

specimens of Short Horns at our Fairs—interbred, in many instances, to the ruin of their constitutions, incapable of breeding, and bloated with fat. The farmer buys such a bull perhaps, takes him home, and under ordinary keeping he becomes a "rack-of-bones," a sorry object indeed, and in disgust disclaims against all thoroughbreds. These pampered animals should not be taken as a type of the farmer's cattle. They are made on purpose to take premiums, when they become so overloaded with fat that they are practically useless for breeding purposes. They inherit weak constitutions from their sires and dams, many of whom are so degenerated that they can hardly transmit life to their progeny. These fashionable strains have virtually driven from our Fairs the more robust animals we used to see; have brought the stock into contempt with our farmers. They are used to win premiums before hypercritical judges at our Fairs.

There are, however, plenty of good herds yet, where the farmer can get animals at fair prices, with which to improve his stock; and the improvement of the native stock of the West is one of the great needs of the present farmer.—*Western Rural*.

AND ANOTHER

We have often warned breeders against the danger of overfeeding animals for show purposes, and although the evil is not so great now as it was some years ago, it still exists to a very detrimental extent. Instances of the mistaken policy of putting a gloss on in order to secure a prize, will be found in a report of the Highland and Agricultural Society's meeting—several animals—show horns, polled Angus, Galloway heifers, and mares, having failed to satisfy the condition of productiveness, have been disqualified, and others placed at the Kelso show lower in the scale have been advanced a stage. We wish breeders and judges could be brought to recognize thoroughly the merits of animals not unduly forced.—*Scottish Farmer*.

Regulations as to Show Cattle.

The New York State Agricultural Society act under the following rules and conditions, and all Agricultural Societies should adopt like rules. There is no honesty in showing animals that are not regular breeders. No man can compete against barren animals, always at rest—always fat—with animals that are breeding with regularity, and subjected to the drain consequent upon this. The muscles are plump in the one, and the whole contour of the body is symmetrical, while a regular producer, infinitely superior of the other in every way, cannot go into the show ring as a competitor, under the judgment of such men as are generally placed upon committees on thoroughbreds, with any prospect of success. This will apply as a rule to all localities, except such as have long been the home of thoroughbred cattle, hence furnishing plenty of men of ability and character, who can be called on to act on these classes:—

"In order to discourage the overfeeding of breeding animals for exhibition (a practice which not only causes useless expense and loss to the owners, but sometimes deters those breeders from exhibiting who wisely refuse to incur the risk of putting their animals in what is called "show condition,") the judges are instructed to make allowance, in all cases, for difference in condition, and are cautioned against being deceived thereby.

And whenever there shall seem to the judges to be reason to doubt whether any animal receiving an award is actually in breeding condition, they shall state the doubt explicitly in connection with the award. In every such case, the prize shall be held in suspense, and shall pass to the animal next in order on the prize list, whose prize shall in like manner pass to the next, and so on down the list, unless proof be furnished to the Executive Committee, that the animal, if a bull, has got cows with calves within two months, or, if a cow or heifer over two years old, has produced a living calf within nine months of the fair; and in all cases to which this rule applies, the judges, besides awarding the prizes, shall, if there be any other animal of sufficient merit for a prize, designate one animal as the reserve number to succeed to the place made vacant on the prize list in case any of the prize animals shall be disqualified as above provided.

"The fat cattle must be weighed, and in general those are to be judged best which have the greatest weight with the least surface and offal.

Improvement of Stock

From the Western Rural.

At a recent discussion on stock breeding in Scotland the following points were argued as essential to the improvement of stock: 1st, pure blood; 2d, high strain of blood; 3d, a sound constitution, free from hereditary diseases; 4th, substance, symmetry and quality; 5th, a docile temper. One of the speakers gave the following good advice, since, as he said, it is most important for any farmer that he should proceed as rapidly and at as little outlay as possible:

"As it is the generally recognized maxim that the exterior form partakes more of the conformation of the sire than of the dam, and as one sire will, to some extent, improve the whole of each year's stock, while a female gives but one superior beast, I would say, procure superior males, at whatever cost; and should they be too expensive for the size of the farm, let two or three farmers join in the purchase, and keep one animal."

This embodies all that is necessary for the farmer in the breeding of stock. In Great Britain the selection of sires is much easier than in the United States, for the reason that there is not only more pure blooded stock to select from, at reasonable prices, but also more stock especially adapted to the use of the ordinary farmer.

Among our great stockbreeders the specialty would seem to be the feeding of stock, with a view to take premiums at fairs. As a consequence, this class of Short-Horns is coming more and more into disrepute with farmers each year, and principally from the fact that they see at fairs only such animals as have been pampered with the most stimulating food, and loaded down with blankets, to make them show.

High feeding and the best of care is necessary to develop any animal to a proper degree, but for the ordinary farmer, development only to the point combining full feeding with good ordinary care, is required. Such a class of staunch, hearty, purebred cattle ought to find ready sale, and will, as soon as our well-to-do farmers can find them at reasonable prices, say from \$150 to \$300 each for one year old bulls.

There are some breeders who have pursued this course, but not many. The great necessity in the West is a class of bulls not too good for everyday farm use. Who will first give them to us?

Value of a Thorough-bred.

The thorough-bred pig, in starting a herd, is chiefly valuable in breeding to common stock. By using a thorough-bred boar upon common sows, you get a half blood that does very well for feeding purposes, which can be further improved by selecting the best sow pigs, feeding them liberally, and again getting a thorough-bred boar and using on them, which, if practiced a few years, will produce porkers equal to the pure blood. But grade or impure males should never be used, as the tendency is to run back to the scrub. The thorough-bred, if purchased young, can be had for \$25 to \$30 each. He can be used one season, and sold, or castrated and fed, when he will of himself almost or quite pay for his original cost.

At first thought, to many the price for a pure blooded pig may seem high; but, really, it is better to pay the price than let your sows go to a scrub for nothing. Say you pay \$25 for a boar and breed twenty sows. They will raise, say one hundred pigs (which is a low estimate). The pigs then cost you twenty-five cents apiece; and will make hogs that will weigh at fattening one hundred to two hundred and fifty pounds more than scrubs, (which grade pigs will do), on the same feed. You have, therefore, an increase in value of from \$300 to \$700 in one year, with price of pork at \$3.00 per hundred, and you have your boar left. Can you invest money at a larger per cent.? And the lower the price of pork, the more important that you do not squander your feed and time in raising and feeding "Hazel-Splitters."

It is not expected that every man, or every farmer can, or that he could afford to raise thorough-breds for feeding into porkers, as it requires great outlay of money and a long time to collect or obtain a herd of pure bloods.

In this day of improvement, the enterprising farmer will not be content to raise the old "sun-fish," "razor-backed," long nosed "hazel-splitter." Progress and enterprise is a characteristic of the true, intelligent American farmer, and he who will not push forward, will be left far behind.—*Sheppard & Alexander's Manual*.

Feeding and Fattening Animals.

Three times thirteen pounds as the quantity of hay per day which a cow requires for her maintenance in perfect condition; and if in milk, he allows as many as twenty-two to thirty-three pounds, but the ration must vary with the weight of the animal. Mr. Perrault, another foreign writer, states twenty-seven pounds as the allowance for a milk cow weighing about 800 pounds, he having in his experience found that an animal in milk required about 8x and one-quarter pounds of hay for every 220 pounds of living weight. A very large ox or cow, relatively to its weight, requires less food than an animal of smaller dimensions. And this circumstance is a grand argument with those breeders who are in favour of very large cattle. They say that if a large ox consumes more than a small one, still the increase in consumption is by no means in the ratio of his increase of weight. The real difference is owing to the quieter disposition of the animal, the vessels going to support the flesh or fat being larger, attained by the before mentioned careful crossing, so that some breeds have, by such a system, attained the faculty of laying more upon their backs, and others again more in the adipose tissues within. It may be said that, for every one hundred pounds, neat cattle require for plain keeping