

SHEEP AND SWINE.

PRIZE FARM SHEEP MANAGEMENT.

A correspondent of the *London Field* describes sheep management on a prize farm as follows: "Mr. Hawkins, clever man as he is at his trade, tells us that he finds sheep pay better than cattle. He has an excellent flock of big, well-bred, matchy ewes, with substance and character, and the flock at the time of our visit numbered 978 head, composed of 288 store ewes, carefully selected as to type, colour and wool, and comprising a considerable proportion of shearlings; eighty-five draft ewes, which were very fresh, and being all sound as to teeth and udders, should command a good price for breeding purposes; 349 mixed lambs including a few rams, which are sold in autumn. The lambs had all been shorn at the end of June, averaging about one and a-half pounds of wool each; and this is done because shorn lambs get more benefit from dipping, and are more easily protected from injury by fly. We believe also that growth is better. Anyway, the practice is becoming very general in this part of the country; 254 feeding sheep, principally shearlings, with some fat ewes. Mr. Hawkins prefers to bring his sheep out on seeds at one and a-half years old rather than finish them on turnips at an earlier period, which could easily be done if considered desirable; but it is argued that this would require more cake and corn to be consumed on the turnip land, and endanger the success of the barley, which is certainly quite as heavy as it should be to stand up, whereas the eating of a large quantity of cake on seeds improves the chances of the following wheat crop. Then Shropshire mutton is suitable for summer consumption, and the sheep produce large weights, twenty-two pounds to twenty-four pounds a quarter. These feeding sheep are a grand lot—full of condition and ready for market at any time. The lambs were fed on seeds, having cake, and appeared to be doing excellently; but we were told by Mr. Hawkins that he had had very serious loss of lambs in the spring whilst with their dams, from curd in the stomach, which he attributed to richness in food and cold east winds."

FATTENING SHEEP.

Feeding sheep for market is an important industry in this country; but anyone visiting our sheep markets cannot help being convinced that many of the feeders do not understand their business and the importance of putting their stock in the best possible condition before shipping. Every week there are plenty of sheep sold in the markets for scarcely enough to pay transportation, that would bring at least double what they were sold for if they had only been made fat and put in proper condition before shipping. Sometimes farmers ship their sheep before they have been thoroughly fattened, because the sheep are not doing well and fattening properly. It is very often the case that sheep do not fatten rapidly; but is not usually the fault of the sheep, but rather of the feeder, his feed and the manner of feeding. Often the animals are fed too heavily on grain at the start, and are foundered, or at least cloyed. Not a sufficient variety of food is given, but corn is often poured down for them day after day, until the sheep become so tired of it that they cannot be induced to touch it. Filling the racks full of dry hay, and the troughs full of dry, hard corn, twice a day cannot be considered a judicious method of feeding. Any animal, when fed heavily, should have a variety of food, and especially is this true of the sheep. A change of rough feed is essential as well as of grain. The feeding should commence by giving a small quantity and gradually increasing the grain rations as the

season advances, until within a month or six weeks of the time they are to be marketed, as may seem best from the condition of the sheep, when they may be given about all the grain they will eat. Under no circumstances should this very heavy feeding continue more than six weeks, as there is great danger of the animals beginning to go backwards after being fed heavily for this length of time. The feed should be varied with the different kinds of grain, and by feeding the whole grain and ground feed. Whenever possible, roots and ensilage should form an important part of the rations, and do not forget that heavy feeding makes the animals feverish, and that they must have plenty of fresh water if they are expected to do well. In this way the sheep will not be overfed, their thriftiness will be kept up, and they will be ready to fatten rapidly when the heavy feeding commences.—*National Stockman*.

PIGS ON PASTURE AND GRAIN.

A good pasture is important to the health of pigs, and some think that the pigs should get all their food from the pasture. This opinion has been formed, because they think pigs do not gain in weight enough faster on grain with pasture, to pay for the grain. But they do not take into account the fact, that when pigs are put on a good luscious pasture, the succulence of the grass dilutes the growth made by the pig and adds weight fast, but this weight is not solid fat, but largely water. This weight must be ripened into solid fat by grain. If pigs run all summer on a good pasture without grain, although they may appear to have done well, yet when put in pen in the fall and fed on grain, they will not gain a pound in weight till this watery summer growth has been changed to solid fat by the grain. It sometimes takes twenty days' grain feeding to ripen the grass growth. It is much better to feed a small amount of grain on pasture, and this will ripen the growth as fast as made. The grain is all well expended, and will pay a better profit than the same amount fed in the fall. Small pigs should not be fed wholly upon corn. It is much better to feed two bushels of oats with one of corn, or better still, to feed oats and middlings. The young pig should grow its muscles and frame, and not lay on much fat. After the pig has stretched out its body all summer, then put on the fat and you have the finished animal. In fact, when grain is properly fed on pasture, pigs will begin to lay on fat as soon as the frame is sufficiently grown, and they are often in good condition for market in the fall, taken directly from pasture. So we think the grain fed on pasture is even more profitable than that fed afterward.—*National Live Stock Journal*.

The Chester White hogs are still the favourites in Pennsylvania, a position they have held for many years, although coming in competition with all other breeds.

HAVE your pigs and hogs access to plenty of fresh water? If not, provide it as soon as possible. Good, pure, fresh water is as essential to healthy development in the hog as in the cow or horse.

GET a good close look at the hogs at least once, and, if possible, twice a day. Spot and separate the first to show symptoms of weakness, loss of appetite, constipation or looseness of the bowels, or any other signs of disease, and keep separate until all danger is passed.

FARMERS cannot be too guarded in the isolation and protection of their hogs. Disease is here, there and nearly everywhere, and a little carelessness may be the means of losing an entire herd, whilst with ordinary care the disease may possibly be entirely avoided.

SHEEP enrich land very materially when feeding over it.

A LARGE wool commission merchant in Chicago writes that the increasing preference of manufacturers the past season for unwashed wools to washed has been more noticeable of late, in that many lots of washed wools held at what have been considered relative prices are still unsold on all markets, while unwashed, of some grades, are all sold. It is better for all concerned that wool should be shorn unwashed.—*Boston Cultivator*.

SOME Western farmers advocate keeping their swine in the yards every morning in the fall of the year until after the dew is off the grass. The reason given is that during cool nights the germs of hog cholera are thought to collect up on damp grass; also that the air at the surface of the earth is laden with malarial poison, which owing to the hog carrying his nose near the ground, is taken into the system, and is liable to produce disease.

THE system of washing in cold water on the sheep's back never results in a washed fleece fit for the manufacturer, but only the eradication of an unknown and uncertain part of the yolk contained in the fleece, which is thus changed into an unmerchantable commodity to be sold on its uncertain merits as to shrinkage. The name or designation of washed wool has ceased to have any charm, and the sooner the practice of washing is entirely abandoned, the better it will be for the sheep, their owners, and the trade generally.—*Wool Journal*.

SHELTER is very necessary at this season of the year for sheep and cows, and especially for all young animals. The rains are often chilling, and an animal drrenched to the skin all day is certain to suffer in one way or another; it may be in loss of flesh, in lowering of vitality, or in the contraction of disease. A roof overhead, with a few boards on the upper part of the sides, will answer the purpose very well; but as cold weather approaches in the latter part of the month, the shelter should be correspondingly good. Sheep especially should be provided with a place of cover in the season of autumn rains.

CLOVER hay, in good condition, is a perfect fodder for sheep. I know farmers who feed nothing else but clover hay to mutton sheep, and they have their lambs on this food and do well. After lambing they are fed some grain, to keep up their strength and to make milk. The lambs are sold early, and of course come early. Lucern would do as well, but being more bulky—that is, a less proportion of leaves, blossoms and finer stems—more bulk would be required at a feeding, as the sheep do not eat the larger part of the stems or vines, unless they were cut very green. This is the only difference that I can see between the clover and the lucern.—*F. D. Curtis, in Country Gentleman*.

A HOG is not naturally a nasty animal. On the contrary, he is very particular where he sleeps and what he eats. It is true, in hot weather, if he cannot get pure, cold water to bathe or roll in, he will take the best he can get, even if it be the filthiest mud-hole. If you want sweet pork, the hog must have pure water for drink and for wallow. When shut up to fatten, he should have a clean plank floor, with a little clean bedding, changed often. Give clean corn, either raw, cooked or ground, with pure water. In summer time he should have with his grain all the sweet grass he wants; in winter second-growth clover hay. In summer and winter he should have every day as much as he will eat of lime and salt mixed. Never let him stop growing, and slaughter him in his best flight of growth, and then you will have as sweet pork as you did at your father's table.