

London Dairy-cows Milking trials.

In the open milking trials at the Dairy Show which closed this week, one of the most noticeable things is the fact of a Shorthorn cow, the property of Mr. Evens of Lincoln, proving the champion of the meeting.

This wonderful dairy performer has a slender build of forequarter, light neck and graceful head, with red hair of soft quality, and fine, polished horns. She is refined in bone, and displays a remarkable udder and wealthy milking indications. She has produced four calves, is six years and three months old, and at 224 days period after calving has yielded milk as follows, in pounds:—

	Morning.	Evening.	Or Daily.
First day.	27.8	20.7
Second day.....	28.7	20.2
Average.....	25.2	28.4	48.6

This milk contained, per cent:—

	Morning.	Evening.
Solids	13.4	15.0
Fat.....	3.5	5.3
Solids other than fat.....	9.9	9.7

A pound of the milk contains (1): Of fat, 0.280; of solids other than fat, 0.792.

The "points" claimed for her are:—

For time since calving.....	18.0
For weight of milk.....	48.6
For weight of fat in the milk.....	41.4
For weight of solids other than fat.....	19.1

Total points..... 127.1

Another victory for the Shorthorns! When will some true patriot import a herd of the real shorthorn milk breed?

—A. R. J. F.

OUR ENGRAVINGS.

Pork.—Fat and lean pork. See pp. 5, 6 and 7.

Flower stands.—See p. 11.

Abstract of address by Prof Geo E. Morrow, before the Illinois Wool Growers Association, in Chicago, Nov. 15, 1887.

The wool growing interest is depressed. Prices are low. Many growers are discouraged. No extraordinary change is expected soon. We are in an era of low prices and small profits in agriculture. There is little probability of an increase of tariff duties. Possibly there may be reduction of those existing. This is the discouraging side.

There is a brighter side. This interest only shows the depression common to most lines of agriculture. Wool is not relatively lower than wheat and beef. There is good prospect for some improvement. There has already been some. The reduction of flocks by some disheartened owners will help others. American wools are of higher quality and will remain in good demand. Economy of production has been well learned. The average quality of many flocks has been improved by sale of inferior animals.

Wool growers are sheep owners. Constant recognition of this fact will help to profit. Sheep have three great purposes—to reproduce their kind; to produce mutton and grow wool. All three should be kept in mind in breeding. Bred for specific purposes; not always for a specific purpose. Good

size and form are not opposed to a large fleece and good wool. The best wool is produced when the sheep are continuously well fed. It is not wise for the friends of any breed of sheep to neglect their mutton producing capabilities.

Mutton is a healthful, nutritious, palatable food. Recent low prices have tended to increase its use. Americans are great meat eaters. The use of pork is almost universal. There is reason to believe mutton may yet rank alongside beef. There is an increasing demand for good early lambs. Sometimes it will be wise to cross breeds to secure large lambs, but it will be a mistake to give up any of our well established types of sheep. (1)

The sixth annual meeting of the National Swine Breeders Association held in Chicago on the 16th inst., was in every way a success. The officers for the ensuing year are as follows:—President, Dr. L. Thomas, Rushville, Ind. Vice-President, S. H. Todd, Wakeman, Ohio. Secretary, Phil. M. Springer, Springfield, Ill. Treasurer, E. R. Moody, Eminence, Ky. Executive committee, L. N. Bonham, Oxford, Ohio; C. W. Jones, Richland, Mich.; N. H. Gentry, Sedalia, Mo.; B. R. Vale, Bonaparte, Iowa. A copy of the proceeding in full will be sent to each member soon as published.

PHIL. THURFTON.

Hampshire Downs at West Stratton.

The *Live Stock Journal* lately published the following:—

When Mr. William Parsons, of West Stratton, in the course of his able paper on "Early Maturity," at the Farmers' Club three years ago, quoted figures and gave details of practice which were considered rather flattering to his favourite breed—the Hampshire Downs—some of the members who took part in the discussion attributed the results to advantages of climate, particularly to the coolness of the Hampshire hills in summer time. We wish these gentlemen had accompanied us in our inspection of the flock at West Stratton on Friday last, when we think they would have agreed that there was very little to boast of in this respect. The late and trying spring has been followed there, as elsewhere, by a summer of scorching heat and excessive drought, and it has been with considerable difficulty that the flock has been brought along, several of the forage crops having missed. Still, careful and skilful management overcomes many difficulties, and we have rarely seen a flock in better condition—not fat, but healthy and thriving—than the magnificent collection of Hampshire at West Stratton, which Mr. Parsons has bred with such remarkable success. During the present and last season Mr. Parsons has not exhibited specimens of his flock—last year owing to the failure of the root crop, and this year on account of his approaching sale. Had they been shown we are certain they would, as before, have given a good account of themselves, and that the breeders outside Hampshire, who so nearly made a clean sweep of the prizes from the county exhibitors at Reading, would have found their work a good deal more difficult of accomplishment. Without such good reasons for withdrawing from the show-yard, Mr. Parsons might very well have been content with his former victories, for during the ten years that the flock was exhibited it gained no less than £758 in prizes, made up of one gold medal, two silver medals, eight champion prizes, fifty-four first prizes, twenty second prizes, and five third prizes, including in 1883 the champion prize at Smithfield over all breeds with a marvellous pen of lambs.

The breed which thus owes a good deal of its modern reputation to the victories achieved in the show-yard by Mr.

(1) I do not understand this

(1) Give up the long-wools except on rich, low-lying pastures. Their meat will never make mutton popular. A. R. J. F.