

SHEEP AND SWINE.

THE CARE OF SHEEP.

The man who seeks to become a flock-owner, because he expects to escape the care and work to which he has been subjected in looking after the details of some other business, will certainly meet with disappointment in one of two ways. He will either find that negligence here, as everywhere else, will bring disappointment and disaster, or he will meet the requirements of the situation, and put in all the time and labour necessary to success. The merit of sheep husbandry is, not that it can be successfully prosecuted without hard work and liberal expenditure, but that it *will* pay for these with so much certainty, and in such liberal returns, as to give it merited prominence among the industries. The man who seeks to demonstrate to himself and others the minimum requirements of the flock, may succeed until mistaken economy becomes manifest cruelty, and even then may "gather where he has not sown;" but the highest capabilities of the flock will be left to the demonstration of the man who supplements the well-filled trough and teeming pasture with a careful scrutiny and foresight into the comfort and convenience of every animal. He will have provision against inclemencies of cold and heat, wet and drouth; will have winter and summer food convenient and plentiful; will carefully guard against danger and disturbance from every source—knowing from experience that these will insure a compound return for the time and money required for their consummation. Parsimony never pays the sheep husbandman. In proportion to his liberality "such will the harvest be."

A WORD FOR THE SHEEP.

The sheep is the cosmopolite among domestic animals. With a habitat extending from Nova Zembla to New Zealand, and following the lines of latitude around the world, it accommodates itself to every surrounding; here sweltering in the heated atmosphere of the tropic pampas, and there shivering before the crisp blasts that fan the mountain's brow; whether in glebe or glen, in field or forest, feeding on grain or grass, it is found fitted to its surrounding conditions, and to unfailingly mete to its owner in the measure from which it has been supplied.

This conspicuous pliability of the sheep has enabled breeders possessed of skill and enterprise to produce varieties suited not alone to the purposes of the pastoral herdman, but to the average farmer as well. For the latter, whatever his condition and locality, some variety may be found from which he may confidently anticipate the maximum profit for such judicious care and reasonable sustenance as he may accord them.

The crying need of American agriculture to-day is a more general incorporation of the sheep into the farming economy. More prolific than horses or cattle, as well as more tractable, subsisting on scantier herbage, and requiring less supervision, it claims the additional advantage of "paying for its raising" in annual instalments of marketable fleece pending its growth to maturity. It is more readily transferred from one enclosure to another, and is easily restrained by fences which would prove no barrier against the encroachments of other farm stock. Its light tread and love of repose warrant its access to fields and pastures where the tramping of cattle and the tearing of hogs would not be tolerated. It wastes less food in proportion to the quantity consumed, and will hunt out and utilize much that would otherwise be lost to the farmer. Yielding a return in both fleece and flesh, it furnishes its owner the double advantage of catching a good market for his

product, requiring less water, and disposed to work for its feed; it is without a peer when summer's drought taxes the farmer's resources for enabling his live stock to maintain an average of thrift and flesh.

All that can be said in behalf of feeding live stock on the farm, as distinguished from the soil-improverishing policy of placing the raw grain and grass on the market, will be found to apply with double emphasis to the farm that carries as part of its outfit one or more sheep per acre. No animal returns more fertility to the soil in proportion to the amount exacted for its support, while none equals it in the evenness with which the droppings are distributed.

Notwithstanding the evident advantages an increase in sheep culture brings to the agriculture of a country generally, and especially inuring to the benefit of such farmers as incorporate it into their system, the fact is apparent that sheep are not so numerous or so evenly distributed as they should be.—*The Breeder's Gazette.*

DARK SWINE PREFERRED.

Some forty odd years ago, when I first began to execute orders given me by the Southern planters, they required, with rare exceptions, white swine. I told them the dark-coloured would prove the most hardy and thrifty for their hot climate, the same as negroes over white men. But I could at first persuade only a few to adopt my opinion and take Berkshire, Essex or Neapolitan, in preference to Suffolk, Prince Albert, Yorkshire, Irish Grazer and Chester County—these last five being the popular white pigs of that day. But my Southern friends soon found that all of these five were subject to scurf, mange, and other disagreeable cutaneous diseases, which the black or dark-spotted pigs escaped entirely, and always wore a healthy, clean, glossy hide. The planters then began to change their orders, and in course of a few years would scarcely accept white pigs from the North, of even the finest breeds, as a gift. In most other parts of the United States a deep prejudice prevailed against black and dark-spotted swine, and few would breed them. Pork packers were especially opposed to them, because, they said, the skin was dark, and yet this would generally scrape to white when they came to dress it. However, time went on, and as breeders gradually found out, North, East and West, the same objections to white swine which had taken place at the South, they began rapidly to change the colour of their stock, and now few white hogs are found in the Chicago or other great markets of the West, the general run being on the Berkshire, the Poland China, and Essex. Indeed, so much more favourably are dark-coloured swine now considered there, that they have been gradually breeding out the white spots of the first two sorts above, and now they are almost entirely black or very dark brown, like the Essex and Neapolitan. All these swine are very thrifty, and mature early. The Berkshire and Poland China are especially hardy—can endure any extreme of climate, from the coldest to the hottest. The Berkshire is famous for its larger proportion of tender, lean, juicy meat, and is consequently greatly preferred for smoked hams, shoulders and bacon. The three other sorts cut up choice, clear, fat pork, which is most desirable to salt and barrel.—*A. B. Allen, in New York Tribune.*

WORTH TRYING.—It will soon be time to give a trial to the following practice, recommended by the *Scientific American*, for the removal of stumps: In the autumn or early winter bore a hole one or two inches in diameter, according to the girth of the stump, and about eight inches deep. Put into

it one or two ounces of saltpetre; fill the hole with water and plug it close. In the ensuing spring take out the peg and pour in a gill of kerosene oil and ignite it. The stump will smoulder away without blazing, to the very extremity of the roots, leaving nothing but ashes.

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