

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

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Reports of Winter Wheats.

In accordance with our established custom, we invite readers to write us, at an early date, what sorts of winter wheats have done best, and in what respect, in their own localities this season. Varieties proving defective should also be reported on. We desire the names and peculiarities of any new varieties that promise well. The concise, practical letters which we have received and published in the past have been most favorably received by our readers. These reports should be in by an early mail, in order to be of service in the selection of wheats for the approaching seeding.

STOCK.

Oak Grove Jerseys.

The attractive engraving that embellishes our front page this issue is a very faithful representation of several Jerseys of the well-known herd of Jas. Bray, "Oak Grove Farm," Longburn P. O., Manitoba.

Situated in the centre of a beautiful grove of native oak, on as fine a section of land as lies out of doors, about seven miles north of McDonald Station, on the M. & N. W. Railway, and 18 miles northwest of Portage la Prairie, stands the comfortable home and steadings of Mr. Bray. After living near Carberry for some years, growing wheat along with the other wheat kings of that fine district, Mr. Bray made up his mind to "diversify" his agricultural operations, and located on his present farm as being more favorable to stock raising, and shortly after laid the foundation of his Jersey herd by purchasing a few choice animals. Being satisfied that he was on the right track, he from time to time added new blood, by purchases of superior animals from well-known breeders, until now he has some 25 or 30 head of pure-bred Jerseys. The individuals comprising this herd are by no means the inbred, scrawny, narrow-chested, hollow-backed, crooked-legged critters some people seem to imagine model Jerseys should be, but all are nice, straight, even cattle, showing any amount of substance and constitution, and we take it constitution is of first importance, and more especially so in a northern climate. The bull at the head of the herd is Pet's Hugo 29737, bred by W. A. Reburn, St. Anne, P. Q., sired by Hebe's Victor Hugo 16353, a handsome bull, as will be seen in the illustration; more important still, he is proving a capital stock getter.

The matron of the herd is that grand old cow Mountain Linda (imp.), who has always headed her class at the exhibitions; she has also been a faithful breeder since coming to "Oak Grove," besides doing good service at the pail. Among her progeny we notice the following: Prairie Linda 72527, by Fubister 19153 (bred by Mrs. E. M. Jones, Brockville), a cow of great merit, and winner of second prize in the three-year-old class last year; Manitoba Lady 88701, a full sister of the last named, and in many points a better animal (a beautiful heifer calf from this cow was also shown us); Pet of Portage 88704, by Pet's Hugo, is a yearling that will make a mark for herself; and a very sweet heifer calf, a few months old, by the same sire, was undergoing a little fitting for the coming shows, from which, if we are not very much mistaken, she will return a victor. The cow that has stood second to Mount in Linda is Phillipia Hugo 68336, and she, likewise, has been a good and faithful breeder. A two-year-old daughter, Phillipia Hugo 2nd, got by Tom Sawyer of Oak Grove, is an extremely promising heifer, with every appearance of making a good milker; and Charming Billy 37031, out of same dam, by Prairie Stoke Pegis 30291, is a yearling bull good enough to head any herd. Lady Assinabois 72526, out of (imp.) Brilliance, by Fubister 19158, is perhaps one of the handsomest young cows on the farm; she was first in the three-year-old class, at the last Industrial. But the good things are too numerous to mention in such a brief sketch as this. We must mention, however, Whip-poor-Beauty 79425, out of Whip-poor-Will, by Raisor Pegis, about three-quarters St. Lambert, and though only two years old last September, has already a second calf, and with a Babcock test, on three separate occasions, showed over seven per cent. of butterfat. True, she is not giving a very large flow of milk, but no doubt she will improve in the future in that respect. Besides these, are Hayelly, Rosie L., Daisy M., Silver Horn and others that are doing good service at the pail, as will be seen by the appended tests, as taken by the writer on July 3rd and 4th:

Name of Animal.	Morning.		Evening.		Total milk.	Average fat.	Lbs. butter per day.
	Lbs. of milk.	Per cent. of fat.	Lbs. of milk.	Per cent. of fat.			
Queen Anne	10 1/2	3.8	15 1/2	5.1	26	4.58	1.39
Rosey L.	15 1/2	3.8	16	4.8	31 1/2	4.30	1.48
Mountain Lady	7 1/2	6.3	9	6.2	16 1/2	5.92	1.07
Daisy M.	7 1/2	5.6	8	7.8	15 1/2	6.73	1.14
Mountain Linda	8	5.1	13	6.5	21	6.08	1.10
Silver Horn	4	5.6	5 1/2	6.	9 1/2	5.83	.69
Phillipia Hugo	12	3.8	17 1/2	5.	29 1/2	4.51	1.46
Hazel	7	5.2	9	4.2	16	4.63	.81
Goldie M.	7	3.8	8 1/2	4.5	15 1/2	4.18	.71
Whip-poor-Beauty	10 1/2	7.	8 1/2	7.2	19	7.89	1.65
Brindle (short-horn grade)	12 1/2	3.7	15 1/2	4.2	28	.92	1.90

Several of these cows, giving small yields of milk, have been in milk a long period.

These cattle are pastured on wild pasture during the day, tied in the stable and given a feed of mixed bran and shorts in the evening, remain in the stable all night and are turned out in the morning without feed. The milk, upon being drawn, is immediately run through a No. 8 Alexander Separator, and Mr. Bray states that the only trouble with his butter is that he cannot make enough to supply the demand.

The proprietor of Oak Grove also evinces a strong penchant for Yorkshire hogs, with which he has been very successful in the show rings. He has at present five brood sows upon which he is using a son of Gladiator. One young sow, under a year, will take a heap of beating; in fact, we will be surprised

if there is anything in the Province just good enough for her. Only about 30 youngsters of various ages were left in the pens at the time of our visit, the demand for this breeding keeping up well.

Mr. Bray has also a nice little flock of Oxford-Down sheep, about 35 in all, and he has had a satisfactory crop of lambs. In addition to the above mentioned pure-bred stock, Mr. Bray is raising some good, useful Clyde colts, and while thus devoting so much attention to the breeding of live stock and dairying, he farms quite extensively, having this year 480 acres of wheat, 60 of oats, 50 of barley, 80 acres of timothy, besides a nice patch of corn which he is trying this year for cattle feed.

The Hampshire—Why I Like Them.

[Paper prepared by S. W. Woodward, Lockport, N. Y., for the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association.]

Uncle Sam and Miss Canada together own, on this side the "big pond," a good bit of land, and if ever they get married they will have, if not the largest, the finest and best farm in the universe. It will have a greater diversity of soils, climates, and conditions, than any other farm on the green earth, and will have a place especially adapted to all the best breeds of sheep. [Note—The sheep can be kept whether the wedding take place or not.—Ed.] As soon as American farmers realize its necessity, and adopt the practice of giving their flocks as good care as is given theirs by the English farmers, all the mutton breeds will be more popular than ever before.

In my experience as a raiser of winter lambs, raising each winter and putting in the market from Christmas time to June 1st from 400 to 600, and as a feeder of lambs coming one year old, of which I feed about as many more, I have naturally tried about all the breeds ever imported. Now, I don't believe there is any one breed superior in all respects to every other. Each has its good points, and each its failings, and while I like other breeds very well, and think some superior for certain purposes, I have never found any to give such good results in lambs for winter feeding, when coming one year old, as Hampshires and their crosses.

What is wanted for this purpose is quick growth, uniformity in size, shape and markings, and ability to fatten. In all markets clean, black faces and legs will add fifty cents or more to the value of each lamb, even though no better in other respects. A careful study of the fat sheep shows on both sides of the Atlantic will show that in almost every instance the first prize for sheep one year old goes to full blood Hampshires, or crosses having this blood on one side or the other. There is something in this blood that gives extraordinary maturity and plumpness to the year-olds. It is a fact, though possibly not well-known, that ninety-five per cent. of all Hampshires are the get of lamb sires. As a rule lambs are used in the flocks, and then fattened and sold for mutton the same winter. So universal is this practice that it is hard to find, in all the Hampshire districts, a ram one year old or over, unless it has been kept for show purposes. The use of the lamb for sire necessitates its being crowded forward as fast as possible all summer to have it of sufficient size and maturity for this purpose. No doubt but this system so long followed has had much to do with its habit of early maturity. Two other points in which the Hampshire excels are in uniformity and prepotency, or the ability to beget uniform offspring.

In all other dark-faced breeds, except the South-downs, there will be found much variety of form and shades of color in faces and legs. Especially is this true of the cross-breeds. That eminent Wisconsin sheep breeder, Geo. McKerrow, when describing the prize-winning Shropshires at the Columbian Exhibition, speaks of some as "of the South-down type," and of others as "of the true Shropshire style," and this of the world's prize-winners. And when the Shropshires are used as sires on any of the white faces, the lambs will have legs and faces "ringed, streaked, speckled and spotted," and the variations in form will be nearly as great. But not so with the Hampshire. The full-bloods are all of one type, as like as so many "white beans." And where the Hampshire is used as a sire in crossing, it matters little what the dam is—the lambs will be all alike, and every one will have the clean, black face and legs of its Hampshire father. There will be no calico faces or legs in the lot. Another very desirable feature in mutton-making is to have a large proportion of lean meat, and to have the meat nicely marbled. Too much fat is not wanted, and the sheep that, like most of the coarse wools, puts the fat about in "chunks" and "gobs" is "not in it." No sheep, not even the South-down, excels the Hampshire in the proportion of lean meat, or in the fine marbling of that meat. Of course, the Hampshire is a good eater, but so long as its ability to digest and assimilate keep pace with its eating, this is a desirable quality.

The profit in sheep keeping, as shown, is in the mutton or gains. The gain or growth comes wholly from the food eaten in excess of food of support. The food of support or maintenance ration is by far the largest proportion of what is eaten.

From these considerations it followed that the sheep which will eat the most food, and digest and assimilate it, will make the largest gain in a given time. It further follows that the sheep that will do this, and most quickly become sufficiently mature to meet the demands of the consumer, is, all things considered, the most desirable sheep for the wide awake sheep raiser. The Hampshire fills this place. That is why I like them.