

Feeding Cows.

The South Hadley Farmers' Club (Mass.) discussed this question. Mr. Thorpe thinks his pastures not quite up to the average, and sows an acre or more of corn for fodder. Thinks it necessary to feed a milk dairy better than a butter dairy. For winter feed, give the cows in the morning: first, hay, then one-third of a bushel of roots each (commencing the winter on common turnips), then all the corn-fodder they will eat. Prefers to water twice a day. At night feeds meadow hay and four quarts grain as cut feed (one quart meal and the rest bran). The normal quantity of food for an average cow is about twenty-five pounds of hay per day, or its equivalent. All you can feed in excess of this, without waste, is profit.

Mr. Graves feeds one peck of meal or one-half bushel of bran to each cow; he gets a large flow of milk, and his stock is always in good condition; considers that roots save hay, and never has sick cows in winter when plenty of roots are fed. Does not think that a moderate quantity of turnips or cabbages, fed regularly, will taint or flavor the milk, but these may impart their flavor to the cream and butter, especially if turnip tops or cabbage leaves are fed that have been left in piles and allowed to heat. Don't think that a cow, when accustomed to it, will eat too much bran. Corn meal is more dangerous to feed in large quantities than bran. Mixes meal and bran together and feeds with hay, wet. The more kinds of grain you can mix together, the better, as a variety prevents cloying and keeps up a good appetite. Wm. H. Sill would feed buckwheat with corn meal if he could get it; the buckwheat for milk, and the meal to keep the cows in good order. Thinks buckwheat will produce more milk than any other grain, but if fed singly in large quantities, will run down and wear out a cow too soon. His winter feed is: first hay, then cut feed, then water at 9 a. m., hay only at noon; water again in the afternoon, and feeds grain late in the afternoon. Considers Hungarian grass as good as English hay. If cabbages and turnips are fed, would feed them immediately after milking.

A. M. Burt feeds roots through the winter, and prefers potatoes to turnips. Feeds first roots (about a peck) then cut feed with two quarts meal and two quarts rye bran; then all the hay the cows will eat, then water. At noon feeds hay only. At 4 p. m. waters; then feeds two quarts meal and bran; then all the rowen the cows will eat. Changes their feed every two or three weeks, believing that cows thrive best upon an occasional change of feed. Milk cows should be watered in a sheltered place in winter. Mr. Burt's cows produce, upon an average, ten quarts of milk each, per day, netting about \$100 each per year, with the milk at four cents per quart in summer and five in winter, and not including the milk and butter for household uses.

Newton Smith has steamed feed for two or three winters. Coarse hay, swale grass, and stalks will pay for steaming, but if one has plenty of English hay and rowen, steaming is not necessary. Feeds plenty of wheat bran (one peck and two quarts meal). Feeds grain through the summer, and also sowed corn and cabbage leaves in the fall. Feeds a bushel of cabbage leaves to each cow, and does not think they will taint the milk unless they have been heated, or the cows are allowed to eat the cabbage stumps. Waters twice a day, and gives a handful of salt to each cow once a week. Thinks the quantity of milk is increased by steaming the feed. Sells his own milk at retail for seven cents per quart in summer and eight cents in winter, to the amount of \$200 per year for each cow, on an average. Had tried potatoes (one peck per day) but thought the milk too thick and starchy in consequence. It pays better to give cows all they want than to let them go hungry.

Elliot Montague has fed his cows with long hay and bran every night since July. Has found by experience that cows produce more milk when fed with cob and rye meal than with only corn meal. Dwight Judd believes that corn, oats, rye and barley, mixed, produce most milk.

S. W. Miller gives the cow warm water. The more a cow drinks the more milk will she produce. The greatest increase of milk has been while feeding one peck of wheat bran with coarse hay, then rowen and clover.—*Live Stock Journal.*

A Southdown Farm in England.

"The excellence of English farm stock is owing, more than to anything else, to the perfect adaptation of locality and soil, and the raising of the most suitable fodder crops. This is strikingly apparent in a description of a southdown farm, or a farm devoted to southdowns, belonging to Mr. Wm. Ridgen, of Hope, near Brighton—one of the most successful breeders of this favourite class of sheep. This estate of 700 acres has been managed by the present occupant for 33 years; it is supplied with gas, and with water from an adjacent reservoir. There are 20 cows kept for milk, which are fed in stalls the year round. Large crops of gram and straw are grown for sale and for feeding to fattening bullocks in stalls. The flock, which numbers 300 ewes, is, however, the main feature of the farm. For them large quantities of roots, cabbages, kohlrabi, scarlet clover, rape, and other green crops are grown, so that there is a constant succession of fresh feed. During the day the sheep are folded upon these crops and at night are penned upon stubble fields. The situation of the farm is such that green crops are always to be had. It is a gently sloping chalk 'downs' or smooth expanse bordering upon the southern shore of England. Thus the sheep have a very equable climate with mild sea breezes and pastures ever fresh and green. No ewe over four years old is retained, and great care is exercised in choosing rams and selecting ewes for breeding. There are no fences upon the farm, and a shepherd with his dog accompanies the flock at all times. The male lambs are castrated when ten days old, fifty of the best being reserved for rams for breeding. This flock is renowned for its excellence, and rams from it are 'let' for a yearly sum of \$150. The secret of this excellence is, however, acknowledged to be simply 'a frequent change of food,' and this conclusion is the most notable part of the whole story."—*New York Tribune.*

A Thorough-bred Short-Horn for the Shambles.

David Bedinger, of Walton, Ky., sends to the *National Live-Stock Journal* the report of the sale of a short-horn bullock sold by him the past fall. He was four years old, weighed 2,220 lbs., and was sold during the same at 8½ cents per pound (sh. cred. at Covington), or \$183 70. During the fair season Mr. Bedinger was offered 11 cents per pound for him, but asked 12 cents, which he would undoubtedly have obtained had not the financial troubles come on. And here is a point which general farmers who devote a portion of their farms to grazing, can note with profit, and that is, that scrub steers do not weight 2,220 lbs. at four years old, nor even at any age, and that improved cattle not only make better weights, but they are in demand at better prices. If any one has a desire to raise beef to supply the prisons of the country, scrubs will do; but those who raise beef to supply this demand should not complain if they receive prison prices. Those who raise beef for gentlemen to eat, can realize prices upon which a gentleman can live. It is true of the beef market as it is of all others, that common and inferior products are in excess of the demand, and bring low prices, while there is always a demand at large prices for a superior article, and those who labor to produce a superior article are generally the ones who thrive.

EXCELLENT PRICES.—Highland Chief, a pure bred Clydesdale, coming two years old, and imported by Wm. Roiph, Scarborough, was sold on Tuesday last, at public auction, to Hector McDonald, of Blandford, County of Oxford, for \$1,800. Mr. McDonald is now the owner of one of the best young horses in the Province. Highland Chief has an excellent pedigree, and is a fine specimen of a Clydesdale. The four year old Clydesdale stallion, Dumfriesshire Jock, weighing 1950 lbs., and imported this year by David Ressor, jr., was sold last week to Frank Elliot, Township of Reach, for \$3,000. Dumfriesshire Jock is a large horse with good action, he has heavy bone, deep and broad chest, and altogether is a well proportioned animal. He is a thorough-bred Clydesdale, and is certainly a splendid specimen of his class. Mr. Elliot deserves the thanks of his neighbors for introducing in that section of Canada so valuable a horse.

IMPROVED STOCK HAS THE ADVANTAGE.—Under the head of "Items and Inquiries," in the December number of the *Journal*, Messrs. B. Lucas & Sons, of Piqua, Ohio, state that they have a calf that gained 52 pounds in 12 days. Mitchell County can beat that. I have three bull calves, dropped respectively Jan. 1st and 10th, and Feb. 22nd, 1872, from com-

mon heifers, 21, 22 and 23 months old, sired by the thoroughbred bull *Duke of Glen Flora* 9344. They had only the dam's milk and grass until Aug. 30th, when they were taken up, weighed, and fed two parts each, three times per day, of ground feed, composed of five-sixths bran and shorts, and one-sixth oil-cake meal; cut mangold wurzel beets, with all the hay they would eat. Sept. 23rd, weighed again, the first and third had gained 115 pounds each, and the second 93 pounds. Have repeatedly tried common calves with as good care and feed; never have succeeded in making them gain more than one-third as fast as grade Short-horns.—*FITCH B. STACY, Stacyville, Ind.*

AYR WINTER HORSE FAIR.—This fair was held at the usual stand, near Ayr Cattle Market, recently. The prices for good draught animals, of which there was a large show, were, in some cases, almost fabulous. One four-year old mare brought the very large sum of \$1,000, and a great number of others were disposed of at prices ranging from \$500 to \$800. A trotting mare was sold for \$500, and a good number of harness horses were disposed of at equally high prices. The principal dealers were in attendance, and there was also a large turn-out of farmers. It was pronounced to be the dearest market for horses ever held at Ayr.—*N. B. Agriculturist.*

SOILING COWS.—N. E., Dayton, Ohio, writing to the *Live Stock Journal* says:—It will certainly pay to judiciously soil cows on a small farm. There is no other way by which so much milk can be produced on a given number of acres. When you have put your land in proper condition, a cow can be kept upon one half acre for summer and one acre for winter. Even better than this has been done. Starting this late, prepare the ground well, and sow one-eighth of an acre of oats thickly for each cow as early as you can; two or three weeks after sow the same amount of land to oats for later cutting. Then prepare the ground and sow one-fourth acre of corn for each cow. This will probably leave a surplus for winter feeding.

LOOSENEH HORN.—I have a yearling bull that knocked one of his horns loose a few days ago. The shell remains on, but is loose, and somewhat out of place. At the time of the accident, the bull lost a great deal of blood. Will the shell again become firm? or if it comes off, will another grow and become as long as the old horn? The animal is very valuable, and I am anxious to know what is best to be done in order to save the shell, or promote the growth of another. C. M. L. [The horn will probably grow fast again, if not loosened by fighting or rubbing. If it comes off, it will not be replaced, but the stub or pith remaining will harden somewhat, only growing to the same size as the corresponding portion of the other horn. The only thing that can be done is to care for the animal that the horn will have a chance to become solid again.]—*Country Gentleman.*

EFFECTS OF COLD IN FATTENING.—A producer of pork in Muskingum County, Ohio, who has made an experiment with hogs, with a view to ascertain how far cold retards the rate of fattening, reports the following results: Carefully weighing the hogs fed, and the corn fed to them, and estimating pork at four cents per pound, he found that what he fed out during the first week in October returned (in pork) 80c. per bushel; the first week in November, 60 cents; the third week 40; the fourth week in November and the month of December, 25; the first half of January, 5; the last half, 0. In the October week of experiment the weather was pleasant and warm. It gradually grew colder till the latter part of November, from which time it remained about stationary till the 1st of January, after which it ran down to zero, and below in the latter part of the month. The hogs were well sheltered in a good pen with plank floor.—*Department Report.*

SOILING.—J. R. B. in the *Practical Farmer*, gives an account of what he produced from two and a-half acres of land put in first-rate order, and used for soiling and root growing. The land was used from Aug. 1, 1871, to the end of the season of 1873. The corn-fodder, green rye, (for Autumn use), and white mustard, furnished food for twenty-five cows for two months, and for thirty-five cows and two oxen for one month. In addition to this he raised 840 bushels of round turnips, the same quantity of beets, and 250 bushels of rutabagas. When dairymen learn to produce such an amount of fodder from an acre, a fifty-acre farm will carry as many cows as 200 acres under the wasteful system of three to four acres to pasture a cow. If dairymen would study the best method, supporting more cows on their small farms, instead of buying more land to be spoiled by half tillage, they would make an improvement in the right direction.