

Principal points of interest, in reference to Cotton-cake, are collected together in the following short summary from an article in a late number of the *Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England*, by PROFESSOR VOELCKER, Chemist to the Society.

1. The best cotton-cake is richer in oil and nutritious (flesh-forming) compounds than linseed cake, but contains less mucilage and other respiratory constituents.

2. The mineral portion of the cotton-cake resembles closely in composition that of linseed and other oil cakes. Like the ash of all cakes, it is rich in earthy and alkaline phosphates, and well adapted to supply animals with bone materials.

3. As far as the indications of chemical analysis can be depended on, the best decorticated cotton-cake possesses about the same nutritive value as linseed-cake.

4. At the present time four distinct kinds of cotton-cake are offered for sale in the market, namely:—

- (1.) Thin decorticated cotton-cake.
- (2.) Thick decorticated cake.
- (3.) Common cake, made of the whole seed.
- (4.) Oil meal, or number 2 reduced to coarse powder.

The thin decorticated cake is a far better and more economical food than the ordinary cake, which is often quite unfit for feeding purposes.

Thick cake scarcely differs in composition from thin cake; but being hard, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 times thick, it cannot be crushed by an ordinary cake-crusher, and therefore presents inconvenience to the consumer.

Genuine oil meal is simply thick decorticated cake reduced to a coarse powder, and of course has the same composition as the cake from which it is made.

The composition, and with it the nutritive value, of different samples of cotton-cake, is subject to considerable variation.

Decorticated cotton-cake and oil meal, in comparison with other kinds of artificial food, are decidedly cheap feeding materials; and both, if well selected, are long, will find that favour with the farmer which a really valuable and cheap article of consumption is certain to command.

How to feed Pigs.—Farm Buildings and Manure, &c.

EDITOR OF THE AGRICULTURIST:

I beg leave, Mr. Editor, to propose a few questions:

1st, Which is the best mode of fattening hogs: to mix the meal in a thick batter, with hot water, and let it stand and get sour, or feed it dry, or in what other way?

2nd, Which is the best method of saving manure,—in barn-yards fitted with tanks, or in manure cellars?

3rd, The most economical way of building barns and sheds or stables, and whether it is best to build barns with sheds and yards, or to stable the cattle?

I would be glad to have some or all of these questions answered by you or some of your readers. By so doing you will oblige.

Yours, &c.,

JAMES COURTENAYE.

Hartford, March, 1861.

REMARKS.

1. It would be difficult to lay down any system of fattening swine that would not require modification in some of its details, when generally applied. An important point in cold weather is to keep the animal dry and warm; the sty, therefore, should be tight and front the south. Pigs make very slow progress in fattening in this country during the severe weather of winter; they should be pushed on as fast as possible during the fall, and got ripe for the butcher by the earlier part of the winter. The quickest way of fattening pigs is to give them animal substances, that is, grease, greave-cakes, &c. Linseed or oil-cake rapidly fattens. But none of these things produce a good quality of meat. The best materials are barley, peas, oats, and corn-meal. Any one or more of these substances, mixed with water, with a small quantity of boiled or steamed potatoes, will prove an excellent food. In cold weather the mixture should be given warm and in a fresh state. Skim milk, butter-milk, and whey, are well adapted to pigs, and may be given with advantage, to store-pigs especially, as wash in connexion with the refuse of the kitchen; and such a mixture is thought to answer best when a state of acidity has been produced by fermentation. Peas and Indian Corn may be fed to pigs in a dry and whole state, and they will fatten in this way with a plentiful supply of wash. The meal of any of the above grains, with a small quantity of steamed potatoes, mangels, carrots,