

could have forced prices so high for stuff on the hoof. This condition recommends the conservation of all good breeding stock and liberal feeding of growing animals.

The 72 head of Shorthorns in the Omaha, Neb. sale on March 3, averaged \$261. The 48 bulls averaged \$228, and the 24 females, \$329. An even range of values prevailed.

Have some convenient dipping equipment arranged and some material on hand, so when the proper time arrives the flock can be dipped with little trouble and in quick order.

One thing is sure, farmers will not plunge into sheep raising as is sometimes done with swine. It would surely be a safe line for anyone with the instincts of a good shepherd.

In a way it seems too bad that much of the untitled land in the northern part of Old Ontario and in the Maritime Provinces is not turned over to sheep farming. Yet, on the other hand, where such a scheme has been tried in the districts mentioned something has frequently intervened to discourage the promoter.

One cent per ounce for hogs, live weight, would be a good price if mill feeds could be obtained at reasonable cost. Farmers can still make a fair profit out of swine, but more money is tied up in the herd and feed than formerly, and if anything should happen suddenly they would lose more than under normal conditions.

At the thirty-first public sale of Herefords from the Shadeland herd of J. A. Shade, Kingsley, Iowa, April 11 and 12, an average of \$557 was made on 111 head. The 33 bulls averaged \$438, and the 78 females, \$607. The noted show and breeding bull, Good Lad, sold for \$2,075, which was the top price of the sale. Beaumont Jr., twelve years old, went at \$600, and Beau Shadeland, a February yearling, by Beaumont Jr., realized \$1,000. Prince Crusader by Crusader Fairfax, sold at \$1,200, and several females were cashed at about the same figure.

Hog Farming.

Frequently we get requests for information about piggeries that will accommodate large numbers of brood sows of feeding swine, and in some instances plans are desired for buildings that will house all kinds from sucking pigs up to breeding and fattening animals. Swine raising should be a profitable enterprise when carried on in conjunction with dairying or some other line which provides considerable by-products acceptable to pigs, but it should be remembered that housing is an expensive factor and not the only factor which should enter into the calculation.

For a large proposition one should consider available land and pasture. Originally the hog was a foraging animal and when the farmer allots a certain area to a definite number of pigs, and does not think only of pen room, he is more likely to succeed. The housing of large numbers in buildings is inviting trouble, especially with breeding stock. Furthermore, very young pigs do not thrive so well in the same enclosure with feeding hogs, and separate accommodation should be provided for both.

It would be very easy to go to excess in constructing expensive piggeries. Of course, feeding pigs would not do well where the temperature goes very low in winter, but the damp, poorly ventilated house, though warm, is just as bad or worse than a cold, dry house. The dry, well-ventilated building, moderately warm, is ideal for all kinds of swine, and such can often be built at reasonable cost from material at hand, or by putting a cement floor, glass and a ventilating system in some old out-building. For summer there is no better method of housing either feeding or breeding stock than in the colony, or portable house. Up to a couple of years ago very comfortable and convenient rectangular houses could be built for twenty dollars, counting labor and material. The price of lumber has advanced and the value of labor has increased somewhat, but on an ordinary farm almost enough material could be picked up around the place to make one or two of these houses.

In summer swine raisers should make extensive use of pasture, not only on account of the economical gains thus made, but to maintain the health and vigor of the herd. Breeding stock, particularly, should have access to the soil, and shoats give considerable response to forage crops when receiving a grain ration in addition. Some pertinent advice is contained in Bulletin 95, of the Missouri Experiment Station. Three general conclusions from this Bulletin bear on this question:

1. "The number of hogs which may be kept on each acre of forage will depend upon the abundance of forage, but in general not more than 10 to 12 head should be used."

2. "The greatest returns have been obtained when grain was fed in addition to the forage at the rate of 2 to 3 per cent. of the weight of the hogs per day. The amount fed per head per day should be increased as the hog increases in size."

3. A very good plan in feeding 80 to 100-pound hogs on forage would be to feed per head per day, during May, 1.75 pounds of grain; during June, 2 pounds grain; during July, 3 pounds grain; and during August, 4 to 5 pounds grain.

The same bulletin says: "The gains made on forage are made at 20 to 30 per cent. less cost than gains produced with grain and dry-lot feeding." In a trial with alfalfa, with grain fed additionally, it was found that 596.8 pounds of pork could be accredited to each acre.

In a test with red clover, 572.2 pounds of pork were accredited to each acre of forage eaten, and in a field of rape, oats and clover, 394 pounds of pork were accredited to each acre of forage eaten.

At the Ontario Agricultural College it has been pretty well demonstrated by experiment that it is unwise to turn hogs to pasture until they weigh in the vicinity of 100 pounds. However, breeding sows should be out when there is grass, and a proper system of supplying forage will influence largely the types of buildings constructed and amount of indoor accommodation provided.

THE FARM.

Recollections on Maple Syrup Days.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Weel, the maple syrup makin' season is past an' gone for another year, an' although I've seen years when we made mair o' baith sugar an' syrup, still, as the wee laddie said the ither day, "we've got some sweet tae pit on oor bread." It will be a sorry day for the bairns when the last o' oor maple trees are gone an' sugar makin' is a thing o' the past. It wis aye mair o' a picnic than onything else for the wee lads an' lassies, for they dinna' hae muckle o' the wark, but they wad always be in at the feenish wi' their egg-shells an' wee pans tae get them filled wi' the sugar oot o' the auld pot.

I dinna ken what the youngsters o' the next generation will hae to look forward to in the spring o' the year, for by the looks o' things at present it willna' be many years before the maple trees o' oor country will a' be d'sid an' made intae fire-wood. There's been a sort o' plague o' caterpillars every few years for the last quarter o' a century an' the trees hae been stripped o' their leaves an' na doot this has a guid deal tae dae wi' the way the maple bushes o' the country are gaein' tae the dogs, sae to speak. They are gettin' mair exposed tae the wind, too, as the land is bein' cleared, an' one way an' anither they will soon be gone, I'm thinkin'. It's a muckle peety, but I mind the day when I wouldna' hae spent muckle time lamentin' about it. Gin there iver wis a job that I wis sick o' in ma younger days, it wis this business o' makin' maple syrup an' sugar. Things werena' vera handy in those times an' it helped tae mak' a bad job worse. The first thing tae be done wis tae mak' the wooden troughs an' sap spouts, which wis the best that we kened onything about then. The troughs were about three feet lang an' were made oot o' a section o' a basswood tree, split in twa an' hollowed oot wi' an adze. The sap-spouts, or "spiles", as we called them, were made oot o' a piece o' dry cedar, wi' a jack-knife an' a gimlet. The tapping wis done by means o' a gouge, or round chisel. This wis driven intae the tree wi' the back o' an axe an' when a hole o' the right-size had been made the "spile" wis forced intae it an' made solid wi' the axe. Then the trough wis put in place on the gound, or on the snow as the case might be, where it wad catch the sap as it drapp'd frae the end o' the spout; an' yer wark wis done till ye got a "run" o' sap. But on the first warm day, gin there wis a guid sharp frost the night before, ye'd find yer wark begin in earnest. We didna' use horses in those days tae help wi' the gatherin' o' the sap. I dinna' ken why, unless it wis because the horses had mair sense than the men. Onyway the sap wis a' carried in pails frae the far end o' the bush tae the camp where it wis tae be boiled doon intae syrup. Generally ilka mon had a yoke that rested on his shoulder an' had a pail hung tae each end o' it. This made the job a wee bit easier, but there wisna' muckle fun about it at best, especially when the snaw wad be twa or three feet deep an' ye had tae plough yer way through it frae daylight till dark, an' maybe noo an' again pittin' in a few hours overtime by moonlight when there wis an extra guid run. Mony's the trouful o' sap I've kicked over in ma young days, before ma conscience or ma muscle were vera weel developed. The first sap-boiling outfit we had wad hae scared the Indians oot o' the country gin they'd seen it, an' it wad hae taken a mon wi' some imagination to hae thought o' a day in the future when one o' these "pail-a-minute" evaporators wad be takin' in cauld sap at one end an' rinnin' oot the finished syrup at the ither, on the same spot where we hung oor auld kettles on a fence-rail an' fired up frae all sides at once. We used to hae about five or six kettles or iron pots hung in a row, wi' a couple o' logs, one on each side tae keep in the heat an' keep the fire-wood up close tae the pots. As the sap boiled doon it wis dipped frae one pot tae the next until it wis thick enough to "strain". An' it wisna' lang gettin' thick enough, sometimes, ye can believe me on that. Between ashes an' chips an' ither things ye couldna say that the strainin' wis an unnecessary pairt o' the operations. But there's no denyin' the fact that the syrup made in the auld-fashioned way had a flavor that ye canna' get on the fancy stuff turned oot noo-a-days, an' it's a flavor that suits the taste o' a guid mony people too, even gin it is ashes an' chips extract. But there's no' muckle o' it on the market the noo. It's about as scarce as what the Indians used tae mak' by heating stanes red-hot an' drapping them intae a pail o' sap. I'm thinkin' we'll hae to give them the credit for bein' the pioneers in the great maple sugar manufacturing industry. Gin there wis onybody tried it before the Indians they've left na records o' their experiments.

Talkin' this way brings tae ma mind some things that I'd aboot forgotten, (for it wisna' yesterday they happend ye ken) some experiences I've had in ma early attempts tae mak' a fortune in the sugar trade. I mind one spring ma feyther said tae me, "Sandy", says he, "it's been a pretty guid year, an' gin ye like ye can hae the rest o' the sap tae boil on the shares. You dae the wark an' gie me half o' what ye mak' an' ye can hae the rest for yersel'". The proposition looked guid tae me an' I wis young eneuch tae be ambitious, sae I tackled it. It wis unco' hard wark all alane, but I kept remindin' mysel' o' the time I wad be spendin' my money that I wad be gettin' for my share o' the syrup. There wis aboot a hundred different ways that I thocht aboot for investin' ma pile, but I finally got doon to decidin' tae get mysel' a watch. I knew a chap that had one he wad sell for four dollars, sae I made up my mind tae hae it. Weel, between warkin' all day an' the best pairt o' the nights for pretty near a week I made oot tae clean up a little better than ten gallons o' pretty fair syrup. It wis a lang time tae pit in for that much, but ma fire-wood wis bad an' it took me an' unco' lang while tae carry a' that sap in a couple o' pails. Hooever, I didna' worry aboot that when I wis done, for my share o' the syrup wis mair than enuch tae buy that watch. Sae I gie'd ma feyther his share, an' then hitched up the auld mare an' started intae toon wi' the rest, tae sell it tae a chap I'd made a bargain wi' a couple days before. I had the syrup in one o' those auld-fashioned demijohns made o' glass an' covered wi' some kind o' basket-wark. They're oot o' style noo since prohibition has come in. But hooever, as I wis trottin' alang wi' ma mind mair on that watch than on ma horse didn't the buggy rin over one o' those auld corduroy sticks in the road an' drap intae a hole on the ither side. To mak' it short, the bottom went oot o' ma glass demijohn an' the syrup all ran between the slats o' the buggy on tae the road below.

They say there's no use cryin' over spilled milk, an' I suppose I knew that the same rule applied tae syrup, but I wis a young chap at the time an' I'm thinkin', there wis a few tears followed the results of my weeks' labor through the bottom of the buggy. Mony a lang year has passed since then, but I dinna' mind o' ony ither time in my life when the future looked sae black an' when I thocht life wis sae little worth livin' as when I turned the auld mare toward hame that day aifter hidin' ma empty demijohn in a corner o' the road fence.

A thing like this doesna' seem o' muckle account when ye look tae it years aifter, but it's juist as big as onything else at the time. It's no' a matter o' dollars an' cents, but rather the effect it has on yer feelings that mak's it big or small. An' when a chap loses all his capital in his first business venture, as I did, his feelings are apt tae be affected tae a considerable extent, even though that capital wis na mair than five gallons o' syrup. It's a' past noo an' I can laugh at mysel' wi' the rest o' them, but it wis mony a year before I could tak' muckle pleasure in the comin' o' spring wi' it's accompaniment o' makin' maple syrup. As ma feyther said one day, "I think ye've taken a 'scunner' tae the sugar business, Sandy." "That's what I wis thinkin' mysel'" says I. "Ye've got the richt word for it."

SANDY FRASER.

Stumping With Dynamite.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

The following is my experience re stumping with dynamite. As it was the first time I had used this explosive, I hired an expert who understood the business to give me a little insight into the handling of it. Any one who uses reasonable care can stump with dynamite after seeing a few stumps extracted from the soil. It is important that the dynamite be properly placed under the stump. A hole should be dug or bored under the centre of the stump, aiming to get the charge under the most solid part. I dug the hole with a long-handled, narrow spade and a small bar, but equally good results can be obtained by using an earth auger. The stumps were broken up so that most of them could be loaded on the wagon box and drawn off the field. It took me about two days with a team to make an acre of land fit to plow. The following is the cost of removing twenty-five large pine stumps from one acre:

47 lbs. stumping powder at \$24 per cwt.	\$11.28
50 feet of fuse, at 70 cents per 100 feet	.35
25 detonating caps, one cent each	.25
Expert's time	1.25
Labor	1.00
Man and team two days	9.00
Total	\$23.13

For an expenditure of \$23.13 the land was made ready for the plow. I consider this fairly reasonable, as the extra crop grown on this acre will pay for the stumping in two years, besides the convenience in working the land.

Halton Co., Ont.

FARMER.

We understand that the Canadian Governments have been able to bring in from the United States nearly 6,000 practical farmers and farm hands to aid in production this year. These men who understand farm work are most valuable on the farms, and the authorities are to be commended for the good work done in getting them placed in Canada.