

The American Fat Stock Show.

(From our Chicago Correspondent.)

The Fat Stock Show of 1888, like a number of its predecessors, was reported as "beating all previous records." As a matter of fact, the show is very different in many respects from former years; but opinions of men differ somewhat on its comparative excellence.

In point of numbers, it was the peer of any display ever made, counting the horses and other animals not properly coming under the head of fat stock. The display of choice cattle, of mature age and quality, was very small, and it was pre-eminently an "early maturity" show. In years past great things have been accomplished in the line of heavy weights, but this year the show contained a larger share and a finer quality of yearling and two-year-old cattle than ever before.

A three-year-old Polled-Angus steer took the grand sweepstakes for best steer in the show.

The heaviest animal in the show was a steer shown by John R. Sherman, of Chicago. It was a Shorthorn, fattened at the experimental stable at the Stock Yards. Fed on steamed food it had grown to a weight of 2550 pounds. King William, the winner of first prize premium in the 3-year-old and over Shorthorn class, weighed 2230. In the 2-year-old Shorthorn class Chief Brant, raised at Brantford, Ont., and weighing 1890 lbs., took first premium. In the Shorthorn ring, steers, 2-years-old and under three, first premium, Chief Brant, owned by John Hope, Brantford, Ont.; second premium, Richmond, owned by J. H. Potts & Son, Jacksonville, Ill.; third premium, Clay, owned by J. W. Pickett, Plattsburg, Mo.

At the Aberdeen-Angus meeting it was decided, on motion, that a prize of \$500 shall be awarded by the association to the best Aberdeen-Angus steer exhibited at the American Fat Stock Show, and that the executive committee shall be empowered to duplicate the same prize at the fat stock show at Kansas City, should one be held there.

It was also decided that a prize of \$50 and a diploma should also be given to the feeder of the winning Aberdeen steer, as an encouragement to faithful herdsmen.

The horse show was the best yet made. The Clydesdales, Percherons, Shire, and Cleveland Bay breeds were strongly represented. The ponies, too, were on hand in large numbers, and formed a very attractive feature of the exhibition.

At the meeting of Clydesdale breeders the executive committee made the following very encouraging report:—"The prevailing high prices of recorded animals confirm the views of breeders in selecting the Clydesdale as the best type of an attractive and serviceable draft-horse, and as long as the home and foreign demand for representative specimens of the breed so largely exceeds the supply, there is danger in not using the knife on the exceptional sports that are not up to the high standard that intelligent importers and breeders make every effort to sustain. One of the most encouraging features indicative of the permanency and profits of the business of breeding Clydesdale horses in America is the large and rapidly increasing number of small breeders owning one to a dozen recorded mares. The introduction of a Clydesdale stallion into a neighborhood generally encourages the owners

of grade Clydesdale horses to invest in pure-bred mares, and the general desire of all familiar with the breed to increase the number of pure-bred as well as grade Clydesdale horses is stimulated. It is a matter of congratulation that there are more pure Clydesdale horses bred each year in America than of all other draft breeds of horses combined."

The Shire horsemen adopted the following:—"Resolved, that the Society offer a challenge cup for the best Shire stallion and mare, to be competed for by all ages, in connection with the annual show, and that the executive committee be authorized to take the proper steps to carry out the resolution and procure a suitable cup, at the same time providing rules regulating the competition for the same."

There was much complaint among visitors about the blankets being kept on the cattle and horses so much of the time. There was no cold weather during the show, and the blankets seemed worse than superfluous.

Room was scarce, and the former display of agricultural implements had to give way for stock exhibits.

The admission to the show this year was raised to fifty cents, and still the attendance was larger than ever before. The show was financially a success, which is more than could be said of some of its predecessors.

Among the familiar forms and faces missed this year was that of Col. John Gillette, which will be seen no more at fat stock shows, which he did so much to promote.

The dairy show was a good one, and so was the butterine display. The old fight between the dairymen and the artificial butter men was not resumed this year in the show, but the war is waging bitterly everywhere else.

Fall and Winter Feeding of Young Stock.

BY PROF. W. A. HENRY,

Director of the Experimental Station, Wisconsin, U.S.

Colts and calves need the most attention at a period when their personal attractions are the least. As calves pass out of their babyhood and assume a languid indifference to all about them but flies and grass, they are apt to be neglected; if they are, the loss is irreparable. A calf that has not made a good start by fall had better be disposed of at any price, while, having made a good start, it must be kept constantly gaining, at any cost within reasonable limits. The important point in stock feeding is to constantly bear in mind that a young animal gives better returns for feed consumed than an old one. A pound of meal or a pound of hay adds more to the weight of a calf than to the same animal when grown. A grown animal in thin flesh, but vigorous, will swell out and fill up the tissues with water and seem to gain very heavily for a time when put on good feed, and may give better returns for a given amount of feed than a young animal in good flesh, but under ordinary conditions, for both young and old, the proposition I state is true.

At this station we fed sixteen calves, from good common dairy stock, until they were two years old, keeping account of all the food consumed. At first, when feeding skim-milk, oats, corn meal, etc., we could get an average gain of about two pounds per day at a cost of only \$3.14 cents per 100 pounds, allowing twenty-five cents per 100 pounds for sweet skim-milk, \$20 a ton for oats, \$16 for corn meal, \$12 for bran and \$8

for hay; but that was the cheapest gain we ever got with these animals, as our figures will show. Here are the periods of the trial and cost of growth:

No.	Length of period.	Season.	Cost of 100 lbs gain.
1.	98 days.	Summer.	\$ 3 14
2.	84 "	Fall.	3 38
3.	84 "	Winter.	5 47
4.	42 "	Early spring.	8 30
5.	212 "	Summer and fall.	3 50
6.	65 "	Winter.	6 18
7.	89 "	Late winter.	16 01
8.	57 "	Spring and summer.	8 19

During periods 5 and 6 the steers were on pasture. I should say that during the first summer, when they were yearlings, we charged each animal \$3 for pasture, and the second summer up to June, when the experiment closed, we charged at the rate of \$10 each for pasture. We found that heavy feeding was successful at all times except late in winter and early in spring, when small gains were made and the expenses run high, this being very marked late in the second winter, when gain was made at the excessive cost of about \$16 per 100 pounds. This excessive cost might have been avoided perhaps by more rational feeding. It shows, I think, that we fed too heavily early in the winter. Moderate feeding and steady growth pay best.

I think these figures show plainly the point I am trying to make, that feed goes further with young animals than old ones. This being true we would endeavor to push our farm stock rapidly to maturity, always bearing in mind that summer growth is cheapest, and sell just as early as possible.

For making thrifty calves, in my experience, oats come next to milk, either ground or whole, but preferably ground for young calves, since they will learn to like them quicker and masticate them better. To get a calf while yet on skim-milk to eat oats, it should be tied up, and as soon as fed milk, a handful of oatmeal, or whole oats even, put in its mouth. At first it will dislike the treatment, but soon it will get the taste and readily dispose of a half pint, placed in a little feed box conveniently located in front. Hay and grass follow naturally, and, later, bran can be used. During pleasant fall weather the pasture will afford exercise and feed, but if flies are troublesome the gain from pasture is too small with young calves to pay for the loss they undergo from vexation and blood flow. A feeding trough should be placed in the pasture and grain fed daily, morning and evening. With fair treatment the calves will go into winter quarters gaining a pound and a-half a day, which means a profit to the owner if he is ever to get one from them.

This leads me to another point: In my experience a calf born in fall or winter is worth two born in the spring for profit. A spring calf is so young that it gets little good from pasture the first season, for by the time it can fight flies successfully and crop grass enough to really aid in nourishing it, winter is at hand and it is placed on dry feed. The fall-born calf comes out in spring-time large enough and sufficiently vigorous to fight its own battles, and gets the benefits of the whole season's pasture. Whatever plan we pursue, let us bear in mind that it takes fully half the food an animal can consume to sustain it, and that our profits come from the last half only.

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