

LIVE STOCK.

Over-fitting is disastrous to breeding value.

Do not forget that calves will drink, and require water.

The animal's value as a breeder is really his greatest value.

Keep them growing is the motto for all with regard to calves.

If you have only a few roots save them for the young stock. There is no regulator like roots.

A few good individual animals is a far better start in live stock than a large number of non-descripts.

Stockers and feeders grow scarcer and scarcer, and prices have soared. The man who bought early is smiling.

Have you selected that sire which you need for your herd yet? This is a good time to look over the ground.

A small flock of sheep would help keep the weeds down on the farm, and would prove profitable as a breeding proposition.

The best show bull is not always the best breeding sire. More importance could well be placed on "get of sire" at our exhibitions.

All kinds of meat are high in price, and live-stock farming is gaining in favor all the time. Buy some good stock now and get in a game which is a "sure winner."

Comfortable not necessarily elaborate stables are important factors in all live-stock breeding. Put them in order early so that no delay comes when winter sets in.

Feed well in the fall, and it will require a smaller amount to keep the cattle up during the winter. It is a great mistake to allow cattle to fall before going into winter quarters.

Let the fall litter range over the stubble fields. It will give them a good start. Care must be taken not to confine them too closely after this free range, however, or trouble may follow.

How Prizewinning Beef Cattle are Made?

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Whoever the showman may be, if he were asked the rules which he follows in the selection, feeding, and showing of his best animals, he would probably reply that his success has not been altogether attained by strict adherence to hard and fast rules, for such rules can hardly be laid down by any man. It is not with any idea, therefore, of stating what must or must not be done to successfully show beef cattle, that I write these few lines, but merely to give some impressions which have been made on me in my short experience.

The whole subject might be covered under three headings: first, selection; second, feed and care; third, showing. These points are so closely connected and so dependent on one another in working out success that it is hard to say which is the most important. Selection is the foundation of the other work and if this is not well done, one's efforts to follow will not be of much account. We shall presume that our selections are to be made amongst unfinished cattle with the intention of finishing them ourselves. First, let us look to constitution, indicated somewhat by the head, but more especially by depth of body, spread of rib and the quality of the hair. The latter are three points most essential in the consideration of prospective show cattle, and particularly is this true if we are choosing from calves or undeveloped yearlings. An animal without these qualities can hardly be expected to improve to the point of perfection which is in our minds eye, viz., one possessing size, substance and quality in the most pleasing proportions. Add to these a straight top line and underline, size for age, and a general proportionate conformation from end to end, and we should have a fairly good animal with which to start feeding operations. In the case of animals of pure breeding to be shown in the breeding classes it is important that we do not overlook, as well,

breed type and character. Type is indicated in a Shorthorn by a thick-set, deep body, on short legs, as compared to a more upstanding, angular form peculiar to cattle of other breeds. Character is a feature of each breed, denoted particularly in the head and neck, and is hard to define, but is clearly evident when present.

To the credit of the rugged constitution of animals in some of our beef breeds, certain individuals have done remarkably well under rather adverse conditions as to feed and care which they have received. On the other hand in order to get maximum results from feed and attention, it is necessary for the attendant to be regular, consistent and sanitary, that is in all his relations to the cattle under his care. Feeding times should be arranged so that there is not too long

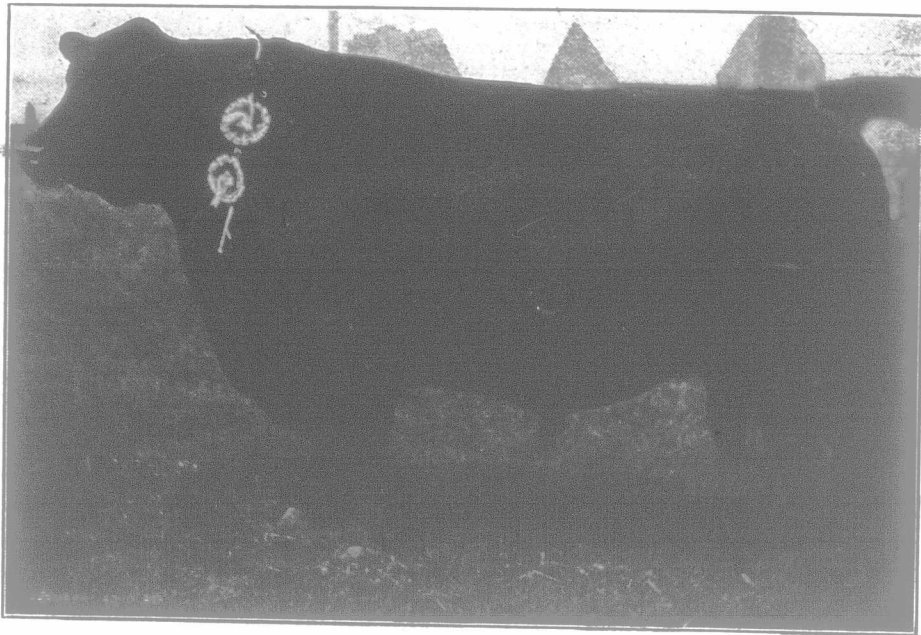
cattle will not aid development, and should be very carefully destroyed. Anything on the skin which acts as an irritant is not conducive to comfort and thrift, and if possible should be cleaned up at once. Many good feeders do considerable washing, sometimes once a month, twice a month and others even oftener. Good soap, a stout brush and a strong arm are all that is necessary for this operation. Strong soaps should never be used as they injure the hair, and whatever soap is used it should be thoroughly rinsed out at the finish of washing. The stalls should be kept clean. If allowed the use of box stalls they should be cleaned out every day, and sufficient litter supplied to make a comfortable bed. Where manure is allowed to accumulate in box stalls, a fermentation starts up causing a heat which adds discomfort to the animal in hot weather, and gives rise to trouble with the feet as well. All mangers and feed boxes should also be kept clean and sweet, and to this end may be thoroughly scrubbed out with a stiff brush or broom as often as necessity demands.

The importance of exercise as a factor in conditioning show cattle may easily be overlooked. It is necessary to provide regular, agreeable means of developing muscle as well as fat, and if this is not done there is a great possibility of cattle going "off their legs," which means that a weakness develops through inactivity, thereby

disabling the animal from its natural means of transportation. As a rule sufficient exercise may be provided by a run over night, in summer, in a small field or paddock. If this is not thought plenty and cannot be accomplished, it is necessary to lead out on the halter. This is the preferable way, for then we know exactly what exercise is taken and it should not be too little or too much.

As to the best feeds or system of feeding one can not declare definitely in favor of any. Present show-yard fashion calls for animals in very high condition, and to be fully prepared it is well to start sufficiently long ahead to have plenty of time for a steady preparation rather than one too hurried. In order to have calves gain the desired growth and flesh it is almost necessary to make use of a nurse cow. Often it is said of the beef breeds that the cows are not good enough milkers to nurse their own calves, and with this statement the finger is pointed at the use of nurse cows for show calves. The reason for the use of such nurses is not necessarily the inability of the dam to properly nourish the calf, but is due to the desire to have the calf brought forward in that high condition which present-day show-ring classes demand. In order to put such young animals there with safety it is preferred to use milk rather than concentrated feeds in the form of our richer

grains. Milk gives the desired results with the least possible chance of danger to the health of the calf. In the feeding of older cattle dependence is made largely on ground oats, some peas or barley, bran, oil-cake and quite a considerable allowance of succulent feeds, such as roots, or green fodder. Peas and barley require to be fed carefully, and are considered much safer if boiled and fed fresh cooked. A mixture of ground oats and bran with some cut hay and cut green feed or pulper, roots makes a palatable mixture for the bulky part of the ration. A little molasses dissolved in water and sprinkled over this makes it appetizing and serves, as well, to keep the digestive tract open

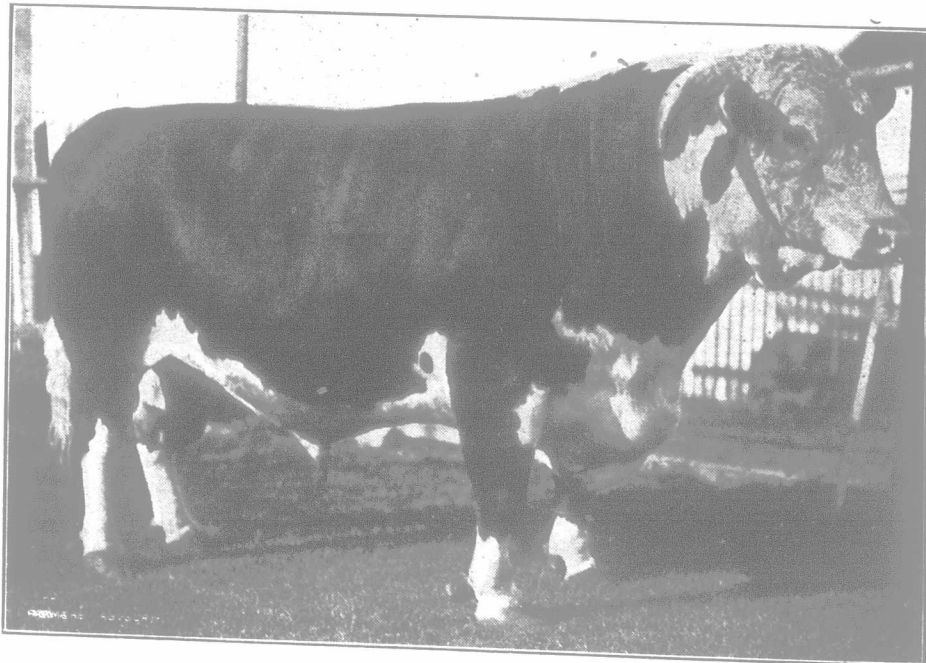


Prince of Jesters.

The premier Angus bull in the Old Land.

a time between any two feeding periods. It may be considered advantageous to feed three or four, or even five times a day, but no matter how often they should be fed regularly at the appointed time with very careful promptness. Cattle learn by habit more than any other way, and when once accustomed to certain fixed feeding times they become uneasy if, through some cause or other, the herdsman is delayed and does not appear at the right time.

A consistent feeder is a steady feeder. He is not always changing from one feed to another. He does not change proportions quickly, rather, he makes all changes gradually and very carefully. If he wishes to use green grass, corn or roots in season, he will not offer a full feed to his



Bonnie Brae.

A massive bull, well known in Canadian show-ring circles.

charge the first time, he will allow only a taste to start with, slowly increasing the amount at each feed until he deems the quantity sufficient. I have known feeders who would always be thinking that their cattle were getting too much of this or too much of that, and at once withhold that part of their feed and in an effort to have them satisfied it would then be necessary to increase some other ingredient in their rations. Thus they would go from one thing to another, keeping their cattle always upset and never satisfied and contented.

Apart from keeping its "belly" full, an animal will thrive better if it is clean and housed in clean quarters. Lice and other vermin on