

beef, and cattle that are habitually liberal feeders should be selected. Crossing is more successfully done with a bull from a milky strain of Short-horns, or of the Ayrdures, if cheese, or marketing milk is designed; but if butter is intended, the Jersey's, or Alderney's should form at least a share of the stock.

Mr. H. Farrington, of Canada, with a large, and long experience, had found the so-called natives, the best cows for the dairy. The best herds he had ever owned, or seen, were of this sort of cattle. There are good and poor milkers in all breeds, but the chances for selecting good milkers are best with the common stock.

E. W. Stewart, of the *Live Stock Journal* spoke on "feeding for milk production." Mr. S. would not follow the example of feeding high to make rich manure. He would feed for paying results. The profit in feeding much comes from the amount consumed above what is necessary to support the body of the cow. He would make that amount as large as possible, and would have it adapted to their necessities by a proper admixture of nutritious elements. Extra rich manure is an indication of faulty proportions of the food. If there is a judicious combination of respiratory and flesh-building matter in the food, it will all be perfectly consumed and without loss. There will be no excess of either left to enrich the manure. Fodder corn, and corn-meal contain the supporters of respiration in excess, and could not be fed alone without loss. They should always be fed with something rich in albumenoids, as pea meal, oil meal, clover hay, or bran. Clover hay, and corn meal make a well-balanced food. Oats form nearly a perfect food of themselves, and stimulate the flow of milk. The composition of his cattle food should always be studied by the farmer, and a balance of nutritive properties made by mixing. All that cows can possibly digest and assimilate, should be constantly supplied, but nothing more. Anything in excess of this will go to enrich the manure heap, at a heavy cost. A variety of foods gives better results than a single kind. Many grasses in a pasture are better than one, and the same is true in winter food. As the amount of profit is determined by the quantity of food eaten and digested, it is important that it should be fed in such a condition as to be easily and rapidly digested. Green food digests more readily, and more perfectly than dry, and is, therefore, preferred. The season of green food should be made as long as possible, extending it into, and through the winter with roots, and such other green food as can be preserved. Young food digests better than old, and produces better butter and cheese. Plants which are suffered to stand in the field or pasture till past the season for blossoming, are injured in regard to ease of digestion, and quality of product. Another circumstance which renders many kinds of cattle food more easily and perfectly digested, is cooking. This brings dry food back into something like its green and succulent state, and enables the cow to appropriate much that would otherwise be indigestible. Mr. S. related experiments in which he had proved that rations of 24 lbs. made up of hay and grain uncooked, produced no better results, when continued for three months, than a ration of 16 lbs. of the same materials when cooked, thus gaining by cooking 33 per cent of his raw food. The speaker dwelt at some length upon the importance of cooking dry, fibrous food, such as hay, straw, corn stalks, &c., and as he has had a somewhat extensive experience in cooking food for winter's use, his facts and observations were valuable. His whole discourse, of an hour's length or more, of which we have given but a mere sketch, was listened to with much interest and profit.

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER, as will be seen by reference to advertisement in this paper, not only "still lives," but purposes to furnish a better paper during the ensuing year than ever before. It has long held a high place as a combined Rural, Literary and Family Weekly, and we trust its future career will be one of great prosperity and usefulness.

Breeder and Grazier.

Newly Shorn Rams as Breeders.

We find in the last *Bulletin of the National Association of Woollen Manufacturers*, a summary of a recent "Treatise on the Australian Merino," by John Kyrie Graham, of Melbourne, in which the writer makes the statement that newly shorn rams are practically destitute of procreative power:

"Perhaps it may not be generally known that a newly shorn ram will not beget a lamb. From experience I know this to be a fact, although I can do no more than conjecture a cause; namely, that the constitutional vigor of the animal is diverted from the procreative faculty, and concentrated in the production of its natural and indispensable clothing. Certain it is that the wool never grows so rapidly as it does immediately after shearing. In the year 1838 we had a very bad season, consequently a poor lamb ensued.

"At shearing time, in December, I drafted off all the dry ewes (about 4,000), and had them shorn by themselves first. I then selected 100 of the best rams, young and vigorous, or 25 rams to each 1,000 ewes, had them shorn, and put them to the ewes. I kept them with the ewes for one month—five weeks being the period usually allowed in the Bathurst district—and out of the 4,000 ewes, only 165 lambs were dropped. Of course I was perfectly astonished, and made every possible inquiry upon the subject, but no one could afford me any information. Some three or four years after, whilst looking over a copy of the *Sydney Herald*, I observed a paragraph stating a case exactly similar to my own, which had occurred to (I think) a Mr. Campbell, in the Goulbom or Yass district. The paragraph stated that this gentleman had drafted his dry ewes, and shorn them, and afterwards shorn as many rams as were needed for them. He left them together the usual time, and after all, the ewes did not drop 5 per cent. of lambs. After this, and not without much cogitation, I began to suspect the cause, and determined to test the soundness of my conclusions. For this purpose I drafted, at shearing time, 100 dry ewes, and put to them four young vigorous rams. The dropping amounted to 9 lambs. Am I not justified in concluding that sheep newly shorn will not produce lambs?"

Cotswolds Crossed with Southdowns.

A goodly number of wool growers in this country are recommending now, a cross between Cotswold and Southdown sheep, both for wool and mutton. One writer upon this subject says that the Cotswold is not quite so hardy as the Southdown, and other coarse-wooled sheep, but the cross has all the good qualities of the dam, with the size of the sire. He thinks it pays to buy a thorough-bred Cotswold buck, for the purpose of raising lambs from common, coarse-wooled sheep, or Southdown grades. It might pay better, perhaps, to hire the use of the ram, and if there were demand enough among our sheep breeders for this kind of service, it would be met by the Cotswold breeder, and farmers could have the annual lotting of bucks, as they have in England.

This cross has not been much attempted in this country, on account of the scarcity of Cotswold sheep. But, in England, it is very common, and is said to be one of the most profitable in the sheep raising districts. It is said by English farmers, who have a sharp eye to profits, that the produce of this cross—half-bred Down-Cotswolds—are probably sheep that come earlier to maturity, make more wool, and mutton, and, consequently, more money than any other sort the world over. They are not, however, sold generally as lambs, but as yearlings, twelve to fifteen months, worth from twenty, to twenty-three dollars a head. Of course, such sheep must have liberal feeding—about all the grass, turnips, and linseed cake, and meal, they can consume. This extra feeding pays in the increase of wool, and mutton, and in the superior quality of the manure dropped by the sheep. —*Ohio Farmer*

TREATMENT OF HORSES.—The New England Farmer contains the following:—A harness kept soft and pliable with good neat's foot oil, will last nearly a lifetime. It is stronger, because slightly elastic, and will seldom wear off the hair. Your horses' shoes will hold on longer if the clunches are not weakened by the file in finishing. Insist that the file does not touch the end of the nail where turned over. An over-reaching horse—one whose hind feet are frequently hitting the forward shoes—should wear heavy shoes forward, and light ones behind. The theory is that the heavier hoof will be thrown a little farther ahead at each step than the lighter one.

Another Short-horn Sale in Kentucky.

We learn from the *Country Gentleman* that the closing out Sale of the "Chesterfield" herd of Short Horns, belonging to Mr. James H. Davis, of Boyle Co., Ky., took place at Lexington on the 8th inst. Nearly all of the principal breeders of the Blue Grass region were present, and a number from other States. The stock was in good condition, the bidding spirited, and prices very satisfactory. I give you the result below:

COWS AND HEIFERS.

Oxford Princess, white, 3 years, W. T. Withers, Lexington, Ky.	\$710
4th Mazurka of Chesterfield, red and white, 1 year, Walter Handy, Jessamine Co., Ky.	1,800
Minnie Booth, red, 3 years, H. P. McGrath, Lexington, Ky.	800
Minnie Oxford, red, 7 mos., T. C. Coleman, Mercer Co., Ky.	700
Rosalind 3d, roan, 1 year, Dr. Noel, Nashville, Tenn.	200
Victoria of Chesterfield, 1 year, roan, Thomas C. Wain & Son, Boyd Station, Ky.	750
2d Peri of Chesterfield, red and white, 3 years, Walter Handy	600
3d Peri of Chesterfield, red and white, 2 years, W. T. Withers	510
1th Peri of Chesterfield, red and white, 3 months, Thomas Bryan, Fayette Co., Ky.	370
Maggie Bates, roan, 2 years, W. H. Simmes, Paris, Ky.	650
Lucy Conklin 2nd, red and white, 1 year, M. W. Lader, Cynthiana, Ky.	100

BULLS.

Fidget's Oxford, 5th, 11953, red and white, 2 years, Dr. Noel	400
2d Earl of Chesterfield, red and white, 7 months, Dr. Noel	120

STOCKS.

11 Cows and heifers average, \$722.72—total	\$7,950
2 bulls	600
13 head, average, \$633.07	\$8,230

Pork Packing in Chicago.

We see it stated that this business has opened with unusual activity, and it is expected that Chicago will this season nearly, if not quite equal St. Louis and Cincinnati together, in the number of hogs prepared for market. During the last three months twice as many hogs have been received there as during the same period in 1871, and one-third more than in 1872. During the week ending Nov. 15th, there was an increase of 40 per cent. as compared with the same week last year; during that ending Nov. 22nd, the increase was over 100 per cent. A correspondent of the *New York Times* states the number of hogs that reached Chicago in 1872, as 3,458,528, and estimates that of 1873 at about 1,000,000. The demand, he says, is good, and "prices generally much better for sellers than have heretofore been reported." —*Country Gentleman*.

GIVE SHEEP BETTER CARE.—Some farmers claim that there is no profit in keeping sheep of any breed. This is very true, under the rough system that is practised to a great extent by many owners—they are better without them. But to the farmer who will provide good quarters, and good and sufficient food, they will afford both profit and pleasure. There is, perhaps no point in which flock masters more frequently err in the management of their sheep, than allowing them to depend entirely upon pasture for subsistence during the latter part of fall and early winter. Circumstances the weather include must be extraordinarily favorable, if sheep, dependent solely upon grass at this season of the year, do not lose flesh. The growth of the grass being checked, the pasture usually becomes short. The frost not only diminishes the nutritive qualities of the grass, but prevents the sheep from grazing for some time in the morning.

THE FOOT OF A HORSE.—The human hand has often been taken to illustrate divine wisdom, and very well. But have you ever examined your horse's hoof? It is hardly less curious in its way. Its parts are somewhat complicated, yet their design is simple and obvious. The hoof is not, as it appears to the careless eye, a mere hump of insensible bone fastened to the leg by a joint. It is made up of a series of thin layers, or leaves of horn, about 500 in number, and nicely fitted to each other and forming a lining to the foot itself. Then there are as many more layers belonging to what is called the "cotton-bone," and fitted into this. These are elastic. Take a quire of paper and insert the leaves, one by one, into those of another quire, and you can get some idea of the arrangement of the several layers. Now, the weight of the horse rests on as many elastic springs as there are layers in his four feet about 4,000; and all this contrived, not only for the conveyance of his own body, but whatever burden may be laid on him. —*Rural Home*.