believed to be one of the large American packers, rumor connecting with the sale the name of Swift & Co.

### A Hog Cot for Summer or Winter

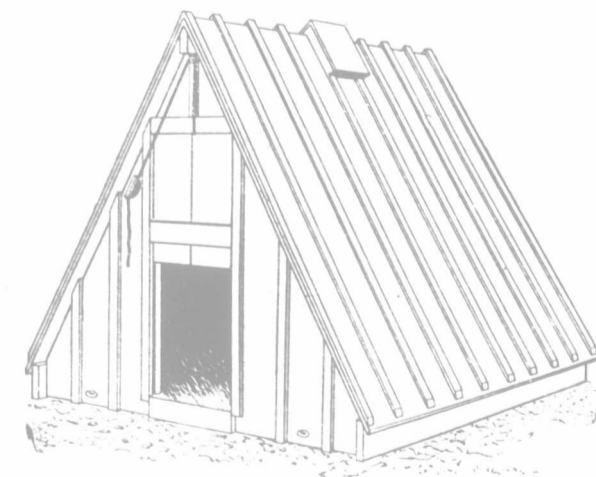
The accompanying illustration shows a hog cot or wigwam as used at the Wisconsin, U. S. Experiment Station. The cot is constructed for either summer or winter use, has a floor and ventilating system and taken all through is the latest improved type of A shaped hog pen.

It is constructed by nailing inch boards on 6 joists 2 by 4 inches by 8 feet long for the floor. Beneath the joists are nailed 3 stringers 2 by 6 inches, 8 feet long, which serve as runners for moving the house. Next is spiked a piece 2 by 8 inches, 9 feet 4 inches long, at the ends of the joists, having the bottom of the 2 by 8 even with the bottom of the joist which will allow it to project above the floor 3 inches. It will also extend out 7 inches at each end. This 2 by 8 forms a plate to which the rafters and floor boards are nailed. The 7-inch extension of the plate at the ends supports the lower corners of the roof which otherwise would be easily split off. These 2 by 8's, besides strengthening the house, raise the rafters and roof boards nailed to them at least 3 inches off the floor and thereby materially increase the floor space and the capacity of the house.

If the house is to be used in extremely cold weather an easily manipulated door is necessary. The cut shows a door 2 feet wide and 2 feet 6 inches high, made to slide up and down and held in place by cleats. It is suspended by a rope which passes through a pulley at the top and is fastened to a cleat at the side near the roof. The cut also shows two iron eyes, bolted into the front joist of the building, to which the hitch is made when the building is moved.

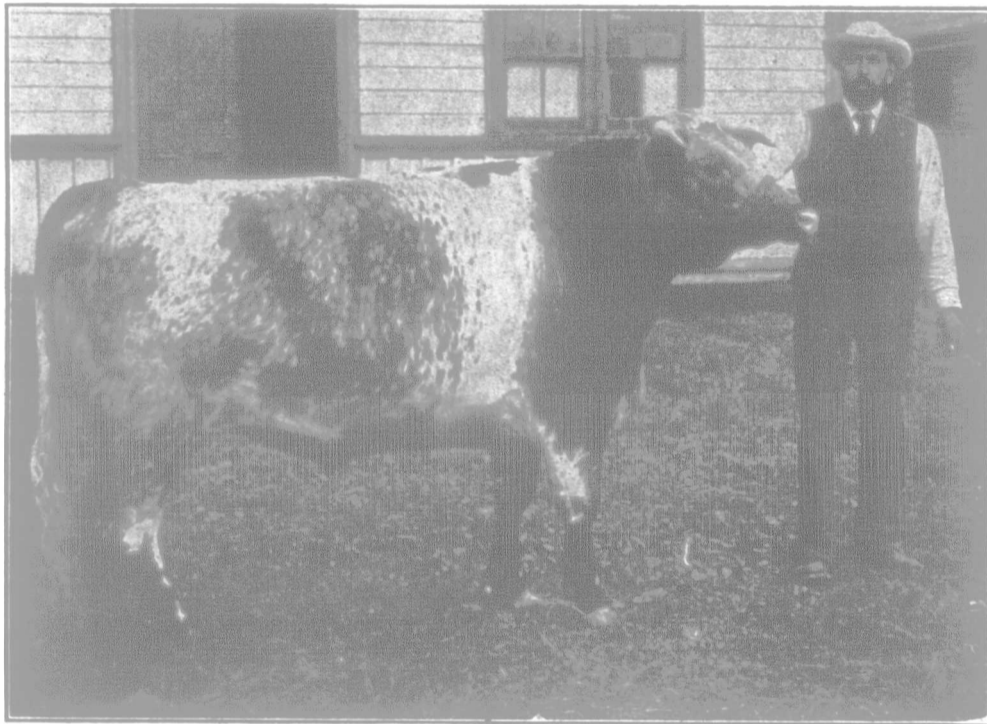
A rear door, identical in size with the front door, is held in place by cleats nailed across it on the inside and by buttons fastened on the outside. This door is not opened regularly, but provides ventilation in summer and aids in handling sows at farrowing time. Above the rear door is a small sliding door, 8 by 12 inches, to admit light and air.

Another important feature of this house is the ventilator, which is a small cap covering a hole at the top and the center of the roof. The hole is made by sawing off opposite ends of two roof boards and covering it with a cap so arranged as to leave openings 3 inches by 12 inches on each side of the roof. This is sufficient ventilation for two or three animals when all the doors are shut, and if more ventilation is desired it can easily be secured by opening the small sliding door in the rear. This simple plan of ventilation avoids any direct drafts upon the animals and proves very efficient.



PORTABLE HOG-HOUSE FOR SUMMER OR WINTER

The following lumber is necessary to construct this portable house as shown in figure 2: Nine pieces 1 by 12 inches, 16 feet long, and 11 O.G. battens 16 ft. long, for roof; 5 pieces 1 by 12 inches, 14 feet long, for ends; 1 piece 2 by 4 inches, 16 ft. long for stringers; and 4 pieces 1 by 12 inches, 16 ft. long, rough, for flooring. All the boards except those used for the roof, should be dressed on one side.



FIRST-PRIZE YEARLING STEER, Sired by SHORTHORN BULL

Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, 1908. Owned, bred and exhibited by Jas. Leask, Greenbank, Ont.

referred to generally by buyers in such terms as exporters, dressed beef cattle, butchers' stock, cannery and cutters, stockers and feeders, or veal calves. Under the general term, beef cattle, all these classes, and in large markets a good many more, are included.

As a rule, export cattle include good and choice grades of steers weighing from 1,200 to 1,500 lbs., well fattened and fit for long shipment alive without undue loss in weight and quality. "Dressed beef cattle" is a term used to describe stock purchased for slaughter and packing. In this class there is a wider range in weight and quality than there is among exporters. They may carry less fleshing and still be fit for packing purposes; they may be lighter in weight, providing they are fairly well finished. Any cattle not too old that will kill out into a fair quality of beef will pass as dressed beef stock.

The term "butchers' stock" covers a larger class of cattle than any other. Butcher cattle may be almost anything is too old for veal. In a way they are the bye products of the cattle feeding industry, the culls, perhaps, from a bunch of exporters, heifers, fat cows, half-fattened farm stock, etc. Into markets where a good class of fed stock is sold, the percentage of butcher stock is not very great, but in markets where there is a very small packing demand, when the stock generally is either for export or local use, there is likely to be a much larger proportion of the receipts classified under the term "butchers'." The western Canadian market is very much of this kind.

"Cannery and cutters" are generally supposed to refer to old thin cows only. As a matter of fact,

grades. Quality enters very largely into the classification. A choice veal calf must be fat and fancy, not too young or too old.

### Weaning Pigs.

By the time pigs are three or four weeks old they will have learned to eat soft foods, and the more they can be encouraged to eat the better. They should be given access to a pen adjoining the sow, if it is possible to so arrange it, and fed skim milk and shorts in a small trough of their own. At first the quantity of shorts fed should be small, for a sucking pig's stomach is not adapted to the digestion of solid food. The organs that secrete the juices which bring about the digestion of foods other than milk are not at this age sufficiently developed in function to manage the digestion of grain foods in any quantity. But with use they gradually reach that stage where ordinary food stuff can be handled. In pigs this condition is reached at the age of from six to eight weeks. They are then ready to wean.

Sucking pigs are the better for getting at food as early in life as possible for another reason. They save the sow as well as get the eating habit. A sow with a fair sized litter has to stand a pretty heavy strain on her milk-making resources by the time the pigs have reached the age of a month or so, and unless the youngsters' rations are supplemented from some other source than her own milk supply, she is likely to be pulled down more than is good for her before the litter can be weaned. It is not so good for the pigs either, since their food demands are constantly increasing with age and if the dam cannot supply their