

admirers. After him, in fourth place, came a colt which has more admirers than most. This is James Hamilton's chestnut bay, Dunduff Chancellor, a son of Dunure Footprint, with splendid feet and legs, and an unusually good top. His own sister, Dunure Wish, a black filly a year older, was first at the H. & A. S. last year. At Kilmarnock the first and second yearlings were, respectively, G. A. Ferguson's Silverdale, which was third at Glasgow, and James Kilpatrick's Craigie Premier, while the Glasgow first-prize colt was third. At Ayr the colts which were first and second at Glasgow were again first and second. The first is Walter Robertson's Auchinleah Impression, by Gowanhill Footprint, and the second, H. E. Robert's beautiful colt from Monkcastle, Carlisle.

AYRSHIRES.

Ayrshires made a splendid exhibit at both shows. In the female classes Jacob S. Murray, Daljig, Cumnoch, and Mrs. McAlister, Mickle Kilmory, Rothesay, showed great cows with good milk records, as well as individual merit. In the male classes the two highest priced bull stirks of 1919 and 1920—Howie's Hot Stuff and Mendel, were champions.

AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS.

We are having a very cold, backward spring. Often we have had blizzards in April, but this year we had none. Alike in 1917 and 1919, we had snowstorms after the middle of the month, which wrought havoc among the lambs, and spoiled the prospects of flockmasters. This year it is not the hill farmer who is complaining—he is in a highly cheerful mood—it is the arable farmer. The hill farmer has had one of the best lambing seasons he can remember. The spring has been abnormally wet, but that does not adversely affect the ewes. What plays havoc with them is a snowstorm and prolonged frosts. The flockmaster is put to his wits' end to bring his ewes to the lambing, and the shepherds have a sorrowful time gathering the lambs which are often weakly and require to be "spoon-fed" for a season. This year both flockmasters and shepherds are smiling broadly. Stores of hill hay have not been drawn upon, and ewes have come through the winter in good form. The only complaint is that twins are scarce. But when singles come strong there is less need of twins to make up the numbers, and the death rate this year is almost nil.

With the arable farmer things are not at all in a good way. The man who farms heavy clay land is at his wits' end. The season has been abnormally wet, and in such circumstances it is folly to attempt to work clay land. Even on lighter soil it is of primary importance to get a dry seed bed. This has been almost impossible. Curious sidelight is thrown on the situation by a social fact. I am writing this in the Strathearn Hydropathic, Crieff, a favorite rendezvous for those seeking rest and refreshing. This is the third season in which I have spent the first week in May in this house. During the past two seasons quite a large number of farmers and their wives were among the visitors; spring work was over and there was a breathing time. This season there is not one farmer or farmer's wife here. The season is too backward. Spring work is too far behind to admit of holidaying. Let us hope May may be genial. This, the first of the month, has been warmer than most. The sun has shone brightly, and while he was in his strength it was easy to believe that summer was nigh. In the evening the weather is again chilly, and the weather signs hardly indicate a prolonged spell of dry weather. Heat would work wonders for us. For one thing there is likely to be a good hay crop. Under normal seasonable weather, it is said, "A dripping May makes hay." Thus far we have had quite enough "dripping"—what is wanted now for every crop is heat. With that 1920 promises to be an all-round prosperous year for the farmer.

Housing is a grave problem both in the rural and the urban areas. The pressure is not so acute in the former, but it is there perhaps in a modified or less direct form. Farmers have not nearly enough cottages for their men. This scarcity leads to a continuous stream of emigration from the rural to the urban areas. When the young farm employee wants to take up house, too often there is no house for him to bring his bride home to. He, therefore, goes off to the town. This intensifies the housing demand there. The situation is so strained in some areas that there is in it the peril of social upheaval. To-night I have just been reading that there is a village in England in which there are four empty cottages. The said village is on the borders of Dorset and Wilts and nine miles from the nearest railway station. I do not suppose the case could be paralleled in Scotland. One great trouble is that the Farm Servants' Union, or at least its responsible leaders have resolutely set their faces against what they call the "tied" house; i. e., a house built for a farm employee, occupancy of which is part of his remuneration as such. Should he leave the employment, he must leave the house. One recognizes the drawbacks to the arrangement. Parties are not on equal terms. Should the servant prove unsatisfactory he may be dismissed, and dismissal means vacating the house to make room for his successor. On the other hand, the employer may be unsatisfactory, but the employee has no redress. In order to retain a man over his own and his family's head he is compelled to put up with many inconveniences, if not worse. At the same time it is difficult to see how house ownership could be otherwise than "tied," if they are to be given to farm employees. Such a house could be more easily disposed of than a detached one. It would not be a good idea to build a detached house in a village or on a farm, but it would be a good idea to build a tied house. It would not be a good idea to build a detached house in a village or on a farm, but it would be a good idea to build a tied house. It would not be a good idea to build a detached house in a village or on a farm, but it would be a good idea to build a tied house.

daily task, while his health might be endangered. The difficulty has been solved in the past by the exercise of mutual forbearance, and it does not appear that any other solution is feasible in the future. Much of this mutual goodwill has been manifested in the statutory collective bargaining rendered necessary under the Wages clauses of the Corn Production Act.

LIVE STOCK.



A Boy and His Pets.

It does not pay to buy a poor bull even if it is cheap.

Commonsense is an important factor in successful stock feeding.

You can be as successful as many prominent stockmen of to-day, but you will likely have to invest more than you customarily do in a herd sire.

At L. R. Kershaw's sale of Doddies in Okla., 71 head averaged \$1,942. Plowman that noted Angus herd sire went under the hammer at \$40,000.

Wishing for a well-bred, well-kept herd won't get it unless there is action, good judgment in breeding and feeding and determination to arrive at a definite goal.

When purchasing or selecting breeding stock look for individuals with strong constitutions. Narrowness behind the shoulder and tucked up at the fore-flank are objectionable.

Did you ever weigh the steers turned on grass at varying intervals in order to ascertain the loss or gains in weight? Prof. Toole gives figures in an article appearing in these columns which should be interesting to stockmen.

The stock are now on grass for another five months period, while their owner toils early and late in the field to provide fodder for seven months stable feeding. If the pasture season were longer the farm life would be more attractive.

When calves are marketed by the thousands this spring where are the stockers and feeders to come from next year? The man equipped for raising calves might find it profitable to rear a bunch of breedy youngsters of the beef breeds.

A Haktimand County subscriber writing to "The Advocate" fails to see much profit even in pure-bred live stock when hundreds of dollars must be paid out for feed to keep the herd through the winter. Parts of this county were hard hit by the adverse weather conditions of last year consequently many barely had a crop worth harvesting. Conditions over which man has no control, limit his farming operations in many instances, and yet the city consumer wonders how the tiller of the soil has the nerve to accept the present prices for farm produce.

Big Litters Which Finish Early.

Ninety-six pigs from three sows in twelve months is a record many breeders would like to emulate. In March of 1918 W. Atkinson, a Middlesex County farmer, had three sows farrow, again in September of the same year they farrowed and three more litters were born before the year ended in March, 1919. At five-and-a-half months a couple of litters were sold averaging 205 pounds, and that with winter feeding. At six months, one week a bunch of ten averaged 232 pounds, and Mr. Atkinson had eight go 259 at seven months. These pigs would turn a profit. A prominent feeder once remarked that if pigs were fed three-dollar per hundred feed and disposed of at eight months old one would break even and that the earlier they were marketed he would have directly in setting pigs up to two hundred pounds of meat under seven or seven and a half months. It is not they are not as well marketed as Mr. Atkinson's. The best chance for a farmer to make money is to rear a bunch of big litters which finish early. It is a different matter with thin cattle or with cattle going out for an entire summer's grass.

wheat are added. The grain used other than oats depends largely upon the availability and price. This spring's litters from the three sows are running in a paddock and are particularly thrifty and growthy for their age. The progeny of one of the sows above mentioned have a little better form and do better than the others. It is just a question if hog men pay sufficient attention to the selection of the sows used. It stands to reason that the progeny of a sow that is a good feeder is likely to make more economical gains than pigs from a sow that is rather hard to keep in flesh. These characteristics may go back several generations. Breeders might advisedly pay more attention to the feeding capacity and early finishing qualities of their pigs than they do. Sows that raise big litters which finish at around six months are valuable and their progeny should make good breeding stock.

Losses of Young Steers Going to Grass.

BY PROF. WADE TOOLE, O.A.C.

The average feeder keeps no records of gains and losses on his steers when turned from the stable to pasture, and the information contained in the following paragraphs may be interesting and valuable to some.

In the summer of 1918 fifteen calves were purchased by the Ontario Agricultural College to be put on an experiment for nearly two years to determine the value of breeding in beef production. These calves consisted of three pure-bred steers, including a Shorthorn, an Aberdeen-Angus and a Hereford in one group; three Shorthorn-Hereford cross-bred steers in another group; three grade Shorthorn steers sired by a good pure-bred bull in a third group; three scrub beef-bred steers in a fourth group; and three dairy-bred steers (pure-bred Holstein) in a fifth group. While it is not intended to give out the results for the entire feeding period until the experiment has been carried for several years, it might be well to publish some facts regarding two phases of the experiment upon which the figures will already carry some weight.

These calves were put on rather heavy feeding rations on the first of October, 1918, and were stalled until May 16, 1919, when they went out to grass. Most of them were in very good condition indeed when they went to pasture, and it is significant to note the losses in weight when first going to grass. The pure-bred steers weighed 935 pounds, 685 pounds, and 580 pounds on May 16th. On May 23rd they had lost respectively 120 pounds, 75 pounds and 90 pounds, or an average of 95 pounds per steer. The cross-bred steers weighed 845 pounds, 700 pounds and 730 pounds, respectively, when turned out and one week later had lost 105 pounds, 85 pounds and 105 pounds, respectively, or an average of 98.3 pounds each. The grade steers weighed 800 pounds, 600 pounds and 595 pounds, respectively, when they went to grass and lost in the first week 105 pound 90 pounds and 65 pounds respectively, or an average of 86.6 pounds each. The scrub steers weighed 750 pounds 740 pounds and 805 pounds on May 16th, and on May 23rd had lost 90 pounds, 100 pounds and 100 pounds respectively, or an average of 96.6 pounds each. The dairy-bred steers weighed 615 pounds, 585 pounds and 520 pounds respectively, and lost 90 pounds, 75 pounds and 80 pounds respectively during the first week on grass.

During the second week on grass or from May 23rd to May 30th the pure-breds still made an average loss of 1.7 pounds per steer. The cross-breds lost 13.3 pounds per steer. The grades gained 5 pounds per steer. The scrubs lost 10 pounds per steer, and the dairy steers lost 8.3 pounds per steer. The percentage loss for the first two weeks at pasture ran from 11.6 per cent. to 14.3 per cent. of the original weight. From May 30 to June 6 small gains were made in all groups but one, the cross-bred steers still showing a loss of 1.7 lbs. each. From June 6 to June 20, a two-week period, the pure-breds gained 36.6 pounds per steer, the cross-breds 48.3 pounds per steer, the grades 35 pounds per steer, the scrubs 56.7 pounds per steer, and the dairys 37.1 pounds per steer.

These steers were on extra good pasture, and the losses in weight shown would be quite typical of young steers in fairly high condition when they went to grass. The scrubs were about ten months older than the other calves and, with the dairy calves, were not in quite as high condition as the other groups so that their losses on grass were not quite so heavy proportionately, and when they did start to gain, being in lower condition, they made somewhat more rapid gains for a time. Three weeks after going out to grass all groups were started to gain, but it was not until July 18, nine weeks after going out on pasture, that all groups with the exception of one were back to their stable weight before going to grass, and that one group was still 10 lbs. short of its May 16 weight.

These figures are somewhat significant, and would lead one to believe that with young steers around a year old or a little over and in fairly high condition from good stable feeding, turning to grass gives them a setback in weight which it takes at least eight or nine weeks on good pasture to regain. Such results, however, would not be obtained with thin cattle. Feeders know that very thin cattle turned out to pasture rapidly improve in weight and condition, but it would seem that reasonably fat cattle about ready for the butcher are likely to lose heavily for a time when going to pasture. If the price is right and the cattle fairly fat it may pay better to sell than to turn to grass for a short grass period. Of course, it is a different matter with thin cattle or with cattle going out for an entire summer's grass.

Cattle methods, few of the intelligible would record of It is so considers with ama take this There which is of every adopt a m form of se writer:

Cow

Tillie 142

Rose Bea

14234

Rosebud

14234

It will

is necessa

the cow re

re-writing

employed

that a com

matter wh

pages can

with fairly

filled, it be

away, bec

as this ma

A herd

extremely

used by th

plete satisf

Sex

M Ros

F Ann

F Ma

F Sno

F Luc

1/2"

The fig

the width

here being

the form c

line betwe

blank bool

answer ve

page and

horizontal

blank bool

more long.