

cwt. of dead weight, charging the costs of the animals and food, without attendance, were £1 19s. for Lot 1, £1 18s. 3d. for Lot 2, and £2 10s. 11d. for Lot 3. The results show that four parts, by weight, of potatoes were practically equivalent in feeding value to one part of meal, while four parts of potatoes were not nearly as valuable as six parts of separated milk.

Hogging Down Corn.

Turning hogs into the corn field, to pull down the stalks and fatten on the ears, is a method practiced not infrequently in the corn-belt States, where the crop is grown for grain, the stalks being little thought of. We understand it is occasionally resorted to in Essex County, but were surprised, the other day, to run across a farmer in Middlesex who had tried it, with satisfactory results. Charles Fitzgerald, of East Middlesex, having more corn last year than was needed to fill his silo, fattened his hogs on the balance. His silo, by the way, is a 14 x 30-foot stave structure, built nine years ago, and still keeps the corn fairly well. He grows early-maturing varieties of hill corn to fill it, having, last year, Longfellow, Compton's Early, and White Cap Dent. This year, about a bushel and a half of King Philip was planted. About 15 acres of corn was put into the silo last fall, leaving about four acres for the hogs. This was a well-earned crop, which would probably have husked 100 bushels or more to the acre. The method adopted was to go through and pull off the ears, throwing them on the ground, and hauling the stalks off to feed the cows. Part of the corn, however, was left standing for the hogs to pull down. Twenty-seven or twenty-eight shoats, averaging about a hundred pounds apiece, were turned in, and left there till marketed, at about 200 pounds weight. A little peas and chop was also fed. Accounts were not kept, but, from a calculation suggested by his interviewer, Mr. Fitzgerald figured roughly that a probable 2,700 or 2,800 pounds of live-weight increase, figured at the selling price of 6 cents per pound, realized in the neighborhood of \$160 from the four acres of corn. Against this should be set the chop and peas fed, but, on the other hand, the stalks drawn off should be credited, leaving \$40 an acre as an estimate of the value of the crop marketed as pork. The labor is a small item, and would be more than balanced by the manure. "The Farmer's Advocate" would like to hear from others who have tried this method, keeping accurate account of the proceeds and profit.

A Factory Patron's Thrifty Calves.

How to raise good calves, is one of the most difficult problems the cheese-factory patron has to solve. The pot-bellied runts commonly produced by a diet of grass and sour whey, with such contributory favors as hot sun and flies, are almost enough to discourage a stockman from patronizing a cheese factory, and drive him the length of adding buttermaking to the duties of his hard-working wife. Where the whey is pasteurized and the tanks kept clean, so that each day's whey is pumped into the patrons' cans sweet, and containing its due residuum of fat, it makes fairly good feed for calves that have got a good start on milk. Sour, putrid whey, as too often delivered, should not be fed to young calves at all.

The accompanying illustration shows a bunch of seven thrifty youngsters, of mixed breeding, in a paddock on the farm of Septimus Bourne, Middlesex County. They all came at the end of April or the first of May, and were photographed June 24th. Their feed, in addition to grass, consisted of a pail of whole milk diluted with water, and strengthened with twelve handfuls of oil-cake meal.

The temptation to send every pound of milk to the factory should be resisted. Whole milk may be expensive calf food, if the youngsters are given all they want, but if calves are to be raised at all, a little milk fed to them will realize better returns than if sent to the factory. It means the difference between thrift and stunting, which is usually the difference between profit and loss.

Aloes to Prevent Calf-sucking.

In a recent issue the question was asked how to prevent a yearling from sucking a cow. Mechanical devices had been tried, without avail. Joseph Poole, of Middlesex Co., Ont., tells us he has cured this habit by painting the teats after milking with a solution of aloes. The teats should be washed again before milking, and the solution afterwards re-applied. A very few treatments, he says, will cause the calf to give up the habit in disgust.

THE FARM.

Flax-pulling.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

This is the season for flax-pulling. When the stems grow golden, and their seed-balls rustle, the pullers go into the fields, and pull, bind and shock, the season lasting three or four weeks. Flax-pulling is done by hand, and, in cases of hard, clayey soil, is very difficult work. Sun-baked clay is almost as difficult as concrete to pull anything from, and the poor puller has to twist and tug at his handful so fiercely that occasionally the stems break off at the surface. Of

yield, length of thread being equally as important as toughness of fibre. More than this, the root, which is broken off later on in the machines, becomes valuable for fuel in the mill.

Were our article a general one, we might describe the threshing, spreading, turning and lifting operations (the three last named being called "curing"), the breaking and skutching processes—all of which have to be completed before the fibre is ready for threadmaking. But we set out to tell about flax-pulling, and must stay close to our subject. It should be explained, however, that the ordinary small farmer cannot grow flax (for the fibre) unless he has access to a mill where he can sell his product. There is required too much outlay for various machines for the small

grower to think of manufacturing his own crop into marketable tow: so that, where the industry is carried on, it is in conjunction with mills and flax-workers in towns, who buy the product from neighboring farmers by the ton, or rent land and cultivate it themselves.

When the farmer grows his own flax on speculation, he sometimes pulls it himself, though usually—the pulling being too difficult for the average tiller—he lets out the work at from \$5 to \$7 an acre to a man or group of men and women, who make flax-pulling their summer trade.

Where millmen grow the "stuff" on leased land, they have gangs, consisting of men, women and children, hired at so much a day, to do the work. From 25 cents to \$1.50 a day is paid, according to "pulling capacity." The gang-wagon waits at the appointed place every morning up till the hour for starting; and the gang, carrying dinner-pails, makes this its rendezvous. Thence they are jolted on the sometimes springless, cushionless vehicle to the flaxfield, which may be eight or nine miles distant from town.

They are a jolly, noisy crowd, perhaps, but oh, how they have to work! The heat of a July sun, a fierce, craving tendency of the spinal column to crack where the greatest curvature is, and the natural propensity of thistles for getting into one's fingers—many troubles besides these have to be borne. The only consolation the puller has is that his season is short. The other work connected with flax is by far less difficult. That is the rainbow in the puller's sky.

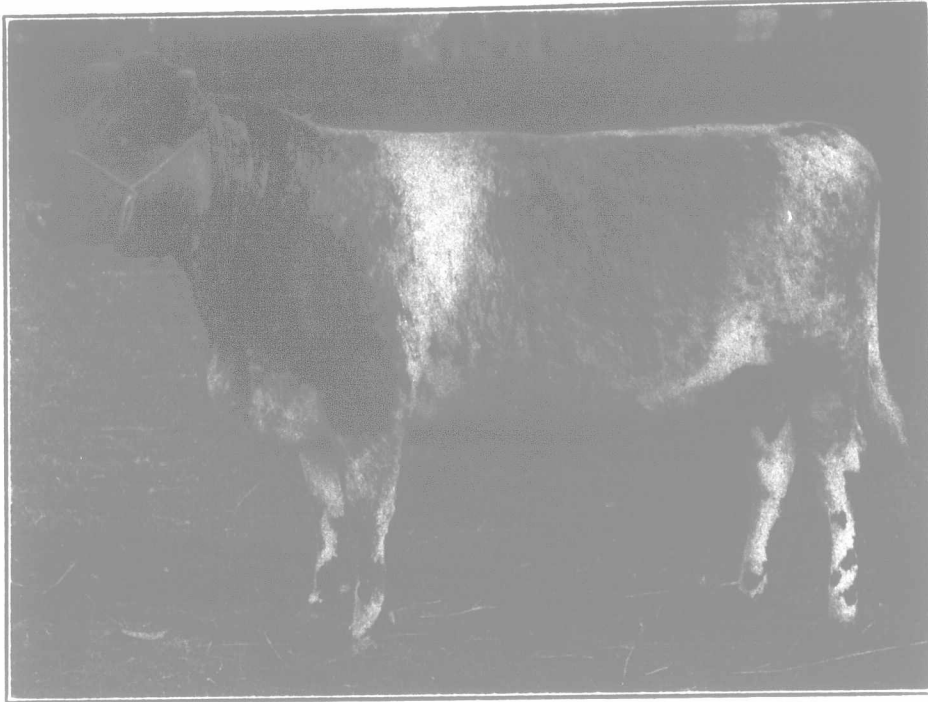
JAS. A. BYRNE.

Ensiling Alfalfa with Corn.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Your letter of June 25th, inquiring about the ensilage of the third cutting of alfalfa, is to hand. What I suggested to the excursionists was to convert the first and the second cuttings of alfalfa into hay, and use the third cutting for mixing with the corn when filling the silo. In 13 years' experience at the College, alfalfa has produced an average of three cuttings per year. The first and second cuttings can be made into hay to good advantage, and in most instances it would seem unwise to attempt to convert these into silage, as it would be unseasonable to place these in the silo at the time when they are ready for cutting, which would generally be about the 20th of June for the first cutting, and the 1st of August for the second cutting. As the third crop in the one season is generally ready for cutting about the middle of September, it could be cut and run into the silo in the green condition along with the corn. This would be an easy way to handle the alfalfa, and would improve the quality of the corn silage very much indeed, as the alfalfa contains an abundance of the flesh-forming constituents which are lacking, to a large extent, in the corn. This would make a better balanced ration, and should furnish more economical results than the silage made from corn alone. I understand that in one portion of New York State this system is practiced, with excellent satisfaction. As there are this year thirty acres of alfalfa on the College Farm, it is possible that some experimental work may be done along this line by Prof. Day, who has charge of the silos and of the feeding of the farm stock.

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Ontario Agricultural College.



Sherborne Fairy.

Senior yearling Shorthorn heifer. Female champion at the Royal Show, Gloucester, 1909.

course, where the grain is grown in new ground or any light loam, the task of pulling is not difficult.

By reason of the weight of the fresh yield, flax sheaves are usually made small. Wisps of flax itself are used to bind them, and the bands, after threshing, are thrown on the ground with the rest of the sheaf, in spreading. The puller binds as he goes along, some experts in the work being able to pull a whole sheaf at a stretch—that is, without piling it on the ground a handful at a time.

The shocking, however, is frequently left for the close of the day's work, this feature of flax-pulling being considered the lightest form of work connected with it. In fact, where the pulling is done by gangs, as will be explained later, an old man is selected to do the shocking, after a gang of 25 or 30 pullers.



Oil-cake Calves.

It must not be supposed that flax is everywhere garnered by pulling. In the Western States it is cut just as any grain is cut; and, of course, the process is as simple, except for the toughness of the flax-stem, as any work the binder has to do. But in that case it is grown solely for the seed, while in the region where it is pulled the seed is a second consideration, and the fibre is nursed and "cured" for the making of linen.

This latter purpose explains why time is spent in pulling. The binder leaves from four to six inches of stubble, and, as each plant, after curing, furnishes a thread just its own length, the value of the four or six inches—saved by pulling—is much in excess of its proportion to the whole