

## Correspondence.

### COWS vs. SHEEP.

(To the Editor of the Agriculturist.)

SIR,—As you have offered your paper as a medium for agriculturists generally, I write the following, thinking it may draw the attention of some and lead them to think which are the most profitable, Cows or Sheep? Every farmer knows the value of the cow, and the little one can appreciate her as well as the older ones. I would state, that every farmer should keep enough for his own use, for I consider her an indispensable article. But whether he should keep more than would keep his family in milk and butter is a query that I want to have unraveled. A farmer that lives near a city or a town and can sell milk, I say keep as many as possible, for nothing pays better. Farmers that live a distance from town and near a railroad, would do well to consider which are the most profitable, cattle or sheep? I will take a cow valued at \$20 and calculated her year's produce in butter to be 130 lbs., at 12½ cents per lb. I consider that one cow will eat as much as five sheep, therefore I will take five lambs at \$2 each, they will shear 30 lbs., of wool at 27 cents per lb., and increase in weight to the amount of \$2 each, the capital needed is only one half. Their profits would stand as follows:—

Cow—130 lbs. Butter at 12½ cents per lb. ....	\$16 25
Lambs—Wool, 30 lbs., at 25 cents per pound; increase in value, \$2 each; interest on \$10, at 10 per cent, \$1.....	18 50
Balance in favour of Sheep .....	2 25

Some would say that the milk is a great consideration. True, so is labour. What man, woman or child would bring the cow from the field, milk, churn and market the butter for the milk? None.

We will take it another way. Suppose we wanted to raise stock, the cow would produce almost as much butter, and her calf could be raised with the milk. Her butter at the same rate as above, would be \$16 25. Take five ewes valued at \$4 each, they would raise five lambs and shear four lbs. wool, each at 25 cents, \$5; at 18 months old the lambs would be worth \$20. The cows offspring would be worth about \$12. The account would stand something like this:—

Cow—first year's butter. ....	\$16 25
Her offspring at 18 months old. ....	12 00
	\$28 25
5 Ewes wool. ....	\$5 00
5 Lambs " ....	7 50
5 " valued at \$4 each. ....	20 00
	\$32 50
Balance in favour of sheep for raising stock. ....	\$4 25

There is another consideration in favour of sheep. In the first instance a person only wants half the capital, which is a great consideration to some; in the second instance sheep at 18 months old are fit either for the butcher or for raising stock. The Cow's offspring, on the contrary, is neither fit for the one or the other.

If you think the above worthy of attention you will hear from me occasionally.

Yours, &c.,

HIBBERT, COUNTY OF PERTH, }  
December 6th, 1859. }

R. H. SARVIS.