

forward legs as compared with the girth just forward of their hips. I have never known a first-rate milker, of any breed, not thus proportioned; so that if this form is wanting in an animal I have recommended to me, I do not care to look at her more, unless I want a breeder for some other purpose than the dairy. For breeding oxen I should want a cow of reverse proportions, i. e., larger girth forward.

I next feel the size of the "milk veins," and trace them to their entrance into the chest, which, in superior cows, are large, admitting the ball of the largest finger; if divided, or subdivided, as is sometimes the case, I judge of the size of each orifice, as I care less for the size of the vein itself than the orifice. Next, I examine by sight and touch, the udder or bag, which must be capacious, in order to hold much milk, with teats wide apart and free from large sand warts or sores of any kind; I then inquire how long she goes dry before calving, as I don't want a family cow to give milk less than forty-six weeks out of every fifty-two; also as to the quality of the milk; and to close, I milk her with my own hands.

FARM STOCK.

THE raising and care of stock demands the attention of every farmer. The manner in which he performs this part of his labor, is a very true criterion by which to judge of his merits and success as a farmer. The man who keeps a lot of lean, hungry looking cattle, is not the man to stand high as a farmer, nor to find farming very profitable in the long run. Far too little attention is paid to the choice of stock. Very many farmers, because they can get a little more money from the butcher for a nice calf than for a common one, sell the best and raise the other. But this course, except for a very short time, is far from being profitable. It is a law of nature that "like produces like," and from this law there are few deviations. Now, the farmer who raises an inferior calf, not only makes sure of one inferior animal, but all the descendants of that animal will be a low grade. This is an item worthy of consideration. The difference in the value of a good and an inferior cow, for the purpose of raising stock, is very much greater than the difference in the price. Feeding is an important part of the care of stock. The best breeds of animals, unless well fed, will be of little profit. Many farmers seem

to think that the greater the number of cattle they can keep on a given quantity of hay, the more profitable it will be. But this is a mistake. The old maxim, "anything that is worth doing at all is worth doing well," is eminently true of feeding stock. It is cruel and unprofitable to keep an animal so short for food as to have it grow poor. Cruel, because nearly all the comfort and happiness of animals consist in gratifying the appetite. Unprofitable, because they are losing flesh, when by a more liberal feeding, they would be gaining in flesh and value. Some farmers sell their best hay and feed their poorest, and seem to think they are on the high road to wealth. They are on the road; but they are moving backwards. Good cattle can no more be raised on poor hay than a good house can be built with shaky boards. In either case there is an utter impossibility, because the materials used are not of the right description. Good breeds, good care, and last, but not least, good feed, are the three principal, essential elements of success in this department of farming.

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TRAINING SHEEP.

HERE is all the difference in the world in the way men handle sheep. Some sheep are never educated to the hand of the flockmaster, and when he desires to handle any particular animal, he rushes in amongst a bunch of sheep and makes a grab, with as little consideration as a dog would do in pursuit of mutton. No considerate shepherd will ever catch a sheep by the wool, and the violent manner in which some people take a sheep by the leg, is not much better.

Every flockmaster who keeps good sheep should have them so well educated that they can be handled without their being frightened. We have seen a variety of ways of handling sheep well, one of the best of which is the method practiced by Edwin Hammond of Vermont. Mr. Hammond has in his sheep-fold a long, slender lath, tapering out quite thin, and has his sheep so well trained to understand his desire, that when he goes into the yard with the lath in his hand, and selects an animal for examination, he has only to reach out this scepter and pat the sheep on its foretop, when it stands perfectly still and allows him to put his two fingers under his chin, where