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Advertisements of an objectionable or questionable character will not be received for insertion in this paper.

A. C. MOORE & SONS' HOG FARMS.

From our own Correspondent.

CANTON, Ill., March 6th.

Three miles south of Canton, Ill., lie the four farms of Messrs. A. C. Moore & Sons, the famous Poland China hog breeders. For over thirty-eight years this firm have been raising and improving this popular breed. In the years 1868-69 and '70 they received over \$3,000 premiums on stock exhibited. A. C. Moore commenced this business in Ohio, but removed to his present location in Fulton County in 1885. Since that time they have sold over 9,000 pigs for breeding purposes, this large number being distributed in every portion of the United States and to points in Canada and Europe. They have taken more and larger premiums on their produce of Poland China than any other firm on any breed.

They breed their sows to come in April, May, and June, and sometimes later, and do not raise more than one litter a year from each breeder. They believe that in order to get two litters, the first one must come too early, and the second too late in the year, and both are liable to become stunted. Also that one good litter, in the right season of the year, is worth any two litters that can be raised for breeding purposes. They also say that the spring litter has a great advantage in the quality of milk they suckle—milk from grass-fed animals not being so rich or feverish as that from corn, but more cooling and abundant, and naturally adapted to a pig's condition. Another gain claimed for the one litter system is that the sows, after weaning their pigs in June or July, may be turned out to grass, and require no more feed until late in the fall, or, if desired, they may be readily prepared for the next winter's market. On the four farms they have some 200 fine breeding animals, including eight extra fine males. Their yearly output is now nearly 1,000 animals. Aside from this is a large number of what Messrs. Moore & Sons consider inferior animals those not up to the requirements of a breeding animal. These are

separated out and are shipped to the market in car lots as ordinary hogs and purchased by the packers. Their pens are all built on an improved plan and after their own idea. They are so constructed as to admit plenty of air and sunshine, and conveniently arranged with alleys and outside platforms. There are feeding apartments with movable partitions, halls, breeding pens, etc. They stand as models of construction, and can be easily taken care of and are always cleanly and free from smell. Messrs. Moore & Sons exercise the utmost care in the matter of cleanliness and careful feeding, and the result is that disease is unknown at their establishment. They issue the *Swine Journal*, a voluminous illustrated treatise on the Poland China hog. It is a book of some fifty pages, splendidly printed and containing minute information about this breed, the best manner to raise them, and points on all hog diseases, together with recipes for their cure. It also contains cuts and descriptions of their pens with plans, so that any one may build similar ones. They mail this to any address on receipt of twenty-five cents or stamps. They guarantee every animal just as they represent, and have always sustained a high reputation in their dealings. They invite correspondence from any part of the world, which should be addressed to A. C. Moore & Sons, Canton, Illinois.

GENERAL PURPOSE BREEDING.

The fable of the old man and the ass is a homely one and trite enough, but scarcely a day passes that we do not meet some one who could with profit to himself lay its moral to heart. We are continually meeting men who are trying to do at the same time two things that are essentially opposite in their character. We meet men who are trying to serve God and Mammon at the same time, politicians who are trying to maintain friendly relations with two factions between whom there is an almost deadly enmity, and young men who are trying to maintain a simultaneous flirtation with two girls in a small country town; but though all these things are sure to lead to failure and trouble, they will not do so more surely than will the course of the farmer who tries to breed "general purpose" animals. He may cross two breeds that are considerably unlike in their leading characteristics for the sake of producing an animal especially adapted to some specific purpose, but he cannot make the same animal serve two essentially opposed purposes. The horse that will run the fastest mile with 120 lbs. on his back will not be the horse that will haul the heaviest load, though representatives of these two strains may be united to produce a marketable hunter or coach horse. When it comes to breeding from stallions which are the product of such crosses, however, the breeder makes a serious error. What is true of horses in this case is more especially true of cows. The question is often asked, "What is the best 'all-around' or general purpose cow?" By this the questioner means to ask what cow will be the best for the man who

cannot afford to keep a variety, or rather, what cow will give the best returns of milk while alive and of beef when she comes to the block? It would certainly be difficult to answer such a question satisfactorily, though "some one of the deep milking families of the Shorthorns" might come as near being the proper answer as any that could be given. "General purpose breeding" is apt to be aimless breeding however, and the sooner it is given up the better. It is sheer nonsense to suppose that an animal can be producing butter or cheese in paying quantities and laying on good tender beef at the same time. The feed that is manufactured by the cow into butter does not fatten her, nor does that which thickens the fat on her ribs contribute to her yield of butter or cheese. If the farmer wants to produce cheese he should breed for cheese, if the product is to be butter let him breed for butter, if beef let him breed for beef. If a breeder wants to make beef he will market the most of his product as early as it can be matured, and that being the case it does not matter much to him whether his cows give much milk or little, and whether it is poor or rich. Most any cow, even among the poorest milkers, will give enough milk to properly nourish her calf, and that is all that should be asked of a cow that is a beef producer. On the other hand, it is stupid economy for the farmer to feed a big raw-boned glutton of a cow for ten or twelve years though she may be inferior as a milker and butter producer, simply because at the end of that time she will make a few pounds more beef than could have been got out of a cow that would have doubled her annual product of butter or cheese for the ten years during which she was being milked.

In a paper read by Mr. W. D. Hoard before the Wisconsin State Dairymen's Convention, and reported by the *Chicago National Live Stock Journal*, there are some very sensible remarks on this subject. The errors which he mentions as common in Wisconsin are equally so in Canada, if not more so, and there is scarcely a sentence in the passages we quote from Mr. Hoard which ought not to be laid to heart by the average Canadian farmer. After introducing his subject briefly, Mr. Hoard said:—

"I said I believed the general-purpose cow was a delusion and a snare. What is she as a butter producer? Her average yield in Wisconsin is less than 150 lbs. per annum. What is the average worth of that butter? I answer \$30, if well made. If made by a general-purpose farmer, \$24. What is she as a cheese producer? Her average yield in Wisconsin is, as near as can be reckoned, 300 lbs. What is that worth? If well made and sold, say \$30. That, gentlemen, is what we amount to as general-purpose breeders. Does it pay? Are you satisfied you are a success as compared with specific-purpose breeders? The loose, ill-defined ideas of breeding that prevail among our average farmers are a fearful cost to profitable dairying. It goes without saying that no man can make dairying pay its best profit who estimates the cow in any other light than the largest result in milk, butter, or cheese. And the fact that so many cheese-factory patrons and butter-makers complain that they cannot