

very difficult to bring out young stock in the condition which is demanded nowadays, without either overstraining the constitution or ruining the feet and legs of horses, the even fleshing of cattle and the form of sheep. In the case of sheep the problem may be pushed on one side, because the production of fat lamb is so essentially a part of the breeder's policy that quick maturity and rapid feeding are considered essential. Cattle, however, are not all built for one purpose any more than sheep are. They have, however, a longer life, and the defects which mature in youth are liable to become perceptibly more visible as the years go on.

The long-wool type of sheep, which is not bred for early maturity, may suffer somewhat by the forcing system of feeding, and even in the hill breeds the system of quick maturity, which has been so largely recognized by the showyard is not entirely condoned by the sheep breeder, for the simple reason that quick turnover is not compatible with the conditions under which the great majority of these flocks are raised. There is a shrewd suspicion that high feeding and the attempt to introduce early maturity into flocks which are not suited for the purpose and into breeds which are not well adapted to it, has been an unalloyed blessing.

The beef type of cattle has, however, gradually gained by quick feeding in youth, and to the showing of young stock may be attributed, to a large extent, the inherited quality of rapid maturity, which is partly a breeder's and partly a feeder's triumph. Where the animal is brought to the block as early as possible, the showing of young stock is an advantage rather than a disadvantage, but where it interferes with the fruitfulness of the herd the breeder will realize that it is not a good system, which is productive of many barren heifers. Dairy cattle, on the other hand, are not shown with much condition, and so long as this excellent principle is maintained there can be no reasonable objection to the showing of calves and yearlings.

The exhibitor who finds most fault with the system is the horse breeder. Young colts and fillies are not naturally adapted to a system of forced raising. Breeders who show invariably have had experience in this respect, but for advertisement and sale it is necessary to show the young stock. The rapid ripening process is dangerous, and many a good foal showing great promise has been spoiled by too rapid ripening and feeding upon rations which were productive of fat rather than of bone and muscle. Concluding the article states:

"It is to be feared that beyond the moral force exerted by refusal to exhibit, there is no remedy, for the fittest animal will necessarily win in the public competition. At all events it is the judge's duty to examine and judge stock on the form presented to him, and not upon their promise of the future. So long as this is so the fitting of stock for the showyard will necessarily call for preparation to obtain immediate rather than future benefit, and those who are not willing to look to the future may find their policy costly. It is regrettable that so many promising animals disappear after an early experience of the showyard, and it is unfortunate that so many exhibits which stand well in early years should go far back when they come to maturity. But we must not blame early showing entirely for that, as each line of blood is endowed with its own peculiarities. It is within the experience of most breeders that the progeny of certain horses are known to do best in their youth, and to fall away as they mature; others, again, are only moderate as foals and colts, but steadily improve as the years roll on, while yet a third class are good all the way through. Too many defects must not be attributed to early showing, but that it does not tend to improve individuals most breeders will agree, unless the objects which the breeder has in view are those of rapid ripening and an early visit to the butcher."

All Hog Diseases Not Cholera.

A Minnesota veterinarian, discussing hog cholera, points out that all the ailments of the hog are not due to this dread disease, and that hogs suffer from other diseases, the symptoms of which should not be confused with those of cholera. He believes that ninety per cent. of the losses from disease among hogs are due to cholera but other diseases are often mistaken for it. This sometimes leads owners to blame serum because they have used it without benefit.

Garbage poisoning is one trouble sometimes mistaken for cholera. It results from feeding hotel and restaurant-table refuse containing large quantities of soap. The soap causes severe inflammation and it or other irritating substances produce symptoms much like those of cholera.

Worms cause troubles mistaken for cholera by multiplying in the lungs, causing irritation, stopping the air passages and giving rise to a cough and pneumonia. The animal becomes unthrifty and loses flesh, but does not die quickly or

show the other characteristic symptoms of true cholera.

Worms in the intestines cause diarrhea, dullness, and lack of thrift, but their presence can usually be detected in the droppings. Cholera is not present if the animal does not show the other symptoms, including fever, redness of the skin, and sudden death. When worms are present the appetite remains good. Loss of appetite is usually an early symptom of cholera.

Tuberculosis rarely runs a rapid course in hogs and should not be mistaken for cholera. It occurs most frequently among hogs fed on slaughter-house refuse, creamery, or other skim milk containing tubercle bacilli, or those following cattle.

If in doubt as to the presence of cholera have a competent veterinarian examine one or more of the dead hogs, but do not expect serum to protect against any of these other diseases. Hogs entirely immune to cholera may die from one of these other troubles.

Butchers' Cattle and Exporters.

There does not seem to be the great demand for heavy export cattle in comparison to that for extra choice butcher stock that there once was. Time was when the steer weighing over 1,400 pounds commanded considerable of a premium over the price offered for even the very best butcher stock, and feeders were straining every effort to produce heavy cattle.

The Old Country market was then the outlet for the cattle, and it demanded heavy stock. Baby beef was then almost unheard of. Times have changed. Rural population has stood still or dwindled, and urban centers have grown apace. Consequently the chief market is now the home market. The big steer has steadily lost ground, and the better types of lighter cattle finished at an earlier age have taken his place. Yearlings or two-year-olds properly finished are very good cutters and find very ready sale, butchers being anxious to get them, and the price paid for them is frequently in advance of that given for the heavy stock. Good heifers are looked upon with more favor than they once were. Not so very long ago steers met a readier sale at prices \$1.00 to \$1.25 per hundredweight higher than those paid for heifers, than the latter did at the smaller figures. Such is not the case to-day. A heifer, if she is good, is not penalized. On May the 26th a load of Angus yearling heifers, averaging 696 pounds each, topped the Chicago market, all kinds and classes included. These heifers were, however, well finished. It is said that a 700-pound yearling in prime flesh just suits the butcher catering to the high-class trade.

Market conditions are always interesting and generally perplexing. But the study of this branch of the producer's business is one which has been badly neglected by the producer himself. He grows, feeds and fattens the steers and heifers, and sells them as yearlings two, three or four-year-olds, whichever suits his pasture, feed and stabling best, very often without weighing carefully the comparative profits of selling at these different ages. For the man who grows his own stockers and feeders undoubtedly, under most conditions, greater profits are made from finishing the young animal, but where cattle are bought to feed such is not the case. It is a well-recognized fact that the heavy steer nearing maturity is the most profitable for the feeder to buy for finishing, as the spread in price

then works on a much greater weight than with the smaller animal. Suppose the buying-in price is 5 cents per pound and the selling price is 6.5 cents, the spread is 1.5 cents per pound. If the animal weighed 1,200 pounds when put in this spread would be \$18.00, whereas if he only weighed 600 pounds at the commencement of the feeding period, the spread would only amount to \$9.00. A difference of nine dollars on each feeder means considerable to the man who buys cattle to fatten. Again the heavy, older type of feeder usually fattens more easily than the younger, growing animal—a higher degree of finish is generally obtained in shorter time. These are points which favor the heavy steer for the man who makes a practice of buying cattle to feed. For the stock raiser who feeds his own cattle, the young animal is the more profitable if rightly handled. More economical gains are made with the very young animal, but the mistake of selling the cattle before they are thoroughly finished must be avoided. Young, small cattle poorly fitted are still slow sale, but these cattle ripe for the block are in demand. The heavy steer, while not enjoying such a price lead as he once did over that paid for lighter stock, will always sell well when in prime condition. Two things we learn from the market, 1st, the home market has grown to such an extent that the demand for choice butchers' cattle has overtaken that for heavy exporters, and, 2nd, no matter what class is finished, they should be made extra prime to command ready sale at the highest price.

With the price of pork as high as it is this season, one wonders just why so many young sucking or recently-weaned pigs are offered on the larger markets of the country. If there is any season when pork can be produced economically, it is during the summer months when the pigs can have the run of a paddock and be fed a large proportion of green feed, as clover, alfalfa, etc. At the price of coarse grains this spring, it appears as though it would pay to keep and feed the young pigs, even though grain had to be bought to do it. Very often the youngsters are sold because the supply of grain in the bins has run low or too much has been sold off earlier in the year. We would think twice before we sold young pigs this spring.

THE FARM.

Get After the Weeds Early.

There is an old saying which everyone has heard, and which is true in a large measure as applied to most farm operations—"The early bird catches the worm." There are those who twist this old adage upside down, and to suit their purposes when they have arisen late in the morning, or are behind in doing some particular work, and make it read "The early worm gets caught." When the problem is weed destruction the farmer should be the early bird, and applying the second interpretation of the adage the weed should be the worm. In other words, make war on all weeds as early in the season as possible. From the very time that the little germ in the weed seed, stimulated by warmth and moisture, commences to draw upon the food material stored around it as a part of what we call the seed, until the plant emerges, grows, and ripens, its whole aim is reproduction of its kind by seeds, or root-stocks, or both. It waits for nothing, and always



In Pastures Green.

"Doddies" and their offspring on an Ontario farm.