

added to the ration, and skim milk was fed when it was available. Adding now \$1.00 for service fee, and \$3.50 for maintenance of the dry sow, the total amounts to \$8.24, to be charged against an average litter of 6½ pigs. The total cost, therefore, of a single pig up to weaning time, according to this experiment, and at the valuation of the foods given, would be \$1.27.

At the time that the report was written, but five of the twelve litters had been marketed, and the following results apply only to these five lots. The pigs averaged 176 pounds apiece, and the average cost of food per pound of live weight, from birth to marketing, was 4.20 cents. To indicate how cheaply pigs may occasionally be raised, it may be stated that one lot was fed at a cost of 3.55 cents per pound, and another at a cost of 4.00 cents per pound. Adding now the fixed charge of \$4.50 per litter, the total cost per pound, including service fee and maintenance of dry sow, averages 4.61 cents. It should be explained that these were winter litters, and it is no doubt probable that summer litters can be fed more cheaply. It is stated that until further work has been performed these results must be regarded as merely tentative.

The results of the "Co-operative Experiments with Swine," which are also included in this report, have already appeared in "The Farmer's Advocate" columns in a summary of Prof. Day's address at the recent Winter Fair. It may be interesting to note, however, that although the basis and plan of work was rather different, and such as to make comparison a little difficult, the results of the co-operative experiments are in substantial agreement with those obtained at the College. At the highest valuation of meal, at \$23 a ton, and of weaned pigs at \$2.50 each, the average cost of production in an experiment including 95 pigs was 4.99 cents per pound. At the lowest valuation of meal, at \$20.00 a ton, and of weaned pigs at \$1.50 each, the cost was 4.07 cents per pound. At the average and perhaps fairest valuation of meal, at \$20.00 per ton, and of weaned pigs at \$2.50 each, the cost was 4.57 cents per pound.

The author comments that in these figures there is much of encouragement for swine breeders and feeders. We believe that they should give a more substantial status to the bacon industry in Ontario. There is a growing demand and a growing market for bacon products, not only in Great Britain, but on this continent as well. The Canadian farmer is in a better position, through the class of grain that he grows, to produce a more desirable grade of bacon than his American neighbor. That he can do it as cheaply as is here evidenced, is highly gratifying. We commend a consideration of these figures to every reader, and suggest that they prove a stimulus, not perhaps so much to an increase in the number of the hogs raised, but rather to an improvement in the quality and uniformity of the product.

BRUCE.

FITTING SHOW SHEEP.

I have a large flock of pure-bred Long-wool sheep which I desire to put in show and sale shape for the autumn trade. Kindly give your views as to the best methods of fitting, and particularly as to growing forage crops for feeding these sheep. Rape throughout the County of Kent has of late years been affected by aphids (small green lice). Can you recommend any substitute for rape that would not be affected by this pest? I thought of trying thousand-headed kale. Can anything be done to prevent the destruction of rape by the aphids?

SUBSCRIBER.

I cannot, perhaps, give your subscriber all the information he requires, but what I write may be of use to him later. In the first place, I assume that he had made up his mind last fall that he intended showing, that he has had his flock in proper shape for the show-ring up to this date. He knows what competition he has to meet. He has done all he thinks necessary to win prizes, except making provision for the summer feeding of green food.

I cannot advise, knowing nothing of the condition of the flock at this time or the feed available. If you will allow me, Mr. Editor, a little latitude, I feel like putting myself in the position as asked for. When I left Chicago or New York with the winning wethers, "What were they fed upon, and how did you win?" might have been asked. This is no secret, as I have often put myself on record through the press of Canada and the United States. But our people look for some mysterious cattle food or patent medicine wherewith to make winners. Don't do any such insane act. When medicine is necessary, let some educated veterinary surgeon advise.

I presume, from the inquiry, your correspondent has everything up-to-date, to his satisfaction. No doubt he has mangels to last over June; lucerne (alfalfa) hay, also, to same date. If he has lucerne, he will be able to cut it before June. For some years we have commenced cutting May 18th. If he has none of these, the earliest green

feed available will be red clover, followed by vetches and oats, one-half bushel of former to one of latter. Then sow cabbage seed as early as possible, same as turnips—one pound seed to acre; thin out to two feet in row; no transplanting; an early sort, and World Beater or Autumn King for late; they are the same. Sow kale same time, thin to 15 inches; then rape, then Yellow Aberdeen turnips; lastly, Swedish turnips. I ought to have mentioned mangels, but these are not fit for sheep feed, or rather not at their best until spring.

This growing of various green crops may look like puttering, as the Yankees say. Call it what one may, it is the secret of success in fitting sheep for show. The greater the variety of green crops, the better the chance to win, providing the stuff fitting for show are worthy of such efforts.

One time, years ago, while on a visit to my father, who then had a flock of 500 Hampshire ewes, on the chalk foundation in Hampshire, he had his lambs on two or three different varieties of green crops daily. We visited most of the noted breeders of pure flocks. Mr. Budd said: "All my show and sale rams never pass a day without sanfoin, summer or winter."

I would suggest to your correspondent, let your show sheep have lucerne offered to them daily. We can grow that when sanfoin is not a success, as far as my experience goes. One will be surprised how a bit of well-cured lucerne hay is relished as a dessert after a hearty meal of luscious rape or cabbage.

It may seem strange to most feeders that I have not mentioned grain. It is for the reason that grain, without these various green-crop foods, is as dangerous as handling dynamite. The sheep do well in the spring while green feed is available, but when the dry July and August comes, and no provision for luscious, cooling, appetite-satisfying green food, the grain only adds fire to the craving for what is not, and the sheep go back and never come again—as the shepherds explained the matter, "Oh, burned up."

To wind up this altogether too long letter, not written for your correspondent alone, but to those of your readers who are interested in showing sheep:

1. Grow lots of green feed of various kinds; the greater the variety, the greater the chance of success.

2. Do not forget to try lucerne; it will remain with you three, four, five or six years, and can be cut three times a year after first year.

3. Feeding this luscious, cooling food enables you to feed grain in the hot summer months.

4. Don't sow rape seed too early. In my experience, it is the early-sown that suffers from the aphids. I am not an entomologist, but I imagine, if at the first of the season the aphids did not find a suitable resting-place for the sole of his foot, we would not be troubled. I would advise later sowing. Spraying, while useful in the garden, cannot be successfully carried out in the field, and as the aphids work on the under side of the leaves, it is not easily reached by spraying.

5. No crop can equal cabbage, if properly cultivated—none so safe, no bloat, or loss of ears, and, for autumn feed, worth more than any with which I am conversant.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

RICHARD GIBSON.

SHEEP NOTES.

Lambs should be docked and castrated at two to three weeks old. Much loss results from neglecting these operations. Ram lambs, except pure-breds intended for breeding purposes, are a nuisance on the farm in the fall, and their selling value is much discounted. If the ewe flock has lambed, and are in good condition, all may be safely shorn now.

Yearling sheep in good condition should be shorn, unwashed, before going to grass. They thrive better in the warm spring days, and there is less loss from "tags" on the fleece.

Trim the hoofs of the flock before shearing. This may save trouble from an outbreak of foot rot. It is well to keep on hand a small phial of powdered bluestone to apply in case of hoof-ill or foul in the feet.

When sheep go to grass, they should be taken in and fed hay and a little bran and oats morning and evening for a while.

Provision should be made for sowing a patch of vetches, and another of rape, to supply succulent food for the lambs when pastures get dry. Lambs will be "trumps" this year, and will pay for good care in growing them strong.

THE FARM.

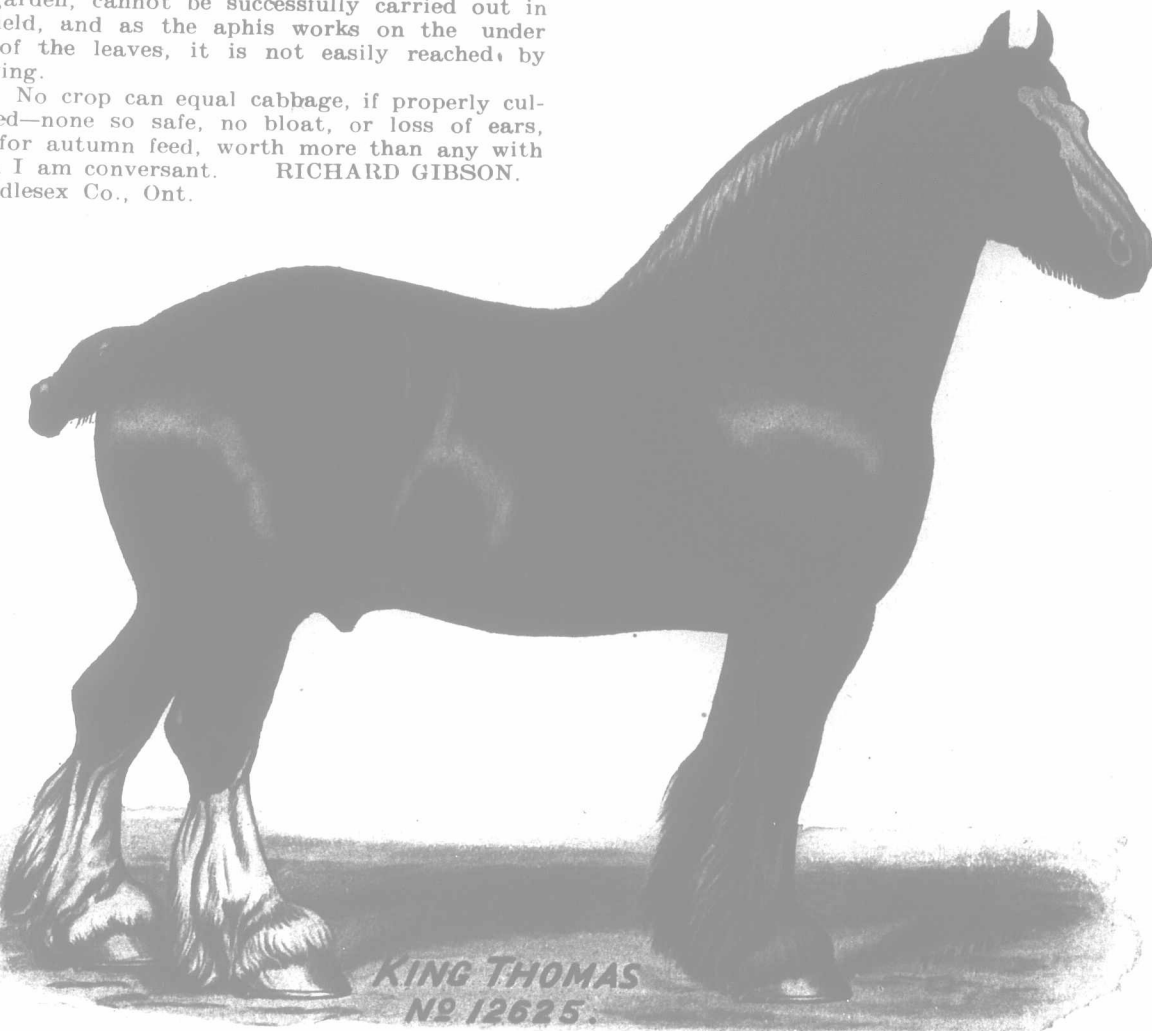
SOUND SILO SENSE.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I notice in your valuable paper from time to time questions asked regarding silo construction, and not long since one man asked if a silo 15 feet in diameter and 30 feet high would feed 30 cows six months. I have a silo 12 feet in diameter and 24 feet high, and it does that. I consider the silo quite essential to successful farming to-day. But while many are building some are tearing them down. Now, sir, I think it is a great mistake to make a silo 15 feet in diameter. Men who have had no experience with them cannot imagine what an amount of feed these great tubs hold. Ten, eleven or twelve feet at the outside is large enough, and make it as high as you like. With less diameter and more height your silage will both keep and come out better. If I wanted more room I would rather build two small ones than one large one, and the results would be much more satisfactory. I speak a truism when I say that many have become tired of the silo simply because they built cheap, poorly-constructed silos, with too great a capacity for the stock kept, and therefore had a lot of spoiled silage to throw out every year. My advice to those who contemplate building silos is: first know that you can grow corn successfully, then build well regardless of first cost; not too large in diameter, and as high as you like. Build them round, either of staves or cement, and the only regret you will have is that you did not have one sooner.

GAVIN BARBOUR.

Waterloo Co., Ont.



KING THOMAS
No 12625.

King Thomas (imp.) (12625).

Clydesdale stallion, brown, foaled 1902. Imported and owned by T. J. Berry, Hensall, Ont. Sire Prince Thomas, by Sir Thomas, by Prince of Wales 673.