

LIVE STOCK.

Forsake Not the Hog.

During the past few months the price of hogs has dropped considerably (though stiffening somewhat again of late), and it is likely, as a result of this, many breeders will decrease the numbers of this class of stock on their farms. The stock-raiser always endeavors to produce the class of stock that is in greatest demand and is selling for the highest market prices, consequently there is a tendency, when prices decline in certain classes, to discontinue breeding these on such a large scale, and to change over to some other class of stock which at that particular time is selling for high prices. This is not always a wise thing to do, as it has been proven time after time that continuing the business through these slumps is preferable to making a change, because very often the price soon advances, while that of the new class of stock undertaken very often soon declines. All classes of stock have their ups and downs in the market.

This particular season of the year is the one in which hogs can be most easily cared for, and most cheaply raised and fed. Throughout the summer season skim milk or whey is generally more plentiful, and the pigs can be placed on alfalfa or clover pasture, or can be fed these as a soiling crop. The extra amount of exercise and fresh air obtained in the yards or paddocks in summer also aids materially in the economy of production of pork. Then, again, it is generally found that sows raise larger litters in spring and summer than when farrowing in the colder months of winter.

Besides the foregoing points, it is believed by many breeders that hogs make larger gains for food consumed in summer than in winter, which is no doubt often the case. Thus it is seen that, if low prices must come, the best time for these is during the summer, when the cost of production is at a minimum.

It is to be hoped that our breeders will not give up the business too hastily, for there is little doubt but that prices will again advance, and even if they do not advance greatly, the present price is much ahead of that received a few years ago, and some farmers then claimed to be making a profit from the business. Certain it is that there are many farmers, such as those who are running swine in conjunction with the dairy business, who will not think of giving up the hogs; but there are others who will be inclined to go out of them and try something new, which is often risky business, and to these a suggestion to stick to the hog-breeding should be a good one.

Give the young, growing pigs the run of a clover paddock, and if pasture is not available, it will be found profitable to feed them this as a soiling crop. If alfalfa can be grown, it is very good for this purpose, and can be used to good advantage. A few small plots of rape could be sown, and this would serve as a pasture and run for the hogs toward fall. Use plenty of skim milk along with the grain ration, if the milk is available. If milk is not available, more green food is needed in the form of clover or alfalfa. If care is taken in feeding and managing, slight difficulty should be experienced in making a living profit from hogs during the summer months, when clover, alfalfa, rape and other green food, as well as milk, is so abundant, and can be used with the grain to make a very economical and well-balanced ration.

American and Canadian Holstein Registration.

According to the official report, General C. W. Wood, president of the American Holstein-Friesian Association, strongly urged upon that organization, at its 26th annual meeting, on June 7th, in Syracuse, N. Y., the recognition of the Canadian Holstein-Friesian pedigree records by the American Association. Speaking to this suggestion, he pointed out that American buyers had taken 72 cattle from Canada during the past year, but because these could be recorded in the United States, each ancestor had to be recorded, involving a large expense, often reaching from \$30 to \$100. The placing of the 72 head on the American record involved the registration of 366 others to make them eligible. The United States Department of Agriculture recognizes only the American book and those records in Holland with which the American body is affiliated. The Canadian book is not so recognized at present. The question has been raised by the United States authorities as to the American breeders' attitude in this matter. President Wood believed some method should be adopted to place our cattle on a par with their own. A committee, including the president, was appointed to investigate and confer with the Canadian committee.

The report of Supt. Malcolm H. Gardner, Superintendent of Advanced Registry for the American Holstein-Friesian Association, gives the records of 4,476 animals, of which nearly one-half

were heifers with first or second calves. These cows and heifers produced, within a period of seven consecutive days, 1,793,762 pounds of milk containing 62,937,259 pounds of butter-fat, thus showing an average of 3.51 per cent. fat. The average production for each animal was 400.8 pounds of milk containing 14,061 pounds of butter-fat, equivalent to 57.3 pounds, or 27½ quarts of milk per day, and 16.4 pounds of the best of commercial butter per week.

THE FARM.

Introduction, Spread, and Eradication of Noxious Weeds.

In discussing this question, it is necessary to know what a weed really is. Probably the best definition is: A weed is a plant out of place. To distinguish between plants that are useful in their proper place, but frequently get out of it, and those that are always out of it, weeds are divided into two classes: absolute and relative. Absolute weeds are those in which the evil effects from them far outweigh any good that might incidentally result from their presence, such as

2. Weeds rob the growing crop of available plant food.

3. The luxuriant growth of many weeds causes them to crowd the crop, and prevents free access of light and air, a condition which results in unhealthy, improperly stooled grain and a decreased yield.

4. They increase the cost of farming by making sowing, harvesting, threshing and marketing more expensive.

5. Weeds like bindweed actually strangle the plants.

6. The dodders are parasitic on red clover and alfalfa.

7. Spotted cowbane and wild parsnip are poisonous to stock.

8. Leeks and strong-tasting herbs taint the milk when eaten by cows.

9. The fruit of seeds of many weeds, as the cockleburs, beggar's ticks, etc., are very injurious to the wool of sheep.

10. They sometimes harbor injurious insects. The common potato beetle feeds upon the common barberry plant when there are no potato plants.

11. They serve as host-plants for fungous diseases. The red rust of cereals has for its alternate host the common barberry.

12. When exceptionally troublesome, it often interferes with the regular crop rotation. Where wild oats are troublesome, cereals have to be dropped from the rotation as much as possible for a number of years.

13. The presence of green, immature weeds interferes with and retards the drying of hay and grain.

14. Weed seeds in grain, grass or clover seed greatly decrease its value.

15. Weeds very materially lessen the value of any farm.

In nature there are no weeds, but now we have weeds native to Ontario. This is because cultivation has produced an environment under which certain wild plants have developed, and so changed their characteristics as to become weeds, and then a score or more factors are brought to bear upon them, and they are scattered far and wide. These factors are divided into two classes, natural and artificial.

Natural Means.—Birds eat freely of weed seeds, and a few pass from the alimentary canal undigested, with their vitality unimpaired. Migratory birds thus frequently transport weed seeds in the mud adhering to their feet. Darwin took a teacupful of mud from the margin of a pond, and in it 537 seeds germinated, a large number being weeds.

Animals also spread weeds in this manner, but more especially in their coats, particularly those whose seeds are equipped with appendages for adhering to rough objects.

Water is another agency which acts as a weed disperser. Many seeds are buoyant in water, and are carried long distances in the currents of rivers, lakes, etc. It is surprising the length of time seeds can retain their vitality in water. Darwin found that about 14 per cent. of the weeds can retain their vitality in sea water for one month. Along the Mississippi River new weeds are found nearly every year. After heavy rains, ragweed seeds are scattered by the little rivulets.

Another powerful agency is the wind. To aid the wind, a large number of seeds have a bushy attachment to act as a parachute. About 10 per cent. of our weed seeds are thus equipped. In a storm, the range of this method reaches from ten to twenty miles, but with ordinary winds it probably does not exceed two miles.

In the winter, many weed seeds blow over the surface of the ground and snow. The prevalence of seeds, especially those of ragweed, in snowdrifts shows this to be the case.

Another manner in which the wind scatters weed seeds is by tumbling them. The most familiar example we have is old witch grass, but in the Prairie Provinces, Russian thistle and tumbling mustard are two very pernicious pests. In a strong wind the plant may pull up by the roots, the top or panicle may pull out of the sheath, a node may form on the stem, at which it breaks easily, or the stem at the surface of the ground may be susceptible to a fungous disease which greatly weakens it.

Some weeds have a device by which they gradually spread without any outside assistance: (1) Seed-throwing apparatus: The pods of certain



His Majesty George V.

George V., by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the British Dominions beyond the seas, King, Defender of the Faith and Emperor of India.
Coronation, June 22nd, 1911.

Canada thistles. Relative weeds are those that may have an economic value. Examples are: Grass in a flower bed; rushes and sedges which are used in the manufacture of baskets and mats; chicory is frequently grown for its roots, which, when dry and ground, are used as a coffee adulterant; deadly nightshade and burdock are sometimes grown for their medicinal properties.

Between 500 and 600 weeds are found in Ontario, but, fortunately, only some fifty or sixty are troublesome. Of these, about 60 per cent. have been introduced from Europe, and the remainder, with the exception of pigweed, a weed of tropical America, and Russian thistle, which came from Asia, are native of North America.

It is practically impossible to calculate the losses resulting from weeds, but the following are some of the chief injurious effects and disadvantages:

1. They absorb a tremendous amount of water, and hence lessen the amount at the disposal of the crop. Some idea of this amount may be learned from the fact that a single sunflower plant gives off twenty ounces per day in hot weather.