

Our winters here are more favourable for cattle raising, when they are properly fed and sheltered, than the changeable winters of Scotland, and if they get the justice there given them, we should have at least equal if not superior animals.

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NOTE BY ED.—Our article on this subject was not intended to apply to the case of breeders of high class thoroughbred short-horns, or in cases where the value of the milk is a secondary consideration to the value of the animal intended to be raised in order to fetch a fancy price. In their cases it is quite usual to allow the calves to suck the cows, or even where that course is not pursued (and it is a most undesirable one in many respects), they are allowed nothing but new milk. But it would be folly to expect the farmers, as a class, to devote all the new milk of their cows to the sole purpose of raising calves, when it is worth more for making butter. As to skimmed milk being continually purgative, our own experience, as well as that of several other breeders to whom we have lately spoken with reference to this subject, is that it is not so. If given to a calf accustomed to suck, or have new milk warm from the cow, it would in many cases prove purgative for the first two or three days. We have found that if warmed to a proper degree it does not purge to any appreciable extent. The meal should be boiled, and then stirred in; but then few will take that trouble, and we fear few even take the trouble to heat their skimmed milk to a proper degree, and it is giving the calf the milk cold that causes all the trouble our correspondent speaks of.

In regard to the other point, opinions may well be allowed to differ: but our object was to show that animals that had been well fed and cared for would attain maturity, and so be fit to breed, earlier than those that were neglected and stunted. A few days since we saw a very fine shorthorn cow, now six years old, that has bred six calves at single births, the first one coming when she was eighteen months old: and we think few breeders of pure stock in this country could be satisfied to wait for their heifers to reach their fourth year before breeding.

Shrinkage on Hogs.

We have as yet received but very few answers to our enquiries on this subject. The cause may lie in the lateness of the season at which they were made, the greater portion of the hog products having probably been marketed. Another is the difficulty experienced by farmers in getting fat hogs correctly weighed at just the right time.

A firm in Pennsylvania, largely engaged in fattening hogs of the Chester White breed, gives the shrinkage or loss between live and dressed weight of a large number as follows: On hogs weighing over 600 pounds, loss 12 pounds per 100 of live weight, or less than one-

eighth. 300 to 600 pounds, 14 pounds per 100, or less than one-seventh; 150 to 300 pounds, 16 pounds per 100, or less than one-sixth.

They say common scrub hogs will lose more, and that there is a wide margin for profit between feeding improved breeds and common hogs, more than sufficient to pay the extra prices demanded for animals of the former.

A Mr. Eckardt, of Markham, gives the live weights of two eight months old Berkshires he killed as 302 and 283 pounds respectively. Each gave twelve pounds of rough lard, and weighed besides 250 and 245 pounds, showing a loss of less than one-tenth. Another Pennsylvanian gives an account of a Chester White hog he killed that weighed 1,065 pounds alive, and 1,005 pounds dressed; less than one-sixteenth of loss. An Ohio man gives the live weight of a twenty-three months old Chester hog at 985 pounds; dressed weight 870 pounds, a loss of one-ninth.

We hope to get some more answers, and shall reserve any further remarks on the subject till it can be more fully investigated, but so far the evidence is in favour of what we have always maintained, viz., that the amount of shrinkage insisted upon by drovers and packers in buying fat hogs alive is much too great for the interests of the farmer who has really good hogs to sell.

Barren Cows or Heifers

It is no untrequent cause of complaint with breeders that valuable cows or heifers sometimes fail to breed. Such instances rarely occur, except in the cases of animals that have been pampered, that is, brought to a high condition by means of extra feeding or "forcing," as it is called. Such animals need not be condemned as barren, as under good management they can be brought to breed. It is well to reduce them in flesh about the beginning of summer, by turning them into a hilly short pasturage for a time. A long drive will often prove beneficial. Sometimes a change from one herd or farm to another some miles away proves a sure remedy after every other has failed.

Delicacy of constitution may sometimes be the cause, from too close in and in breeding, and where the same bull has been used in a herd for some years he may fail with some of the younger cows and heifers, in which cases resort must be had to another bull that is in no way related to the herd.

Bulls that are too closely bred, or that are fed too much on rich carbonaceous food, frequently prove unreliable stock getters. They should get albuminous food in preference, such as peas, oats, barley, and the leguminous grasses. In fact, anything very saccharine or sweet is undesirable. A bull should always be kept in good condition, but should not get fat, and the more he is used the more need there is of giving him oats or barley.

but he should never have Indian corn. The forcing of bulls when young, in order to get them into high condition and early use, is sure to prove injurious, and result in greatly diminishing their vigour. Neglect to give salt at least once a week is often a cause of barrenness among cows and heifers. A bull should never be allowed to run with the herd; that is one great point often neglected, and results not only in inducing barrenness, but also in producing abortion among the females. It is one of the most common, yet most pernicious practices indulged in by breeders, more from carelessness, and a desire to save trouble, than want of knowledge.

Steaming Roots for Stock.

A subscriber from Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, asks us to give, through the columns of the CANADA FARMER, the least expensive mode of steaming roots for hogs, on a small scale.

Among other experiences of farm husbandry, one of our regular contributors has carefully tried and practised the following plan both in England and Canada, and having at command small means, the annual expenditure was kept very low. His account is as follows:

For a small inexpensive rig for steaming roots for stock, I have used and would recommend an ordinary potash kettle, if the farmer has one, (of course a better boiler would do its work quicker,) set in a brick arch, with plenty of fire room, and about ten feet of ascending chimney, and a cover fitted into the kettle, made of two-inch dry plank, well jointed, and nailed firmly on scantling to prevent warping. A bar of wood passes across the cover and another crosses this, and each end is firmly secured to the "lug" or propelling support of the kettle, (there are usually four of these "lugs.") by a piece of iron hoop formed into a band, and well hooped on to each projecting end. These bars will firmly hold the cover in its proper place. All round the edge of the cover you must caulk cotton-batting or flax, driven well into the joint, so as to be steam-tight. This is very easily done, as there will be no pressure. A barrel with one head out is placed on the cross, and communicates, by means of a cock, with the kettle below. The barrel is to be filled with water; and the boiler below, as the water evaporates, is supplied from this source.

A two-inch wrought iron or tin pipe, well wrapped over with old rags to keep in the heat, rises, by means of an elbow, from the cover, and turns at once over the side of the kettle, and with another elbow fits into a short piece of pipe, called a nozzle, that enters the centre of the back of the puncheon in which the roots are to be steamed, close to the bottom, and underneath a perforated false bottom placed in the bottom of the puncheon, on which the roots rest. This is supported by two-inch bearers arranged across the puncheon head to receive the weight of roots,