

can be fitted on the living lamb. The ewe being tied in a small pen with the lamb, will in a few days take it as her own. If the ewes are infested with ticks the lambs will soon suffer from this cause, and in that case we advise early shearing of the ewes, unwashed, and dipping the lambs in a few days after, when the ticks will practically all have sought new and fresh pasture afforded by the lambs. It is well to attend to all these things before the spring seeding commences, as after that all hands will be busily employed, and the sheep may be left to suffer on for a month or more, losing in condition when they ought and may by good management be gaining.

Cost of Producing Pork per Pound, Live Weight.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Being anxious to know how much a pound of live pork cost me to produce, I have tried a few experiments at different times with different bunches of hogs and with different kinds and prices of feed. The first trial was in May, 1895, with nine three-quarter-bred Yorkshires, average weight 105 lbs.; in 50 days they weighed 195 lbs., a gain of 90 lbs., but it cost me 4½c. per lb. to produce that 90 lbs. All the skim milk they received was valued at 20c. per 100. Their grain ration was a good quality of middlings, costing \$18 per ton; the middlings were soaked in feed box for 24 hours with cold water, and a little salt added. They were fed morning, noon, and night, all they could eat up clean, with the skim milk added in their troughs at time of feeding. I paid 5c. per lb. for them as store hogs, and sold them at 4½c. when fat, so that there was only a very small profit on the whole transaction.

The second trial was begun on Dec. 13, 1896, with ten cross-bred Berkshires from a Tamworth sire. Their average weight was 135 lbs., and in seven days had gained 14 lbs. each, which had cost to produce 2½c. per lb. At the same time we tested 24 pigs, same breed, at 60 lbs. each, and their gain was 10 lbs. in seven days, costing 2½c. per lb. All were fed the same mixture of feed, all they would eat up clean, morning and night, with a small feed of raw mangels at noon. Their feed was a mixture, as follows: Turnips pulped, then boiled in a 45-gallon furnace, one boiling daily to the whole number of pigs; the grain used was one bag of ground barley meal to one bag of wheat bran, evenly mixed together while dry, then mixed in the boiled turnips as hot as it was possible to handle it, and enough grain stirred in till it was quite thick, then covered and let stand a few hours before feeding; the skim milk being added in the troughs at feeding time. On the 14th of January, 1897, the ten large hogs were sold fat at five and a half months old, and averaged 205 lbs. each. The 24 smaller ones were now about 85 lbs. each. They were again tested for seven days, and gained 14 lbs. each, at a cost for feed of 3c. per day, or 1½c. per lb. The only difference in their food was that they were receiving the share of skim milk from the ten fat ones sold, and in substituting middlings in the place of barley meal. The middlings were very cheap, only \$10 per ton. It seems that these trials would convince us that to produce pork profitably we must feed very cheap and bulky food and prepared in a warm form.

W. C. SHEARER.
Oxford Co., Ont.

The Time Sows Should Farrow.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—In your issue of March 1st, I see a number of answers to some questions from S. Hurley, Dundas County, Ont. No. 7 reads thus: "When is the best time to have the pigs come, in the fall, winter or spring?" The answers to which were in every case, spring or fall, except in that of John Bell, in which he says, "I never find pigs come wrong." Now, sir, I quite disagree with the idea of having all pigs come in the spring or fall, not because it is a bad time for the pigs to come, and especially in the spring, as the youngsters will get on the grass as soon as weaned and thrive much better on a small grain ration than they would do if confined in cold weather in a small pen. But then, there are other things to be considered, which, to my mind, are of far more importance than the one just named. Now, sir, let us suppose that every farmer arranges to have his sows farrow spring and fall. The result would be two sales a year—spring and fall—thus crowding the market at those times, so that it would be impossible for the packers to handle the hogs in so short a time, which would have the effect of reducing the price, for it is a well-known fact that where rush and hurry is resorted to in any business it cannot be done as cheaply as it could be where a regulation staff of experienced hands are constantly employed. But a short time ago I remember seeing a letter from Mr. Davies, of Toronto, on this very subject, in which he expressed himself thus, or in words to the same effect: "We could handle more hogs than we do if we could get the right kind of hogs and get them more regularly; but," he says, "the trouble is at certain seasons of the year we get more than we can handle, and at others we are idle for want of hogs." Now, sir, my plan would be, if the farmer is raising any considerable number of hogs, say he is keeping from three to ten or a dozen brood sows, is to have them farrow all along during the year, so that he could have a litter or two ready for market every month or two during the whole season, which

would do away with the trouble complained of by Mr. Davies. But some will say: "I cannot do that. I have no up-to-date pig house, etc., warm enough for sows to farrow in in the winter season." Well, you don't need it unless you are able to afford it. Build a rail pen high enough to walk in, cover it with long, coarse straw which has been tramped over by cattle or left in the stalls, and you will have a pig house that will answer every purpose until you are able to afford a better. I am not trying to depreciate the value of a good pig house, by any means, for I think they are among the most profitable buildings on the farm, and while I am writing, I wish to refer to another matter—the kind of hog to raise.

The packers are continually crying out, "Give us long, deep-sided bacon hogs." But, sir, do they encourage the raising of such hogs? To a certain extent I think the packer does. But then what about the local buyer? With him I think the blame rests to a considerable extent. The local buyer goes about the country buying hogs promiscuously—thick fat, sows, stags, long-sided bacon hogs—all one price, while it is a well-known fact among farmers that the long bacon hog cannot be raised as cheaply as the little, short, fat breeds; yet the buyer, for fear of losing the man's trade, pays him the same for his fat hogs as he does the man with the bacon hog, expecting if he gets out clear on the short hog to make a double profit on the hog which fills the market. Now, sir, I think the way to buy hogs is according to value—the same as wheat. Wheat is worth a certain price, standard 60 pounds; less than that, less price; more than that, higher price. Hogs, singers, certain price; thick fat, so much less; sows, stags, etc., so much less.

JAS. BLACKBURN.
Bothwell Co., Ont.

Against Stone Walls for Piggeries.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—In your issue of February 15th I notice the enquiry: "Would stone walls for a pig house be damp and unhealthy if boarded on the inside and packed with some dry material to the width of three inches." The answer given, though somewhat noncommittal, I fear may be misleading, as I feel sure the experience of those who have built piggeries with stone wall has been anything but satisfactory; and I have very grave doubts as to the effect of the lining and packing having the desired effect of preventing dampness of the atmosphere in the building, as it will be more or less conducted by the packing. In cases where men have unfortunately built stone walls and proved their unsuitableness, probably the best thing that can be done to improve them is to line them with board, on the inside, and in that case I think a dead air space would be much better than do not conduct frost and dampness and are therefore drier than some walls. Of this I cannot speak from experience, but I believe there is some show of reason in the claims since it is known that a concrete wall, while setting, at least, will absorb a large quantity of water, and it may have the effect after being fully set of absorbing moisture, but in the absence of experience as to this I should feel safer in recommending a frame building lined inside, and to make at once warm and dry would use two thicknesses felt paper. To do this it would probably be necessary to double board on the inside and paper between, but very cheap cull lumber might be used for the inside lining. In my experience cement floors answer the purpose all right where abundance of bedding is used. If bedding were scarce it would probably be necessary to make plank sleeping places for the pigs on a part of the floor of each pen.

Peel Co., Ont.

[NOTE.—It is claimed by those who advocate cement concrete walls that they dry by evaporation, and that by that means vacuum cells are left all through the walls, which are nonconductors, and that consequently a concrete wall is dry and warm in winter and cool in summer. If this is correct a stone wall may be improved by building up five or six inches of concrete on the inside to the height of the stone wall.—ED.]

Hunters Improvement Society's Show.

BY SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE.

The fourteenth annual meeting of this Society was held at the Royal Agricultural Hall, London, Eng., on March 8th, 9th and 10th. The first day was occupied in awarding the twenty-nine Queen's premiums of \$600 each to Thoroughbred horses likely to get hunters, each premium horse being allotted to a certain district and to serve not less than fifty half-bred mares, and to stand or travel in the district to which he may be allotted as the Royal Commissioners on Horse-breeding may direct. For these premiums there were entered 116 Thoroughbred stallions, some few amongst them being typical hunter sires, but many not of any particular amount of either quality or value for this purpose.

The second day of the Exhibition was devoted to the judging of the hunter classes, which numbered eleven. The Exhibition is one of great educational value, inasmuch as one is able at one center to see a picked selection of the hunter stock of England. The Exhibition also affords an excellent market for such stock, from the fact that the show is largely patronized by the elite of the hunting fraternity. The quality and merit of the several classes and exhibits was hardly up to the superb exhibition of last year, when the young stock classes were such that with unani-

mous approval was accorded them the honor as being as good a lot as ever seen at any exhibition of this Society. The number of entries in these classes shows a very satisfactory increase over those of previous years, as the following table will explain:

Year—	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98
Hunter sires and colts.....	11	29	31	36	31	26	24
Hunter geldings.....	20	22	62	99	90	117	81
Hunter mares and fillies...	75	66	79	78	61	78	71

There was but one entry in the hunter sire class, and at the time of dispatch no award was procurable. There were three classes for geldings—one, two, and three year olds—and for these there was an entry of seventy-three. The classes were very useful, but of no exceptional merit; the premier winner being a very excellent and typical hunter colt, Raby, by Knight of Ruby, bred by and owned by Mr. James Ingledew, who secured the Challenge Cup (value \$250), the special prize as best gelding in the three class (value \$50), and the Society's gold medal in addition to the premier class prize (value \$100).

The young female classes numbered fifty-nine entries; generally speaking, being of better quality than the gelding and colt classes; the premier winner being here undoubtedly Lady Grace, two years old, who, in addition to the \$100 premier class prize, secured the special \$50 prize as best young mare one, two, three or four years old, and the R. N. for the Challenge Cup.

In the four classes for matured animals, mares or geldings, shown in the saddle, there was a capital entry and strong competition for the various premiums. "Zeo."

Our Scottish Letter.

In my last letter I think I gave some account of the Glasgow Stallion Show, the opening event of the kind in this country. It was, as usual, well attended and the quality was well sustained. The champion of the show, Mr. Matthew Marshall's Hiawatha 10067, is likely to have a good season. The champion Shire, Buscot Harold 16576, is much nearer to the Scottish type than most Shires, but he lacks the quality and style of Hiawatha. Lord Londonderry's Chastelard 10179, which won in one of the three-year-old classes at Glasgow, is a sweet, upstanding horse, and seems likely to have a good season in the Glasgow district. Mr. Richard Dunn's Gay City 10194, which tied with him and was preferred by one bench of judges, is a thicker and more massive horse, and is a son of the famous Cawdor Cup champion horse, Prince of Carruchan 18151, which he greatly resembles. Chastelard's sire, Holyrood, was a most distinguished show-winner, and was also bred by Lord Londonderry. Charlie Aitkenhead, who was long with Mr. Taylor at Park Mains, Renfrew, is in charge of the Seaham Harbour stud, and made a splendid job of both Holyrood and his son.

Shire men are having a grand time. Royalty and nobility patronize the breed, as was done in the halcyon days of the Shorthorn supremacy, and extraordinary prices are being paid by those in the ring. Between princes, dukes, lords, and millionaires generally, prices are being paid which make the modest Clydesdale man envious. Still, it is a curious fact that the highest prices paid for draft horses in Great Britain have been put down by tenant farmers for Clydesdales as simple business transactions. Still, let us not grudge the Shire men their money. Mr. Muntz got an average of £166 14s. 5d. for 46 of different ages the other week, and other averages were £118 5s. 9d. for 48, £82 17s. 5d. for 24, and £69 7s. 9d. for 16; but the most extraordinary figures were reached at the Sandringham sale of the Prince of Wales' stud, when the extraordinary average of £224 was reached. The highest price was £1,207 10s., paid by Sir J. Blundell Maple, M. P., for the three year old filly, Sea Breeze. The most notable feature of the Shire Horse Show was the phenomenal success of a Scotchman, Mr. Alexander Henderson, Buscot Park, Farringdon, Berks, who won all the champion and challenge cups, Buscot Harold being champion stallion, with his stable companion, Markeaton Royal Harold, the reserve, and Aurea champion mare, with the noted Queen of the Shires, which stood champion at the Royal, Manchester, reserve. Perhaps the most remarkable thing of all is the fact that Aurea is the dam of Buscot Harold. We do not remember ever hearing of a similar incident, and most notable of all, the awards were cordially endorsed by all parties.

The Hackney Horse Society held the field during the first week of March, and a magnificent show was the result. The awards were hardly as generally approved by the public as were those at the Shire Show, but, truth to tell, there is still a good deal of difference of opinion as to what makes a really tiptop Hackney. There are marked differences in type, even in families of one line of breeding, and it is hard to believe, for example, that the same breed is responsible for Rosador 4964, the champion of last year, and Royal Danegelt 5785, the champion of this year. Yet both horses are got by the famous Danegelt 174, and are not far apart in the breeding of their respective dams. It is a sufficient indication of the differences in Hackney taste to remind readers that last year Rosador was supreme champion, with Royal Danegelt reserve, whereas this year the positions are reversed. A bystander would say that Royal Danegelt is the bigger horse of the two, but as a matter of fact he is not. He won in the class for horses over 15 and not over 15.2, whereas Rosador won in the class for horses over 15.2. This in itself sufficiently indicates the difference in type of the two horses. Royal Danegelt is a grand harness horse, with lovely manners, a beautiful walker, and a fine, stately, but not sensational, trotter. He is rather upright in his shoulder and plain on his top, but he has magnificent quarters, and does everything in such a well-balanced way that one's heart warms to him. Rosador, on the other hand, is a far better made horse, his shoulders being perfect, and he has the conformation of a riding horse, which the other certainly has not. He is so uniformly well made that it does not occur to the bystander that he is as big as he actually is, and he moves with the most extravagant and sensational Hackney action. He is not as well made over his quarters and thighs as Royal Danegelt, but in regard to all other shapes