

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN  
THE DOMINION.

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### STOCK.

#### How a Carload of Steers Were Fed.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—We shipped two carloads of cattle yesterday to Glasgow by the way of Portland. One of the carloads was fed in our own stables. In regards to feeding them, they were finished on cut feed made out of corn (sown in drills three and one-half feet apart and stalks eight to ten inches apart in the row), unhusked, and wheat chaff, with roots pulped up, with two pails of water added to it, fed three times a day. The chop-stuff was one quart oats, two quarts corn, one quart of bran, mixed; fed three times a day, with all the hay they could eat twice a day; watered every morning at 9 and 4 p.m. We fed this way for the last month. They didn't get much outdoor exercise, as they were fed in box stalls, and kept warm. A. & D. BROWN.  
Elgin Co., Ont., Feb. 8th, '90.

#### Feeding Steers for Finishing on Grass.

Among the most extensive feeders of cattle in Middlesex County, Ont., are Messrs. John G. Shipley & Son, who generally finish a carload or two during winter, but they now have two stables, of forty-odd cattle each, in preparation for finishing on grass. The steers are tied in pairs in basement stables that are well-lighted and roomy. They are kept continually tied, and have water before them, supplied by hydraulic rams. The water troughs consist of wooden boxes, about eight inches wide, and six inches deep, lined in U shape by galvanized iron. They are continuous along the entire length of the passages at the heads of the cattle. The feed is put into the mangers, beneath the water troughs, from the elevated passage, which forms the back of mangers. The cattle get about forty pounds of ensilage per day each in two feeds, morning and evening, mixed with an equal bulk of cut straw. At noon they get a moderate feed of long good hay. About half the cattle, comprising the better animals, are each getting about four pounds of grain in two feeds, along with the mixed feed. This will be slightly increased as spring approaches, and it is expected to turn them off finished in

June. The others, not getting grain, will be grazed a month or two longer.

It seems to be the practice in Messrs. Shipley's neighborhood to cut all the straw grown except pea straw, and the preferred plan is to cut it from the sheaf with the ensilage cutter before it goes into the threshing machine. The work is done by one engine while the threshing is in progress. A large-sized cutter will take the sheaves very rapidly and run about an hour after sharpening the knives.

#### How a Stable of Thirty-one Steers are Fed.

Feeding steers for beef is very largely followed by farmers in Western Ontario, and especially in the northern and western portions of Middlesex County. Hearing that Mr. R. H. Siddall, of London Township, is feeding a stable of good steers, we took occasion to visit his farm and learn his method. The lot comprises thirty-one steers, two and three years old. They were in good thriving condition when taken from the grass, weighing on an average about 1,300 pounds each. When first put in they were gone over with an application of equal parts of black oil and fish oil, to a gallon of which was added an ounce of crude carbolic acid. This is applied on the back, neck, rump, etc., every few weeks, and has the effect of destroying warbles in the skin, as well as lice. The cattle are all dehorned, and tied two in a stall in a stone basement. When first put in they were given cut straw, with two pounds of chop, five of oats to one of peas by bulk. At noon each got half a bushel of good corn ensilage, and at night a half-bushel of pulped mangels and two pounds of the chop mixture. This method was continued till about the beginning of January, when the ensilage and cut straw, with a little hay, was mixed two feeds ahead and given mornings and noons—just what they would eat up clean. The grain ration was increased to three feeds daily, till now they are getting nine pounds per day, of oats three parts and peas one part, in three equal feeds. Mr. Siddall prefers to feed equal parts, by measure, of bran with the oats and peas when it is reasonably cheap. Just now he is mixing in a proportion of oat hulls to give bulk, especially for the night feed, when mixed chop is the only dry feed given along with the pulped roots. Mr. Siddall is highly pleased with the plan of feeding the roots in this way, as it seems to keep the appetites of the animals keen and the stomach and bowels in healthy and vigorous condition. On one night a week the cattle are given a feed of long hay, which they relish very much. It is a safe change of diet, and serves to keep their cuds right. They are turned out to drink in the afternoon at a trough in the yard, supplied by a hydraulic ram from Mr. Siddall's mill-pond. The cattle receive no bedding, as the straw is all needed for feeding. The stables are cleaned out, by means of a horseboat with runners, to a pile in the yard. Each animal gets a teaspoonful of sulphur twice a week to keep the blood cool, and a small handful of salt every second day on the feed. The cattle do not all get the same fixed quantity of feed, but are carefully watched, and fed according to the apparent needs of each. As finishing approaches it is the intention to mix in about a quart of flaxseed to each bag of mixed grain, ground. This is much preferred to feeding oil cake.

The stables have plank floors, which are getting out of repair, and it is Mr. Siddall's intention to put in cement floors and a complete new interior at an early date. The water will then be brought into the stables, and a platform weigh-scale will be set up, so that feeding cattle can be weighed every two weeks, when the feeding can be done more intelligently. It is expected that the thirty-one head will average about 1,500 pounds each by March 1st. They are principally well-graded Short-horns.

#### Finishing Cattle for Export.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—Cattle that are intended for stall-feeding should be fed a light ration of meal or snapped corn while on the pastures in the fall months. Never allow them to shrink or be exposed to storms or frost before being tied up. Apply vermin destroyer the first week you tie up, and be sure that your stables have been thoroughly renovated and white-washed during the autumn.

Feeding should commence with thirty pounds of roots and four or six pounds oat chop and all the clover hay they will eat up clean, for first two weeks. This is done to keep cattle in a high normal condition, or extended condition. It is a great mistake to allow them to "gaunt up." The method afterwards all depends upon the varieties of feed to be used. Cattle, if treated as above, are in condition to make rapid gains if fed and managed as has been my practice for a number of years, since I have had silage, made from corn that is ripe and will shell from thirty to forty bushels per acre, as a part ration. Our cattle are now trained to their new surroundings and quite contented. I commence by reducing the root ration gradually to fifteen pounds per day, reduce the clover hay to ten or twelve pounds each steer, and increase the meal to eight pounds. Give cut straw, hay, and cut cornstalks, with twelve to fifteen pounds of ensilage added to the mixture of cut feed, making twenty-five pounds per bullock, which will produce a rapid gain for the first month or six weeks. I would never feed over ten pounds of meal per day to a fattening steer, and then never have the meal

stronger than one pound of corn or peas to four pounds of oats before being ground, as I consider oats one of the greatest producers of flesh and best regulators of any grain grown.

I am feeding thirty-six head for export or the shambles. Twelve of them are in box stalls. I will give the rations fed per day to ten steers that will average 1,350 pounds. Commencing at daylight (I do not go out with light in the morning), four baskets (weight 35 pounds each) of cut mixture and ensilage mixed night before, making 140 pounds; on that 42½ pounds of the corn and oat chop is fed. After all is cleaned up they get two 70-pound baskets of uncut mangels, making 140 pounds of roots. At 9.30 a. m. they get good oat straw to look at. They eat some; the rest is used in the afternoon for bedding. They are now full as they should be, and lie down until noon. They go out for a drink of lukewarm water (warmed by a heater) and exercise. They come back plump, and are ready to take a bite of the straw or lie down until 4.15 p. m., when they get the same ration as in the morning, except the mangels, viz., cut straw, hay, and corn ensilage, all mixed with same amount of meal. They are full again. They rest until 7 p. m. and get twelve pounds of good clover hay, uncut. Mangers are cleaned out morning and afternoon. The foregoing plan gives animals a chance to assimilate their food, and I call it feeding twice per day. I am not afraid to let the critics see them. Bought and brought home in October, they were not then considered much, but they will be ready by March. They are making great gain, and so are the others that are tied up getting the same ration per head per day, viz.:

CATTLE WEIGHING 1,300 POUNDS.	
The mixture.....	25 lbs.
Meal.....	9 to 10 lbs.
Mangels.....	12 to 15 "
Uncut hay.....	12 "
Straw.....	3 "

Per head each day.....61

This is the weight of ration for steers tied up and the lighter ones.

If I had more roots I would change the above in some particulars. The above ration is what I call full feeding, and will bear inspection. If I had no roots or ensilage I would certainly water twice a day, but I think cattle so treated only require water at noon. I certainly think cattle should have exercise. I would not buy cattle to ship unless they had had exercise. I term them "hotbed cattle," and will shrink in shipping.

With such foods as I have I would offer as a full day's feed for ten big steers the following:

Mixture ensilage, cut cornstalks and clover.....	280 lbs.
Mangels.....	140 "
Meal (oats and corn or peas).....	85 "
Uncut clover hay.....	120 "
Straw, 3 lbs. each.....	30 "

Per head per day.....655

Middlesex Co., Ont. C. M. SIMMONS.

P. S.—All the difference in the figures is that the lighter cattle do not get as many pounds of the mixed ration as the larger steers. All the condiment fed is a tablespoonful of sulphur once a week for the blood. C. M. S.

#### Finishing Period for Beef Cattle.

The finishing period for fat cattle requires close observation and careful attention to details on the part of the feeder. A successful feeder is born, not made, and it requires experience and close study to run a beef animal to its full capacity and not overdo it. An animal "stalled" or "off its feed" through indigestion or impaction may lose more in weight in a week or ten days than can be put on again in the next month. An experienced feeder who can push a bunch of cattle to their full capacity, and have them always ready for their feed, might be compared to a skilful engineer in a large manufactory who can detect the throwing off of a belt in some distant part of the building by a change in the motion or hum of his engine. With the engineer his ear will detect the change, and with the feeder his experienced eye will enable him to know when he is approaching the "safety line."

The results of several experiments would go to show that a gradually increasing quantity of meal per week or per month is better and cheaper than a given quantity fed daily throughout the feeding period. For example, say 1 pound for the first month, 2 pounds for the second month, 4 pounds for third, and 6 to 7 pounds for fourth month or finishing period. Any grains that the farmer can grow or buy to advantage may be used. A good mixture is equal parts by weight of ground oats, barley and peas, with half a part of bran. Good oat straw cut and mixed with ensilage morning and night (say 5 pounds straw to 50 pounds ensilage), and a feed of 25 to 30 pounds turnips and 5 pounds long hay at noon, with the addition of the meal given above, is a very good and cheap ration for feeding beef cattle. Of the mixture of ensilage and straw an averaged-sized steer will eat 15 to 18 pounds morning and night. I would always advocate feeding three times a day; more is unnecessary, besides adding to the cost; and when fed twice per day an animal will be inclined to eat too much and overload the stomach. With well-cured clover hay, plenty of roots and ensilage, a fair allowance of meal, and regular supply of salt, condiments or artificial food are unnecessary. The hours for feeding may be 5.30 a. m., 11.30 a. m., and 5.30 p. m. All animals should be watered at least