

LIVE STOCK.

Damp hogpens often cause diarrhea in young pigs. Place the sow with the young litter in the driest pen in the piggery, or, better still, in a portable pen by herself.

No better ration for the newly-weaned litter can be had than good skim milk and shorts. The youngsters relish this and thrive on it. As they grow older, mixed chopped grains can be added.

A young bull should not be allowed to run in the yards or pasture with the cows. A critical period in the sire's life is between the ages of nine and twelve months, or just when he is developing from the calf to the "bull" state. Seclusion is the best thing for him, but not without exercise. Give him a good-sized box stall, and allow him to run by himself in the yards or paddocks each day. He must have all the exercise possible, as inactivity will destroy his potency.

The breeder is reasonably assured that the offspring of a pure-bred sire and a grade female, no matter what the class of stock he is breeding, is going to resemble the sire. This is prepotency—that quality which is present in greatest degree in animals of the highest type of pure breeding. It is the quality which makes the sire the greatest asset to the herd or flock. In buying a herd-header, look for the indications of it in both the animal and his pedigree.

A good pedigree is a valuable asset to breeding stock, still it is not a guarantee of excellence. It is necessary to know the history of the different individuals composing the pedigree. Like tends to produce like. The offspring tends to resemble, in a greater or lesser degree its progenitors, not only the immediate ancestors on one or both sides, but all the ancestors for generations back. It is only when all these have been known to be animals of the approved type that the animal can be said to have a high-class pedigree.

Give the young calves a chance to exercise in the barnyard during the warm days of spring. Very often the calves are neglected in this respect, the yard being taken by the older stock. None of the farm live stock will appreciate a few hours in the warm spring sunshine more than will the calves, and no other class of stock will be more greatly benefited. Exercise, pure air and light are essential to the calves' best development, and the open, sheltered yard is the place for them to get all three.

Some breeders owning a large herd of grade stock have been known to purchase a first-class pure-bred sire, and to use him to good advantage in their herds. This sire left them some good stock—so good, in fact, that they decided to use one of his get as a herd header when he himself is disposed of. This is a retrograde movement, and should in all cases be discouraged. The only sane method of grading up a herd is by buying year after year just a little better pure-bred bull than the one which preceded him at the head of the herd.

If a reasonably warm pen is provided, early shearing of the sheep has many advantages. It is a saving of time if done now, before the busy season commences. It also serves as a means of ridding the sheep, to some extent, at least, of ticks, many being killed and disposed of in the wool, and others removing to the lambs, which can be easily dipped, practically cleaning the flock. It is also a great comfort to the sheep, because, if left on until farm operations commence, the wool is often not removed until far into the hot weather. Clip the sheep now.

Spring is one of the seasons when it is most difficult to keep the live stock from falling in flesh. They seem to have a longing for the green feed of summer, and the dry winter feed is not so well relished. In the colder weather, roots or silage and good clover hay are among the best roughages at which to dispose of. Silage, perhaps better relished than the roots, will be better be very well preserved. They are often affected in spots with a disease during the winter season, and are not very palatable. Silage should not be allowed to fall in these rows, and a little extra grain may be added to the ration to keep them profitably.

The Stability of Sheep-Raising.

From the earliest times the flock has been the mainstay of farmers of many lands. Even when subjected to the extreme fluctuations of markets and the handicaps of disease and insect pests, the sheep-raising industry has continued to flourish. The oldest shepherds unite in advising that the time to begin with sheep is when there is a period of depression, and the way to make sheep-raising regularly profitable is to remain in the business during periods of high and low prices. Therefore the present depression offers an exceptional opportunity to the beginner who desires to start with a small flock. And the beginner should always choose the small flock.

Another fundamental principle of profitable sheep-raising is that it goes hand in hand with the general farm. No kind of meat animal fits into the economy of the diversified farm better than does the sheep. It has been repeatedly urged by both practical farmers and economists that the sheep industry may be made permanently profitable in this country despite tariff influences. —[The Country Gentleman.

Good Prices for Early Clip.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The first wool to be marketed in Lindsay this season was brought to town on March 22nd by James Found, of Little Britain, and sold at the woollen company's mills. The wool was of good quality, free of cotts and chaff, and netted the seller an average of \$1.36 each for his 18 fleeces. Mr. Found is not fitting his sheep for the show. He clips regularly in March, just before the lambing season, as he claims the sheep thrive better after being relieved of their heavy fleeces. They do not suffer from the cold, as they are kept in a warm place for a fortnight, after which the growth of wool is sufficient to protect them from inclement weather. "One advantage of early clipping," says Mr. Found, "is that after all hands are busy with the seeding, this is one less task, as the shearing has already been done during the slack season. The chief benefit of early clipping, however is that, when shearing, I kill every tick to be seen, and a liberal dusting of dry sulphur after the fleece has been removed will dispose of any that may have been missed by the shearing. When the fleece is left on until after the lambs are dropped, the ticks at once leave the greasy wool of the mother sheep and harbor on the soft, fine wool and tender skin of the lambs. A lamb covered with ticks will be no heavier at six weeks of age than a lamb should be at two weeks if free from vermin." Mr. Found also stated that his flock of sheep paid him well. He is of the opinion that, when properly cared for, there is nothing a farmer can raise that will bring better returns. When one considers that farming land in the Little Britain district sells readily at \$100 per acre, and that there are many land-owners in the banner township of Mariposa who are quite as optimistic about their flocks, and have demonstrated to their own satisfaction that sheep are profitable to keep on the highest-priced land in the Province of Ontario, one must naturally arrive at the conclusion that, if sheep are profitable in Mariposa Township, they can surely be raised with profit in any other township in Victoria County.

Victoria Co., Ont.

ALEX. HORN.

Stiffened Pigs.

It has been a long, hard winter on live stock, and especially on swine. Prolonged confinement in cold pens, not always too dry, with denial of access to those earthy and mineral substances that pigs crave, tells on the digestion and joints, so that stiffening and unthrift are quite common. A large percentage of cases of stiffening are due to indigestion; others to rheumatism. Fortunately, the same rational line of treatment will tend to prevent both. To begin with, the pens, and especially the sleeping places, should be dry. This requires that the bedding be frequently changed. Moisture from the lungs will dampen the straw, even in cold weather, if left unchanged for several days. Imagine yourself sleeping, on some of last winter's bitter nights, or even days, in a damp bed, with no artificial heat in the room! You would want a lot of clothing above and under you. The poor pig often has little either above or below, and when that little is damp, no wonder he suffers. Such conditions tend directly to rheumatism, and also tend to check digestion. When to this factor is added the unwholesomeness of too highly concentrated food, mixed with ice-cold water, and lacking the mineral condiments that a pig craves, as you do not and cannot, the marvel is that he has any strength at all. Pigs in winter confinement receive their exercise, free from draft, a sufficient amount of bedding, renewed frequently; some have a little laxative food, such as roots or chopped cabbage, chaff, not too concentrated a ration, and water, not too cold, and as a little

above the temperature of ice, and as much exercise as can be conveniently provided. In addition, they should have access to some such mixture as salt, ashes and charcoal, or salt, sulphur and ashes. Even coal ashes alone will be eaten in considerable quantity, as will earth from a root cellar. These things are cheap, and will make gains while saving grain bills.

But, while prevention is the logical and proper thing, there are many pig-feeders more anxious just now to learn of a remedy. This is not easy to suggest. Begin by correcting defective conditions, supplying the pig's wants, as indicated above. By one means or another, make it a point to provide exercise. If possible, give them the run of a barnyard, but do not allow them to nestle in fermenting horse manure, as this is a direct cause of rheumatism. Roots, exercise, a dry sleeping place and variety of feed, and a judicious mixture of condiments, will do about all that is possible until grass comes. Then get your stiffened pigs on pasture, and turn them off as soon as fit.

THE FARM.

Round Cement Water Tank.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

As you asked for descriptions of cement supply tanks, I will describe one built in this neighborhood last summer. The foundation was provided by digging a hole 8 feet in diameter and 1½ feet deep. About half a load of stone was dumped into this, and concrete laid on top to make a floor. The wall was then commenced, and made 6 inches thick, 1 to 8, without stones, the concrete being held in place by metal rings the same as for a silo, but smaller, and without battering. It was stayed with wire about every two feet, and six feet up four wagon tires were laid across, and to these was hung, with wires 3 inches long, a circular wooden platform, on which concrete was laid six inches deep, to form a bottom for the water tank proper. After the concrete dried, this false wooden bottom was removed by cutting the wires. Six feet higher up, more wagon tires were laid, and the top made the same as the bottom. A man-hole about two feet square was left in the center of the top. As this was an elevated tank, the pipes were protected by packing. About 1½ feet of ice remained all around the inside as high as the water rose. Water was pumped in about twice a week. Very little ice formed on top of the water. The man-hole was protected by a tight-fitting trap-door, made of inch boarding, cleated. The concrete was plastered inside and out with pure cement. It cost, by contract, \$45, and supplies both house and barn. It is protected on the south-west side by a medium-sized barn on 8-foot wall, and on north and north-west by orchard and medium-sized house and implement shed, but exposed completely to a twenty-foot wind sweep from the west. On the whole, I consider it fairly well protected, and the owner is well satisfied with results. This winter the temperature went 25 degrees below zero for several days, and for about six weeks hung around zero, off and on.

J. H. B.

Perth Co., Ont.

Poor Seed Corn.

Just how serious the seed-corn situation is in Iowa was demonstrated in an extensive test of farmers' seed corn conducted at Mason City recently by a representative of the Iowa State College.

Of a thousand ears, coming from ten different farms, where they had been selected and set aside for seed because they seemed outwardly to be the best, only 311 ears contained no dead kernels, and were, therefore, fit for planting.

In one lot of 100 ears not a single ear fit for seed was found. In two other lots of 100 each, only 17 good ears were found in each. In a fourth lot of 100 ears, only 20 were fit for seed. The best lot of 100 ears yielded only 58 good ears for planting. These tested ears were not common ears; they were brought in for testing by reasonably careful farmers who selected their seed ears in the field last fall, and took reasonable care of it through the winter, probably, they represented 1,000 of the best ears available on ten representative farms.

The cost of planting corn like that without testing can be estimated. Prof. M. L. Mosher, of the Extension Department of the College, and an expert in corn, says that to plant such seed as tested at Mason City would mean a reduction of probably 20 bushels per acre in the yield. "That is just an approximation, of course," said Mr. Mosher. "In an average year, covering all sections of Iowa, we find that the seed corn used has about 12 per cent. of dead kernels. That average is based on the test of 3,500 samples taken through a series of years in various sections from plotter boxes. In an average year, this 12-per-