

Summer Feeding Cattle.

In the process for feeding for beef and pork, the common practice in the west of feeding cattle and hogs together, and feeding mostly on shock-corn in winter, has an advantage over all other systems of feeding for economy and profit.

One important advantage in feeding any stock for market, I think is generally over-looked by most feeders. This is the practice of summer feeding or feeding fattening animals while on grass. It is a notorious fact that two-thirds of all the cattle fed in the west, are put into the market only half fed, and consequently not more than half the profit is realized that should be from such feeding. We will take, for instance, a steer, such as are purchased usually at two years old past, during the summer at about thirty dollars, weighing say nine hundred pounds; he is kept on grass until cold weather in the fall, and changed to corn.

It is found to be good feeding that puts on two hundred and fifty pounds during the winter, with one hundred bushels of corn, and in such a winter as 1872 and 1873, about one hundred and fifty pounds would be a liberal estimate for the amount of grain. A steer costing say thirty dollars, and fed one hundred bushels of corn at a cost of twenty dollars more, making fifty dollars cost at three years old, with a weight of say eleven hundred pounds, allowing for good feeding and good stock (common stock understood), worth at home four dollars and fifty cents per hundred, or forty-nine dollars and fifty cents for the steer marketed at this age; and allowed the gain accruing to hogs fed with cattle to pay for the summer pasture and labor of feeding in winter, we find, with good management and good luck, that at the above figures, which are at about the proper estimate for the spring of 1873, and where cattle have had good protection from storms and fed and watered properly, the above figures of two hundred pounds gain for one hundred bushels of corn would be a fair estimate, so that where corn has been purchased at fifteen cents per bushel a small margin of profit is the result.

Now we will take these half-fed three year old steers and put on grass, say for six months, with liberal feed on tame pasture at a cost of eight dollars each for pasture and fifty bushels of corn fed during the summer at a cost of ten dollars more, making a cost up to the next winter of twenty dollars per head to cover all cost, and we have at this time a steer three and a half years old costing seventy dollars with one year's feeding.

Any experienced feeder will agree with me that if a steer will put on two hundred pounds gain during the winter for one hundred bushels of corn he will put on additional gain for the six months of summer, with good pasture and fifty bushels of corn, three hundred pounds gain, and at this time will be ripe for the market, and bring say five and one-fourth cents per pound, or seventy-three dollars. The gain on hogs fed during the summer we find is about double that fed in the winter, and would be, say eight dollars more gain on the same feed, or eighty-one dollars and fifty cents, or eleven dollars and fifty cents profit over and above what would be realized the six months previous, and the feeding still on for six months more, or until four years old, would give a correspondingly higher price per pound, and a corresponding profit.

For another illustration of feeding we will take, say a half-blood or three-fourths-blood "Short-horn," which, if kept on reasonable good feed until two years old, will, I find by experience, weigh about twelve hundred pounds on the average, and this steer at that weight is worth four cents per pound, or forty-eight dollars, and will, during the next six months, with the same feed allowed the native steer, gain four hundred pounds and weigh sixteen hundred pounds at the same time the native weighs fourteen hundred, and while the native will bring, say five and one-fourth cents, the grade Short-horn will bring six cents, which is ninety-six dollars, and allowing the cost of the feeding say twenty dollars, making cost in all at say thirty to thirty-two months of age sixty-eight dollars, we find we have twenty-eight dollars profit where we had eleven dollars and fifty cents profit on the native; but there is another item still left out, as it will be noticed that the native steer, in this calculation, is one year the oldest at the time it is put into the market at a weight of fourteen hundred pounds. This one year's difference in age we will estimate at eighteen dollars, which added to sixteen dollars and fifty cents in favor of the Short-horn steer. Now these figures are for a good native steer and a good grade Short-horn steer, and are as near the facts as my experience and observation can make them, and I think will be corroborated by all experienced breeders, or

those that have had experience with Short-horn cattle.

But some one may reply that it takes more money to invest in Short-horns, and the cost of a Short-horn bull is quite a little sum. We will investigate this part of the subject a little, and say a good Short-horn bull costs three hundred dollars, and the interest on this would be thirty dollars for one year, and say a scrub is worth thirty dollars, and the interest is three dollars per year, and the cost of keeping the same in both animals, leaving a difference in annual cost of twenty-seven dollars. We will refer back and note the fact that we set the price on the native steer at thirty dollars, and on the grade steer at forty-eight dollars, both the same age, past two years old, or say thirty months.

We will presume the farmer raises his own steers for feeding, and the cost of keeping is the same at the age referred to, thirty months old. It will be readily noticed that the Short-horn is estimated worth eighteen dollars the most, and this is credited to the cost of the bull, and that twenty calves are raised in one year by the farmer, at an average value of eighteen dollars each above the value of native steers, or in all three hundred and sixty dollars profit for use of Short-horn bull in one year.

It is on this plan of having good animals and feeding well from the time the calf is dropped until it goes into market, that the western farmer may be enabled to keep the skeleton away from the corn crib.

About the first of January, 1872, I sent a barren Short-horn cow into the Chicago market for beef, which was sold for seven cents per pound, and came to ninety-seven dollars, but this was a small cow, below the average size, and a common size Short-horn cow should weigh at least sixteen hundred in condition for beef, which at seven cents per pound is one hundred and twelve dollars. At the same time good native steers were selling in the same market at five cents per pound on an average weight of twelve hundred pounds, or sixty dollars each. Now of these two animals the cost of raising would be about the same, and while one would give no profit in the raising, or only cover about cost, the other would give from forty to fifty dollars profit.

Now these are figures that show for themselves, and such facts should convince any farmer as to the advantage of keeping none but good stock, and feeding well and taking good care of all animals.—*M. Briggs in Western Farmer and Stock Grower.*

A Plea for Ayrshires.

Which is the most profitable breed of cows for the dairy? is often asked. Farmers and dairymen differ upon this question, as they do upon many others. Each one has his favorite breed, and very few take the trouble to investigate the subject. Most of the dairymen who purchase their cows, buy as cheap as they can, rather than pay a liberal price for superior milkers. I have frequently heard them say, "I don't want to pay anything for blood."

Every dairyman admits that some cows are much better milkers than others, and that their greatest net profits are obtained from them. Some writers claim that those superior milkers are not confined to any particular breeds, but that there are some families among all breeds. This may be true to some extent; still, it is calculated to mislead. The facts are, there are not many poor milkers among some of the milking breeds. The reverse is true of breeds which have been bred for other purposes.

I believe it is generally conceded that the Ayrshire stands at the head of the list for dairy purposes. The probabilities are that they will give the best returns, for the amount of food consumed, of any breed. I have a five-year-old cow that is averaging about fifty pounds per day; she dropped her calf May 2nd. I commenced to weigh her milk the 10th; she was producing about forty pounds per day. Her food was clover hay, with about two quarts of Indian meal and four quarts of buckwheat bran per day; shortly after that she was allowed to graze a portion of the day. Her flow of milk increased but little until after the 25th. I then gave her better pasture, and gradually reduced her other food until the 5th inst., when I stopped it. Her pasture is mostly red clover, with some white and other natural grasses intermixed. She does not weigh a thousand pounds, and no doubt will give her live weight in twenty days.

I am aware that this is not an extraordinary quantity of milk per day; still, when the age and weight are taken into account it is seldom equalled. I think she is not nearly matured; she has improved more within the last year than during any previous one. I have two three-year-old cows which promise equally

well; also, a number of two-year-old half-blood heifers which are giving milk, which I think will produce as much when they arrive at the same age. They will be larger animals, and no doubt will require more food.

I have never known a poor milker bred from a thorough bred Ayrshire bull and our native or grade cows. Would it not be more profitable for dairymen to raise their cows from such bulls than to purchase such cows as they are using? I have heard it asserted that the dairies of Herkimer County did not produce, on an average, more than thirty pounds of cheese per cow. This might be doubled, and, by continuing to breed from thorough-bred bullish high grades would be obtained, which would be nearly equal to thorough-breds.

Many object to Ayrshire cows on account of their size. They say they will make but little beef when turned off for that purpose. A cow that will make a large amount of beef will generally produce but little milk, and will consume more feed. If such cows are kept a number of years, each one charged with the expense of keeping and labor required, and credited with milk produced, the balance will be largely in favor of the former. Dairymen should not keep cows for beef. I am aware that there is a great prejudice in the minds of many dairymen against thorough-bred cows. They cling to the native cows. This has arisen from using those that were bred for other purposes. A thorough-bred Ayrshire cow is just as much superior for the dairy to the old native as the Durham is for beef, or the Berkshire swine for pork, or any other thorough-bred animal. In either case we avoid ourselves of what it has required—capital.—*Bart. Home.*

Value of Sheep.

The high price of wool this year, and the great demand for sheep or lambs for meat, has made many a farmer wish he had a flock of sheep. The price of wool for a few years back has been so low and fluctuating that it has led the farmers to kill off their sheep, and just the same results follow that have in years before; they find, when wool advances, they have no sheep on hand. We have advocated high prices for wool, advising the farmer if he had any and could afford to hold it, not to sell. Although there has been a little depression in the market, we still adhere to the view that the woolen mills during the coming season will be large buyers of domestic wools; and we notice the reports from foreign markets show great firmness abroad, arising from the same causes that prevail in this country—shortness of supply. Nor do we think, with the growth of business in our country, the supply will, for several years to come, exceed the demand for a medium grade of wools, which are the staples grown here.

The question of raising sheep for their meat is not an unimportant one; with the growth of the country the consumption of eatables increases, and the favorite meat now, and that which brings the highest price, is lamb; and with an increasing interest in it, as the most wholesome and palatable of all meats, it is already getting so scarce and high that it has to be purchased only as a luxury, by those who can afford it. We have spoken thus far of the demand of wool and mutton at a price that will pay largely for sheep-raising. Their value to the farm is not, perhaps, fully understood. It is an old proverb, "Whenever the foot of the sheep touches the land it is turned into gold." Sheep will enrich land faster than any other animal. On the mountain pastures they are valuable in clearing up the land, freeing it from weeds, shrubs and briars, and bringing it to clover and nutritious grasses. They are easily raised and cared for both in summer and winter. The risk of loss by death is small, and if well managed, sheep will not die in debt to the owner. If it dies at birth it has cost nothing. If it dies the first year, the wool and pelt is worth all it has cost up to that time. Sheep husbandry has a value to make the land more profitable, more productive, at a less expenditure than any other animal kept on the farm.—*New England Homestead.*

The brain of a horse seems to entertain but one thought at a time; for this reason, continued whipping is out of the question, and only confirms his stubborn resolve. But if you can by any means change the direction of his mind, give him a new subject to think of, nine times out of ten you will have no further trouble in starting him. As a simple trick, a little pepper, aloes, or the like thrown back on his tongue, will often succeed, by turning his attention to the taste of his mouth.