

Stock.**Grain in the Summer Ration.**

Cattle feeding is now undergoing a change from the hap-hazard to the scientific system. Much more study is given to the quality of foods for the growth and fattening of cattle than a few years ago. Feeders begin to see that they have heretofore given little attention to variety in the rations of their cattle.

The question which we wish to consider here is, whether the cattle feeder had not better feed more grain while the cattle are on pasture. The addition of a few pounds per day, to each steer, while on grass, would be all utilized in laying on extra fat, and would improve the quality of the beef for fall shipment by giving more solidity to the flesh; the extra fat taking the place of the sap, in summer beef, the animals would shrink much less in shipment.

The English, in feeding Indian corn or peas, accompany them with 4 to 8 lbs. of oil-cake per head, in order to balance its carbo-hydrates with albuminoids. But the ration then is no more nitrogenous than 8 lbs. of corn or peas with pasture. The American feeder, with whom grain is always plenty, may therefore have as good a ration, at much less expense, by adding 6 or 8 lbs. of corn or peas per head on good pasture. In fact, the feeder's art must be shown in the skill of combining rations. Nature here furnishes, in rich grass, a large proportion of albuminoids, and the feeder can improve the effect of this with a few pounds of corn or peas. And, besides, this small amount of grain in the warm season will produce a much greater effect than if fed in the cold weather. The grass ration being so bulky does not furnish all the food which may be assimilated by the animal, and a little concentrated grain adds little to the bulk but much to the assimilable food, and consequent increase in weight and value of carcass.

Another important consideration is seen in the fact above mentioned, that the grain renders the flesh more solid—containing less water or more dry substance—and, in consequence of this condition, steers so fed will lose much less on being taken from pasture for stall feeding in the fall, or for shipment to market. All observing feeders know that steers taken from a good pasture must be fed in stall for some time without much increase in weight, as the sap, or extra water, in the carcass is being replaced by fat made from the grain, and the steer may be doing well for thirty or more days with but little increase in weight. But when grain is fed with pasture this shrinkage does not occur on being put up in the fall for stall-feeding. On the same principle, cattle stalk-fed through the winter, when taken to good pasture in spring, will increase in weight very rapidly by the addition of sap, or water, to the carcass. We have known such steers to gain five lbs. per day for fifteen days after being taken to pasture.

We know that some good feeders are averse to feeding grain with pasture, because they think the steers depend too much upon the grain and do not eat so much grass. But we think their error has been occasioned by not considering the points we have given above, as to the effect of grain feeding upon the quality of increase in weight. In sections where corn is cheap it appears evident to us that a small grain ration with pasture will pay 25 per cent. better for the grain than the same amount fed in cold weather.—[Ex.]

Cattle Disease in Maryland.

Official investigations, by order of Gov. Hamilton, show that Pleuro-pneumonia exists among Maryland cattle to a much greater extent than was supposed. Cases have been discovered in five counties. The Inspector in Harford County found that on a dairy farm near Belair seventeen cattle had died of the disease since last fall; of the remainder of the herd, nineteen were appraised and slaughtered April 22nd. In this and most other cases where disease exists, it is traced to the Calverton stockyards in New York, which appear to be thoroughly infected. No attempts were made in this State last year to check the disease, and, although vigorous measures are now being taken under the law passed at the late session of the Legislature, it is feared it has obtained so strong and extended a foothold that its eradication will be almost impossible. Farmers are much excited over the matter, and fears of unprecedented mortality among cattle when hot weather comes are expressed.—[Ex.]

The Sheep-Owners' Opportunity.

The paramount consideration with the average flock-owner is to realize the greatest profit from his investment of capital and subsequent care and attention. To the question, How is this most certainly to be secured? we have often answered, and now reiterate, get the best stock within your reach; so breed and feed these as to secure the highest development; create and preserve for your flock and its products such a reputation as will insure a ready market at good relative prices; try very few experiments; stay on solid ground, even though the flashes of profit promised by a deviation, or the shadows of temporary disappointment, may invite you to walk in new fields. No matter what the blood, or how nearly perfect the animals may be, intelligence, liberality and kindness on the part of the shepherd will make them better; and with such improvement will come additional profit—profit through increased weight of fleece; profit through heavier and better developed carcasses; profit through a heavier percentage of lambs, and their speedy and more perfect development; profit by reason of securing outside prices and ready sale for whatever is placed on the market, because of its superior quality; and, finally, the advantage of freedom from the many hardships and annoyances inseparable from attendance upon unthrifty or otherwise undesirable animals.

Though every flock-owner cannot have the best sheep, there is encouragement in the fact that no one is so circumstanced that he cannot with certainty and comparative rapidity advance the excellence of such as he may possess. Animals of great excellence, representing all varieties or all breeds, can be had at prices within the reach of every breeder. Feed is plenty, labor is cheap, information upon any point of doubt can be had for the asking, prices are good, and demand active—in short, the opportunity and incentive for a general advance all along the line of those engaged in sheep husbandry are at hand, and those who do not intend to avail themselves thereof had better stand aside, for there are unmistakable signs of a forward movement.—[National Live Stock Journal, Chicago.]

Breaking Colts.

By all means the colt should be broken to halter while yet a suckling, and the earlier in life this process is commenced, the more easily will it be accomplished. He may soon be led by the side of the dam without difficulty; and when once accustomed to being guided by the halter, it will be an easy matter to lead him anywhere. He may also be tied by the side of the dam, as the preliminary step in teaching him to stand quietly when hitched alone. The first step in "gentling" a colt is to overcome his natural timidity by gradual approaches; and when he finds he has no reason to fear, the work is half done. All the subsequent lessons given him through all the various steps of breaking and training should be based upon this plan of gradual approaches—a species of sapping and mining that will subdue the most vicious, and tame the wildest colt, if perseveringly followed. He should be accustomed to the bridle by means of the "bitting rig," before any attempt is made to ride him; and the mounting should always be first attempted in the stall or the lot where the colt is perfectly familiar with all the surroundings. When it is desired to break him to harness, the same principle of gentleness and care to avoid giving fright should be practiced. Place portions of the harness on him at a time, and let it remain on him in his stall until he finds that it will not hurt him; then lead him out with the harness on, alone, and again by the side of another horse also in harness. Accustom him perfectly to the use of the lines, and then let him make the acquaintance of the sulky. Push it along after him; and when he has found that it also is harmless, get him between the "thills," and finally hitch him to it and drive him. It is the most convenient of all vehicles for use in breaking colts for driving, as the weight is but little, and there is no danger to be apprehended from sudden turning around. Many trainers provide themselves with a stout, two-wheeled vehicle, constructed like a sulky, but with very heavy "thills," so strong that the colt cannot possibly break them let what may happen. Such an arrangement is especially desirable for wild or vicious colts that have not been "gentled" when young, or for such as from improper handling have formed bad habits that must be cured.—[National Live-Stock Journal, Chicago.]

"Scours" in Calves.

This disease, so fatal to young calves, is most common where cows and calves are housed, and among calves brought up artificially. Apart from hereditary tendency and the new demands on the digestive functions of the young thing, it is mainly due, especially in calves brought up at the pail, to long fasts and subsequent rapid gorging, or to being compelled to drink sour, stale milk, sometimes given too warm. Sometimes, even when fed naturally, the milk contains injurious matters, owing to the cow being over-driven, excited, or having access to foul water, or on account of the milk having been retained too long in the udder. The early symptoms are:—a dirty tail, dullness, disregard of food, abdominal fullness, with fluid, bad-smelling yellow or whitish feces discharged with violence or pain. As treatment, the patient should be removed to a clean, airy but warm box. If put on the milk of a farrow cow, it should have that of one that has calved more recently; and if the health of the nurse fails or the bag cakes, the calf should be supplied from a more healthy source. If the little thing is given to rapid drinking, an artificial teat in the pail for it to suck at will partially remedy the habit. The stomach should be cleared of irritating food and acrid discharges by a dose of one or two ounces of castor oil and a teaspoonful of laudanum. If the skin or membranes of the mouth, nose or eyes, are of a yellowish tint, two grains of calomel and 20 grains of chalk may be added and repeated daily for some time. In the absence of the yellowish tinge, give with each meal a tablespoonful of sherry wine in which one-eighth of the fourth stomach of a calf has been steeped for 24 hours. A tablespoonful of tincture of cinnamon, with 20 grains each of chalk and gum-arabic, will be an excellent addition. Finally, if the abdomen is tense or tender to the touch, it should be rubbed over with a thin pulp made of the best ground mustard and tepid water, and covered with a bandage to prevent drying until it has taken effect on the skin.—[Ex.]

THE HAIR AND HORNS OF THE DURHAM.—The late R. A. Alexander, the renowned Kentucky fine stock breeder, said, "a good heavy horn on a bull is indicative of substance and constitution; besides, it indicates masculine or positive character." He says further, "no cow-horned bull can or ever will be an impressive sire," and others have asserted that they never yet saw a prize calf by a cow-horned bull. Mr. A. also stated: "a long woolly coat invariably covers a fine, richly-marbled carcass of beef." A commission man of long and extensive experience in the handling of fat cattle also states: "I have seen well marbled meat under a fine short coat sometimes, but not as a rule; but have never failed to find well-marbled flesh under a fine, heavy, fleecy coat of hair."

SULPHUR FOR ANIMALS.—If taken internally with their food, sulphur will almost invariably keep all kinds of animals free from lice. We have made a practice for years past of giving a heaping tablespoonful once a week in the feed of each of our cows, and the same quantity to about every ten hens in our flock, and they have never been troubled with lice on them. It may be given in the same proportion as to size when required in the food of poultry, pigs and sheep. Sulphur is a mild cathartic when desired for this purpose, and in small doses seems to have a general beneficial effect on the animal system, something like salt, though, of course, not of that nature.

The progeny of poor stunted thoroughbred stock will not attain to the perfection of that from perfect well-cared for specimens.

Turkeys and other fowls are often affected at this season with a catarrhal disease known as roup. The eyes and nasal membranes are inflamed and exude fetid matter, the head swells, the throat is sore, and the bird cannot swallow. The disease may be caused by cold or infection. The treatment is to bathe the head with warm vinegar, to inject a few drops of kerosene-oil into the nostrils, and to wash the throat with a solution of chlorate of potash in water. Give soft food, dropped into the throat; warm milk and bread is the best, and add to it a pinch of powdered hyposulphite of soda.—*N. Y. Times.*