

### The Straw Yard.

A law hint's relative to the care of straw yard stock may not be out of place at this season of the year.

The first caution may seem unnecessary, yet experience shows it is needed. Be careful that the cattle do not eat away the foundation, and throw down the superstructure on themselves. Last year a neighbour of mine had two young oxen smothered by the stack falling on them. One was killed outright, and the other was a long time before it revived again, and never did well afterwards. No doubt it was injured internally somewhere. Feeding cattle from the straw stack certainly saves a great deal of trouble, and as long as the best straw can thus be picked over, and the refuse trampled under foot, the stock may do well; but when they come to the upper part of the stack they will not eat half of it, and as that generally happens towards the end of the winter, just when fodder begins to run short, it then becomes "Hobs'n' choice," and, moreover, from the wilful waste at the commencement, the poor cattle are now compelled to eat this portion up clean, as it is then discovered that fodder will run short. The fact is, such feeding, and from a straw stack, in any case, is a miserable arrangement. The cattle are poor, and infested with vermin almost all winter, and it is June before the old hair is all off; whereas, if stabled, and fed with straw from the barn, less fodder will do by nearly one-third, and more manure will be made, and the cattle will look sleek and well at the end of April and beginning of May.

Another great evil, accompanied with considerable danger, exists in the bull running with other cattle and colts. He is a nuisance amongst horned cattle in the yard, and is decidedly dangerous amongst horses. A year or two since I had a splendid mare killed by a bull, and two horses severely injured by him. They recovered, but the mare died at once.

A near neighbour of mine had a span of beautiful mares killed by a bull, within five minutes of the time they were driven into the yard and on their way to the stable. The furious brute charged one and gored her to death, and when she fell he deliberately attacked the second, and gored her dreadfully. The whole mischief was done, and both mares were dead, in ten minutes at the longest. The enraged farmer and owner was so beside himself at the loss of the team, worth \$400, that he in his turn charged the bull with a pitchfork, and wounded him so badly that he was obliged to be killed.

I was pestered by my bull for months, and tried all manner of remedies. "Pokes" of all kinds, ring in his nose, chains, and every rig that a bull could wear, were tried, but nothing did any good but blinding him so effectually that he could not see at all. This quieted him, whilst it could be kept on; but he very soon found out he could tear it off in a fence corner or with his hind foot, and once I was on the point of finishing his business and power of doing mischief by putting

out his eyes outright, and would have done so but my more humane foreman interceded, and the operation was delayed and finally abandoned, and, as a recompense probably for our forbearance, the bull killed the mare within two weeks.

On all accounts, depend upon it, the practice of giving stock promiscuously the run of the straw yard, is the most wasteful and least satisfactory mode of wintering them.

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### Selecting Rams.

The first and most important qualification of a stock ram is constitution. No matter how perfect he may be in every other particular, if he is defective in this one point he is worthless. His stock will be feeble, short-lived, poor breeders, and always ailing. Constitution is to be determined by the full, robust, physical development, the deep, full chest giving ample room for the vital organs; a uniform development of all the parts, giving a look of strength and vigour, and by family antecedents. The ram should not only be all right himself, but he should come from healthy, vigorous families on both sides, else he may have lurking in his system the germs of weakness and disease, to be developed in his stock.

In choosing a stock ram, size is important. A large, roomy sheep makes a better breeder and nurse, carries a heavier fleece, and makes more mutton.

It does not pay for the wool-grower to give much attention to the development of fancy points. These should be left to the breeder who expects to realize fancy prices. — *Vermont Record and Farmer.*

Another shipment of American Shorthorns to England is reported. Recently Mr. Alexander, of Woodburn, Ky., sold to an English gentleman two Durham heifers—the eldest two years old—for \$13,000.

The horses belonging to the Street Railway Company of Brooklyn, N.Y., have again been attacked with spinal meningitis. There were sixty-three cases in the stables on a single day recently, and the mortality is very great.

The *Pacific Rural Press* says that in some portions of the State cattle are suffering much from the continued severe weather, and the low state of flesh to which they were reduced by the destruction of the old pastures by the early rains. Many have died in consequence.

John Snell & Sons, Edmonton, have sold the celebrated premium bull "Louden Duke" to J. T. Sayers, of Wythe Co., Virginia. "Louden Duke" won four first prizes at Provincial shows. At London, in 1869, he won the sweepstakes for the best bull of any age, and stood at the head of the herd that won the Prince of Wales' prize, and at Kingston, in 1871, he and his calves won the Prince of Wales' prize for the best bull and five of his calves under one year.

The number of sheep in Scotland in 1871 has been estimated at 6,700,000. In the low lands the principal breed is the Cheviot, but in the high lands the greater proportion are the hardy black-faced sheep.

A Connecticut farmer sold a lamb to a butcher at a certain price per pound, with the agreement that a quarter of the animal should be returned to him after killing. The butcher charged the farmer retail price, and, on striking the balance, the latter found himself indebted to the cunning butcher by the operation.

The Kentucky rule for estimating the net weight of hogs, is said to be, for the first 100 lbs. deduct 25 for gross; for the second 100 lbs. deduct 12½; for the third 100 lbs. deduct 6½; all over the third hundred is net. The net weight of a hog weighing 100 lbs. gross is 75 lbs.; a hog of 150 lbs. gross will net 118½; of 250 gross, 209½ net; and a hog, the gross weight of which is 300 pounds, will net 256½ pounds. From the gross weight of a hog that goes over 300, 43½ pounds only is deducted, even should the weight be 400. This rule, if correctly stated, may be of use to somebody.

A California publication (the *Pacific Rural Press*) contains an account of a cattle sale in Colusa county, in that State, which rather dwarfs similar sales on this side of the Rocky Mountains. The sale was made by order of the executor of the estate of R. J. Walsh, deceased, to pay off legacies, and it realized *forty thousand dollars!* The number of horses and cattle is not stated, but it must have reached nearly two thousand head. The price of unbroken horses ranged from \$120 down to \$24; the bulls from \$100 down to \$5. Other horned stock from \$100 down to \$18 25. These latter alone numbered 1,145 head.

BEANS.—Our correspondent "Sarawak" gives his experience with beans for feed as follows:—Although white beans are of no value for fattening stock, yet they are the best things that can be fed to young animals, as they contain the necessary materials for making bone and muscle. For a young colt, one pint of beans and oats crushed together will be found much better than oats alone. A neighbour of mine, a few years ago, fed his store ewes with a regular daily allowance of beans and peas crushed, during the winter, and as a consequence the next spring never lost a lamb. They were so strong that they were on their feet and tried to suck almost as soon as they were dropped. It is, however, necessary when sheep get an allowance of grain, to begin in the early part of the winter, as if such feed is only commenced towards the spring the new wool will begin to start, and the old wool become loose and ready to drop off before the usual shearing time arrives. No doubt every experienced farmer knows this; but many of your neighbours may not have had much experience with sheep, and it is for their benefit I mention it.