

demand, for the disposal of what his farm can furnish in the way of flesh meat, but will find men who make it their business to act as factors between the producer and consumer at all times, going through the country, or attending local fairs, ready to buy up at fair prices every head of live stock they can find in a condition suitable for the butcher.

The age at which cattle can be profitably fattened will depend much upon their breeding, and the manner in which they have been reared. Steers or heifers, having from half to three-fourths Shorthorn or Hereford blood in them, and that have been kept in a thrifty growing condition from calfhood, are usually sufficiently advanced to be put up to fatten when from thirty to thirty-six months old. Pure-bred animals of Shorthorn or Hereford blood may be profitably fattened at an earlier age. A cross of one-half to three-quarter Devon blood on common stock makes an animal that can go into the stalls at two years old, if it has been kept in good growing condition. Common native cattle can rarely be profitably fed for the butcher till they are four years old. If cattle are put up to fatten before their growth has sufficiently advanced, so as to bring them near their full capacity of laying up substance, much of the food given them, instead of going to make them fat, will be wasted in adding bone and muscle, which could have been obtained more cheaply by giving them time to complete their development on ordinary keep. Besides, the effort to fatten an animal when in an immature state can only result in producing meat of a very inferior quality, and commanding a much less price than if the same animal had been kept on longer until its frame had become solid and well knit together, its muscles developed to their full capacity, and its stomach capable of digesting and assimilating a larger amount of food than is actually required to sustain the ordinary growth and wear and tear of life, without derangement of its vitality.

There are every year great numbers of young cattle sold to the butcher, or slaughtered by farmers, and their carcasses brought to market at the close of the grass season, when they are in a state of development that renders their flesh of an intermediate quality between veal and beef, without the tenderness of the one or the rich juiciness of the other, but as flavourless and worthless as any flesh can well be. It is sheer folly to sacrifice such animals for the sake of the paltry saving of a few months' food, when by keeping them over one winter more they would bring nearly double their present value, and be fit to make into beef that is full of rich savoury juices.

Stall feeding cattle, judiciously conducted, presents to the grain grower the most efficient, cheap, and desirable method of keeping up the fertility of his farm, and the most profitable means of disposing of his surplus hay, roots, and coarse grains. The manure made from such cattle, were it all the profit

derived from the process, would be amply sufficient to repay the farmer for his trouble; while the hay and grain so consumed would sell in the shape of beef for a higher price than if it had been taken to market; for it must be borne in mind that in turning roots, hay, and grain into meat, we get the price that they would bring in a higher and more distant market, without the risk and expense of transportation to it, while the same articles, hay and roots especially, would be governed as to price by the local demand of the immediate neighbourhood where they were grown, which is often very low. The greatest demand, and consequently highest prices for beef, now extend over a much longer period of the year than formerly, the facilities for transportation by rail rendering it possible at all times to furnish a constant supply of fresh meat to distant markets, when formerly much of the summer consumption was restricted to meat slaughtered in late autumn, and salted down for future use. This has in a measure rendered the winter fattening of cattle, in order to supply a spring and summer demand, much more certain to yield a profit than formerly, and greatly increased the demand for meat, now that it can be so readily supplied at all seasons in a fresh state. In a future article we may discuss the matter further, and give the best methods of profitably feeding cattle for the butcher.

#### Selecting Stock Rams.

In order to breed sheep successfully and profitably, much depends on the judgment used in selecting the rams to be used in the flock. It should be the aim of every farmer to endeavour to raise the standard of the stock on his farm, in an even and gradual manner, by using male animals of as much higher a degree of excellence each year as his means will afford. He must also keep in view a certain object in breeding. If he is so situated that he can profitably raise sheep solely for the purpose of turning into mutton, he will find his profit in using Leicester or Southdown rams of pure blood to put to common ewes. If wool is his object, he will find the use of Cotswold rams best attain the end in view, as that class of wool not only commands the highest price, but is also more certain to be of uniform quality, and to yield a high average of weight of fleece throughout a flock.

We will suppose a farmer has a flock of ordinary common grade sheep, and desires to improve them. He can begin the first year by using a ram lamb or two, costing from \$10 to \$15 each. This will carry him through two seasons, by which time the ewe lambs of the first season will be gunners, ready to take the ram. He should then get one of higher quality, say a shearling or two, costing \$20 to \$30 each. Two seasons after this he needs one of still higher quality, and of as good size as can be had, costing, we will say,

\$50. After this he should change his rams every year, giving a good price to get a first-class animal from some well-known and reliable ram breeder. In all cases it is particularly advisable not to use as stock-getters in his own flock any of the male animals bred in it. All the ram lambs in the flock not intended to be sold off as lambs to the butcher should be castrated, and raised as wethers until such time as the flock has reached the highest degree of excellence it is capable of attaining, when the ram lambs, if then good, may be kept for sale as breeding rams, and will probably bring good prices.

It is a poor policy to continue breeding and feeding sheep that will realize but from \$3 to \$5 each from the butcher, when by a little extra outlay in the way of procuring male animals as stock-getters that will raise the standard of the flock, he can obtain from \$6 to \$10 each for what he has to sell, and in a year or two more, by perseverance, the flock can be raised to such a high standard as to readily command from \$12 to \$18 or \$20 each for what can be fed up for the Christmas or spring markets, or sold as breeding stock. It costs no more to feed such animals so as to keep them in good growing store condition than it does those of inferior quality. The great aim should be to obtain animals that combine good size and form with early maturity and aptitude to fatten, and in the case of wool growing, the animals that can carry the largest fleeces of the true quality of the breed are the most profitable to keep.

#### Stallions for Common Labour.

There are very few geldings in France. The reason is, the stallions are not unmanageable, vicious, and dangerous as work horses, but docile, obedient, easily managed, and intelligent. There is nothing in the nature of things to prevent our having the advantage of the greater toughness, strength, spirit, fearlessness, safety, (in being less liable to take fright), freedom from disease, and longer serviceableness of the stallion over the gelding, were it not that we and our ancestors have so abused the temper of the horse, that his progeny exhibit, among the unaltered males, vicious and treacherous tempers, such as make them unsafe and unreliable as work horses, even under the kindest and most uniform treatment.

The English thorough-breds, unexcelled for spirit, endurance, fleetness, and wind, are the most vicious of all horses. They came from the gentle, docile, affectionate Arab, and it is only the training and abuse of the English stableboys and grooms, we verily believe, which have thus, in the course of generations, ruined the temper of the most noble of the breeds of horses. Its blood is infused through all our common stock, and to it we owe most of the characteristics for which we value our horses. Where thorough-breds have been bred for generations under