

Stock and Dairy.

The Different Kinds of Wool.

From an address before the Kentucky Wool Growers' Association, we make the following extract:—

The value of all kinds of wool is determined by its strength, lustre, working qualities and shrinkage. Wool is divided by governments for tariff, and wool merchants, into three classes: Clothing, combing and carpet, and is produced in quantity in this order. Kentucky wool should be classed as combing, delaine, medium coarse and black. Wool merchants separate each division into as many classes as there are distinct qualities of staples in each division, to suit the purchaser. Manufacturers take the fleeces, putting them into as many classes as there are distinct qualities in each fleece, according to its length, color, lustre, etc., except the gummy locks, which they will not buy unwashed. Clothing wool is generally divided into three classes—fine, medium and coarse. The average price for fifty-three years, since 1824, for each class per washed pound, is for fine, 61½ cents; medium, 56½ cents; coarse, 51 cents; or nearly 5½ cents per pound less on each class as it grows coarser. Average price per washed pound Australian in London, for 1862 to 1867, inclusive, is estimated by Mr. Bond, 43½ cents gold. Counting freights, commission, etc., for same period, the average price in currency for washed Australian would be 80 cents per pound in New York, or 19 cents more than any of our clothing wools, and 29 cents more than for our coarse wools. Card or X wools are required to be fine, short in staple, "full of spiral curls and serratures." Combing wool consists in drawing out the fibres straight and parallel; then twisted into yarn called worsted, "the ends in spinning being covered, make the yarn smooth and lustrous." The staple should be generally five to eight inches long, having a few "spiral curls and serratures," with distinct lustre.

The qualities are found in the English in their order of perfection as follows: The Lincolnshire, Leicester and Cotswold breeds. Delaine wools are shorter and finer, and can be used as short as 2½ inches, but it must be very fine and nice. The coarser the staple the longer it must be. These are not classed in the trade as combing wools. There are fine, medium and coarse combing wools. The duty on this wool will equal 11 cents per pound, and 10 per cent. *ad valorem*. Poorly bred wools are very objectionable, with a fine, downy bottom, and coarse, uneven fibres. These are generally sold for carpet wools. I need only say to the wool growers of this State that there is a wider field in the expansion of growing wool fabrics than your imagination can take in.

The Dairy Interest.

The country has \$40,000,000 invested in 10,000,000 milch cows, whose annual product is worth \$275,142,585, while the last cotton crop was worth only \$200,000.

The enormous sum of this dairy interest—which includes nothing of oxen, hides or meat—will surprise every one who has paid no attention to it. The fallacy which destroyed the hay argument is partially wanting here too. For, while our exportation of hay amounts to nothing, and hardly equals consumption, there is a great and rapidly growing export of butter, cheese, salt and fresh beef and live animals. The sum cannot be accurately computed, and carries the particular valuations into the same classification with cotton. For in all these interests the final appreciation does not rest upon the amount, how considerable soever that may be, which is consumed at home and so lost to wealth, but upon the amount beyond consumption, which is exported and enriches the land by its equivalent in gold or other needs and permanent worths.

The gross value of cattle for labor, manure, milk, cheese, butter, leather and other ends, is susceptible of a vast addition and must necessarily expand with western settlement and increase the returns shown in our foreign trade, while sustaining labor at home more abundantly and cheaply, and so enabling every industry to flourish in competition with less favored countries, and greater comforts and luxuries to be enjoyed by all. It will not hold the throne it challenges any more than the hay crop; provided the southern energy, which has done so much towards restoring its early abun-

dance, holds the course it has with the energy it is now showing. But it may, and apparently must, reach a higher sum than any farmer or any statistician has dreamed; for, recovering its total, it has acquired the best blood of the best herds of Europe; has given practical attention and study to the manufacture of cheese and butter; has given the leather interest a new power; is conquering Texas, California, Oregon and all the new States, and is arousing wonder in and drawing money from Europe and Asia at the same time.—*North American*.

The Kerry Cow.

The description of this breed is from the London *Live-Stock Journal*:—

The Kerry cow is a remarkably grateful feeder, or in other words, will live on the commonest and scantiest diet, and when her lot falls in pleasant places will yield a bountiful lacteal return for the generous keep. Everywhere and under all circumstances she has the reputation of being an excellent milker. The average yield of milk produced by a Kerry cow belonging to a gentleman who for many years has paid great attention to his breeds, says R. O. Pringle in his review on "Irish Agriculture," is twelve quarts daily, and the average of butter from six to eight pounds per week. Some of the cows have produced more, but the quantities stated have been above the average. Pringle considers this to be a large yield, considering the size of the animal and the small amount they consume. A Kerry cow was known to be kept for five years in a stable in Dublin, which had only two calves during the period, yet was scarcely ever dry, and kept up a full supply of milk for a large family.

Breeding a Uniform Type of Cattle.

D. G. Spragge, in the *Michigan Farmer*, offers some good practical suggestions on this subject. The history of the improved breeds of stock in England proves what may be done by selecting the best animals having the desired developments for sire and dam, and persisting for generations in the selections. The offspring naturally inherit the characteristics of their parents, for "like begets like." By judicious selection the breeder can improve the milking or the beef-forming quality of his stock. We take some short extracts from Mr. Spragge's essay on this point:

With reference to breeding a uniform type, great results can be reached by persistent effort in a given direction. To illustrate, we will suppose a half-blood male shows a marked development in some points in which the owner is especially desirous of cultivating: be this a heavy, thick ham, a full loin, well sprung ribs, or deep chest. This male, although only a half-blood, hence possessing little power to mark his progeny, will, nevertheless, occasionally get progeny possessing the strongly marked peculiarity of the parent.

Now, again, let the owner select one of the offshoots, of either sex, so marked, of this second cross, to be used again with the purpose in view of continuing the effort to fix the desired development indelibly upon the herd. There is hardly anything surer than that this course, persisted in until you have a male animal, the result of repeated efforts in one direction, will furnish you a sire that will transmit the coveted development to a large portion of his get.

The lesson we draw from this is, that to be able to transmit a symmetrical form with the well marked developments which, together, make up a representative of one of the finer breeds, the parents must inherit the coveted shape from a long line of ancestry, in the history of which there has been but little variations from a uniform type. The excellencies here contended for are the opposite of those found in the shapely half-blood, in that they are fixed and enduring, reappearing persistently upon every opportunity. Herein lies the key to successful breeding, and if farmers would always seize upon this, and breeders would more often study to learn the individual merits of every animal which appears in the list of progenitors, rather than to rack their brains, and put experts upon the witness stand, to bring out evidences as to the particular strains of blood which appear in the record—of the merits of which no living witness has any knowledge, nor does history give us any account—the sooner would we attain those excellencies which stamp a given race of farm animals as good; this quality, in a practical sense, being the reason why sensible men cleave to them.

Grubs in the Heads of Sheep.

In reply to enquiries we reprint from the *Prairie Farmer* the following:

A sure preventive of this troublesome ailment is to set up a low shelter, about four feet high, in a field to which the flock has easy access at any time, whether they feed in it or not. It may be roughly built of small, forked posts, covered with boughs. The intent is to give the sheep shade in the heat of the day, and protection from the attacks of the gold-fly which, all summer long, darts about their noses, in which to lay their eggs, rendering the animals almost frantic in their efforts to escape them.

More than forty years ago the writer used these shelters, and has never known them to fail. To succeed in her instinctive efforts to place her eggs in the noses of the sheep, the fly must rise to a height of several feet and dart down upon the animal selected. The shelter effectually prevents her doing so. The animals will voluntarily run to it in the heat of the day, when the attacks of the fly are most violent, and will there find peace, shade, shelter and complete immunity from their tiny but terribly annoying and irritating enemy.

The gad-fly does no more harm to a healthy sheep, than a bottle-fly does to a healthy horse. But its attempts to lay its eggs in the nose are far more annoying, and in the winter and early spring when the animal is weakened and most unable to withstand any unnecessary strain upon it, the grub may be an important factor with other minor causes, in producing death.

Such a shelter will usually cost nothing but a few days' work to the flock-master. It, undoubtedly, will be worth many dollars to him in the course of a year.

Sheep Farming.

From 50 to 100 head of sheep can be kept on each farm of 100 to 160 acres of land, with but very little extra expense, and generally with an actual advantage to the land. Sheep are most excellent weed killers, and may be kept a certain number of them—on each farm on which no other stock except goats will eat, and thus not only save the labor of men to keep down the weeds, but will make these weeds the means of fertilizing the land; besides, the sheep will return to their owner as good a per cent. on his investment in them, in their increase and wool, as he can make in any other way. A good fat lamb, or a fat wether, killed now and then will come very handy in supplying the family's wants for meat, and will materially reduce the amount of the annual expense for fresh meat from the butcher's. If our farmers will consult their own best interests in this respect and buy a few sheep, the amount of our wool clip will not be reduced, but may be materially increased; and with this change in the business the quality of the wool will also be improved, and the State's income at the same time be further increased. It is always a safe and a good business principle to buy upon a rising market. Buying sheep now will be in accordance with this principle in a double sense—the sheep will appreciate, and their annual product will also continue to advance. Better sow a few acres less wheat and sell a few bushels of the seed on hand to invest the proceeds in sheep.

Cow-Milking Machine.

Hand labor is generally being superseded by machinery in nearly every branch of industry. It is curious to mark the unlikely uses to which machinery may be applied. An ingenious inventor in the United States has recently patented a useful device in the shape of a cow-milking machine, which, it is said, will do all that can be done in milking by hand, faster and easier, and will be of special service where cows have sore teats or are hard milkers. The apparatus consists essentially of a glass globe, large enough to hold an average yield of milk, which is connected by means of a flexible tube with an air-pump. Rising from the top of the globe are small pipes with metal tips. The mode of operation consists in suspending the globe underneath the animal to be milked, and inserting the tips of the small pipes into the teats. A partial vacuum is then effected inside the globe by means of the air-pump, and the milk thus drawn forth. The advantages claimed by the invention are that it prevents any loss of milk through spilling, it renders milk or straining pails unnecessary, and prevents entrance of dirt. Finally, it can be easily manipulated by anybody.—*Reading Eagle*.