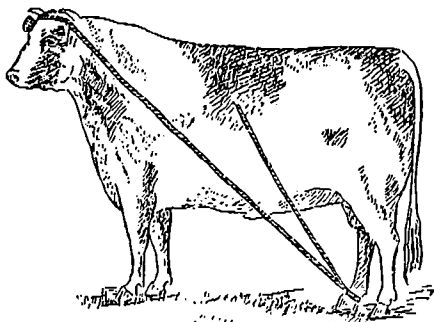


The Stock.

How to Throw an Animal.

It sometimes becomes necessary to throw a bull, steer, or cow for surgical or other purposes. It must be done with the least possible danger of injury to the animal. Our illustration shows a very effective and simple device for the purpose. A sound half-inch rope is secured at one end to the base of the horns. A slipping noose must not be used, but a knot tied at the extremity is drawn into a loop at the proper place. The next operation is to get the off hind foot into a large loop of the rope, which is then drawn taut between the hoof and the dew-claws. The operator now stands



close to the near hip with the loose end of the rope firmly grasped in his right hand. Seizing with the left hand the other part of the rope, he gently but firmly pulls the head towards him, at the same time taking up the slack by holding all taut with his right hand. Soon the distance between horns and heel will be so shortened that the animal will come down on its haunches, and then on its off side. All is held taut while it is necessary to hold the animal down to pick out any nails or snags from its feet, pare the hoofs and anoint for hoof-ail or any other purpose.

SHEAF oats, cut short and made into a "cut feed," with one quart of rye meal and two quarts of bran, make a splendid feed for the average farm horse.

ANIMALS are benefited by ashes and charcoal. Swine are apparently more benefited than are other animals; yet there is no better condition powder for horses than a little clean wood ashes. Every other day put about a teaspoonful of ashes in the feed box. For hogs mix two parts of ashes to one of salt, and give them all they want. They do not eat too much if they have it every day, but be careful if they are not accustomed to it. Hogs are very fond of charcoal and get much good from it. Burn brush or other rubbish, and when you have a good bed of coals drown them out, and then turn in the hogs.

THE following is a practical and economical method of breaking a bull. Take the animal at any age and put on the same harness that you would use on a horse, turning the collar the opposite side up, and hitch him into a two-wheeled cart in some large field where there are no trees. Then get in for a ride, letting the bull go where he wants to. When the bull begins to tire, continue to drive him until he is thoroughly conquered. After the first trial there will be no difficulty in working him; but always keep a rope attached to the ring in the nose, so that the animal cannot run away. Considerable care should be taken not to overload the animal for the first few weeks, for if once balky he will make trouble.

Now that horses will be stabled at night, or should be, the most perfect cleanliness should be observed. The floors, if of wood, should be frequently drenched with water, and then sprinkled with finely ground gypsum (plaster), by which the strong, pungent odor common to stables will be neutralized and absorbed. This strong odor of

ammonia, which often pains the eyes and nostrils of a man, is exceedingly injurious to horses. It rots leather and corrodes varnish, and what must be its effect on the eyes and lungs of the horses confined in it during whole nights? Foul air promotes glanders, farcy, blindness, influenza (epizootic), pneumonia, heaves, all common diseases of horses; and the acrid manure in which horses are compelled to stand causes not only this injurious vapor but rots the hoofs and irritates the skin.

WHILE roots are exceedingly useful for feeding sheep in the winter, they may be dispensed with by judiciously substituting other food, that has similar nutritious and alimentary properties. Roots are chiefly valuable for their succulence and laxative effect, thus helping in the digestion of other food. Silage has these same elements of value, and if by preparing hay and selecting grain wisely, the quality of silage can be approached, its effects may be approximated very closely. Sweet clover hay cut and wetted and mixed with ground oats and linseed-cake meal, in due proportion, will afford a fair substitute for roots. For a ewe with a lamb three pounds of hay cut and wetted, and one pound of mixed ground oats and linseed meal in equal proportions, with a teaspoonful of salt added, would make one day's ration. If any dry grain is given, it should be oats, or oats and peas together, and not corn.

A **WEANED** colt should be put in training as soon as it is taken from the barn, which should be when it is five or six months old. If the mare has been well fed while rearing the colt, she will not suffer in the least from this period of milking, but the colt will gain very much by it. Before weaning, the colt should be used to the halter and be tied to a separate stall when in the stable, to which it should be brought occasionally even while in pasture. Here some bran and crushed oats should be given, and when weaned the ration should be daily increased from two quarts a day to four quarts (which will be quite safe for the growing animal) of this food, but no corn should be given until the winter, when a pint to a quart may be added to the feed. Then the real training should begin. The colt should be led by the halter first; then after it has been taught to lead well, a bridle with a smooth bit should be used and after this has become familiar a harness made for the purpose should be put on it and the colt taught to draw a light cart or sled. Gradually it may be used to a saddle, and to being ridden by a small boy of light weight. During all this time the colt should be tamed and made docile by constant handling and feeding from the hand a little grain, salt and sugar, so that it will come when called and evince no fear of the owner. A horse thus trained will never be vicious nor troublesome unless spoiled afterward.

A **PROMINENT** dairyman says: In buying a cow for dairy purposes, and depending largely on external appearances in making a selection, it is wise to place the greatest stress on the udder, the paunch, and the appetite of the animal. There should be a well-developed udder if a large quantity of milk is to be secreted. The teats should be set well apart and generous in size. If a cow is to give large quantities of milk or butter she must be a hearty feeder. She cannot convert small quantities of food into large quantities of dairy products. The dainty feeder will give very dainty returns indeed. A large body is a fitting accompaniment to a vigorous appetite. This is the factory where grass, hay, and grain are turned to butter, and the accommodations must be ample if large returns are expected. The dairy cow should, in general terms, have a refined, feminine look, the skin should be mellow and pliable when rolled up by the hand. A wedge-shaped form, thin neck, and small head are the natural characteristics of animals that are valuable, since in their case superfluous bone, muscle, and tissue are placed where they do the most good,—farther back where the feed is being converted into milk and butter. Size of "milk veins," a golden color in the skin, and waxy horns are points well worth noting, but of more importance is the disposition, which should be gentle and not easily becoming irritable.

The Poultry Yard.

IN your intercourse with the world, always remember that the hen that cackles over night, lays no egg in the morning.

DON'T fail to utilize all the turnip tops the garden affords. They make fine chicken feed. Either throw them on the ground, turnips and all, for the chickens to pick at, or tie them in bunches with a coarse string that will not cut, and weight them down with a rock. The turnips themselves, if cooked, mashed, and mixed with bran and shorts, make excellent feed for laying hens and growing chickens.

HENS should not be fed on a concentrated food any more than cows or horses. Clover, potatoes, milk, meat, with plenty of corn, are better than any single article. It is not an easy matter to make up a "perfect ration" for a hen. If she ceases to lay regularly, corn will soon cause her to become useless, but as long as she is producing egg she will use a vast amount of "raw material" for that purpose. Milk, daily added to other food, will largely assist in supplying many elements not obtainable so easily from other sources.

MAKE sure that all leaks are stopped in the poultry house, for cold, damp quarters is the prime cause of roup and few eggs. A dry cold house is far better than a warm wet one. Secure your green clover for winter use by barreling the same and storing in your ice-house, or by curing second growth clover to the amount of six pounds to each fowl you keep for use in January, February, and March. Select the birds you are to breed now and let them grow to maturity together, and in no case allowed to get fat if you would have eggs hatch well in March.

A **RATHER** irritable farmer, annoyed by the fowls in his grain mows, picked up a club and slaughtered a dozen of the hens. To his wife's remonstrance he declared that the fowls caused great damage and were of so little value as to be of no account at all. The woman was, however, able to show in reply a goodly roll of bills she had stowed away as the receipts from the poultry and eggs she had sold. Chickens, as a rule, are wasted to a great extent for want of the care that might readily be given to them, and as regards the little food they may steal, this is not one-tenth as much as is stolen by rats and mice without any complaint or notice. Moreover, the waste of small grain and other food that might be turned into products, is sufficient to amount to a very tidy sum of money every year.

IN the cold periods of winter the hens must not be exposed to the open air, if the wind is in certain directions, or they will have frosted combs, become subject to colds or roup, and fall off in egg production. If, however, some kind of covered run or open shed be provided, facing the south, forming a wind-break, the hens will do well if they have litter in which to work. This is the secret of success with the farmers' fowls. They are not so much exposed as a rule as may be supposed, for the wagon shed, barn sheds, or any covered location, will be appropriated by them, where they enjoy the open air without being exposed too much. If they were cooped up in walls as closely as are some of the pure breeds, they would perish, for the more active the fowl the greater its repugnance to confinement. A fowl loves a warm place at night, free from draughts, and it will seek the most sheltered and protected spot, even in the poultry house, at night, but during the day it prefers the lightest and warmest that admits of the nearest approach to the open air. To turn them into the yard is no substitute, as they should be so situated as to be able to scratch and work all day without being affected by winds or rains. The poultry-house should really be used for laying and roosting only, and not for confining the fowls during the day in winter.