

Breeder and Grazier.

Profits of Sheep.

A correspondent of the *Practical Farmer*, residing within twenty-five miles of Philadelphia, states that one of his most certain and reliable sources of profits from year to year is keeping sheep. When I first began farming, twenty years ago, he writes, I depended entirely on Southdowns. They have always proved with me prolific breeders, capital nurses, hardy and good feeders, and my Southdown mutton ranks in the market with "gilt-edge" butter. I inform my regular customers when I am going to have a fine leg or loin of pure Southdown, and they go off fact at three to five cents above the market price. In fact, Southdown mutton is the best mutton in the world.

If quality of meat was the only desideratum I would make no change, but as coarser wools now bring the highest price, and as, perhaps, I gain a little in weight, (of which I am not altogether certain, but at least do not lose any,) I have made one cross on my flock of 100 ewes with the Cotswold. The best results and the finest carcass have resulted where the Southdown buck was used on the Cotswold ewe. I do not want any finer sheep than this makes, and I try to keep them for my purposes one-half Southdown and one-half Cotswold. What lambs I have to spare are all sold in advance to your butchers for eight dollars per head. I raise roots, which I consider indispensable in the sheep business, and with good shelter and good management, I have the lambs in the market in March and April. I consider the roots make a good substitute for early pasture. It promotes the flow of milk in the ewes, keeps them in good heart and with fine appetites. I have always followed the advice in your paper, to keep all my animals healthy and thriving. If they once go down or become stunted, much of one's feed is thrown away. Two-thirds of my ewes usually have twins. With lambs at eight dollars to nine dollars each and wool at fifty cents per pound, your readers can figure up my profits on 100 ewes.

I will close with one remark: that without a root crop of about 1,000 bushels, I would not keep sheep. Not that these are all fed to the sheep, as cows and horses all are benefited by them, but for sheep they are indispensable.

Good and Poor Hogs.

Did our farmer readers ever take a slate and pencil in an evening, and estimate the true difference between a good and poor breed of hogs? All have seen and acknowledged there is a difference, yet the larger portion of farmers do not fully realize the ample margin in favor of the best hog. The increasing demand for lard and pork in all parts of the world, shows that hogs that yield largely of these profitable parts are in demand. The consequence is, there is a range in the market at this time at St. Louis from \$4 50 to \$7 50 and at Chicago from \$4 to \$7, showing a difference of 3 per cent in favor of the good hog. Nor is this all. While the improved breeds of hogs can be made as easily and with equal food to average at fifteen months old 350 pounds as the "greaser" hog will 175 pounds, or a little better hog will 225 pounds; if a farmer has fifty head of the latter class to sell now he will get \$5 per cwt., \$1,125. If he has fifty "greasers," which are too numerous in the country yet, he will get \$700. But if he has fifty of the best: Poland, China, Suffolk, Berkshire, &c., which have cost no more and which rendered a large amount of satisfaction, he will receive \$2,450. These are figures that cannot be disputed, and are within the reach of every farmer who has one hundred acres of land in cultivation. The number, weight or price is not over-estimated, and in raising them there is no \$3 per day to be paid to harvest hands, nor that ever-dreaded season called threshing. We would not urge any one to go into wild speculation in hogs. But raise your pigs and corn, and then there is no debt to meet when they are sold. Fifty hogs are a reasonable lot for a small farmer who proposes to feed all his grain on his farm. Now let any one carefully look over these figures, and if we are wrong give a better statement through these columns. Any man who raises fifty acres of corn can have fifty hogs to sell every year, and still have grain enough for his other stock. — *Iowa Register.*

Stubble-Shearing.

At a recent meeting of the Southeastern Wisconsin wool-growers association, resolutions were passed strongly condemning stubble-shearing; that is, the practice of leaving the wool half an inch or more long at shearing; the wool, of course, retaining that extra length through the ensuing year. The resolutions were:

Resolved, That we discard all stubble-shearing at fairs, and that a committee be appointed by the chair to draft rules to govern committees at fairs, said committees to report at next meeting.

Resolved, That any member of this association who shall be found practicing stubble-shearing, shall be excluded from our exhibitions.

Resolved, That the managers of all societies, at whose exhibitions sheep are shown for premiums, be required to instruct their examining committee to require exhibitors to state age of sheep, age of fleece manner of feeding and to give evidence of their breeding, and that all sheep that give evidence of stubble-shearing, or any dishonest practice, shall be excluded from the exhibition.

LUSTER SHEEP, A NEW BREED.—At a recent exhibition in Bremen, a fleece was exhibited from South Australia of a yearling ram, which was so remarkable for its fine silky luster and softness, and the unusual length (over five inches) of the smooth, fine wool, as well as for its beautiful, almost dazzling whiteness, that all were satisfied that a fine, firm yarn, and very superior cloth, could be made from it. It was stated that it was a result of in and in breeding of Negretti sheep with Leicester (lancoln) rams; the number of generations required was not stated, however.

JAMES GAINES, of Ridge Farm, Ill., has twelve Short-horn yearlings, exact age not stated, which average 1,154 pounds, and twenty-two head of calves averaging 650 pounds. The weighing was apparently done in October. H. B. Karr, Shirley, Ill., has a seven-eighths Short horn calf which weighed 580 pounds when 127 days old. A pair of grade Short-horn calves in Michigan weighed 1,000 pounds when six months old—the lightest weighing 432 R. Carrol, of Sheldon, Ill., has a grade Short-horn bull calf which weighed 590 pounds at five months old. — *Western Farmer.*

KEEP HOGS OUT OF THE WATER.—A correspondent of the *Colonial Farmer*, whom the editor declares to be a practical breeder, writes that to handle hogs to the best advantage, a pasture is needed of grasses, clover, blue grass and timothy—and it is best if there is no running water or stock ponds in the lot. Hogs do better where there are no branches or stock ponds to wallow in. In place thereof, have well-water pumped for them. Have troughs made, and nail strips across, eight inches apart, to keep the hogs from lying down in the water, and let these troughs be placed on floors, to keep them from digging up wallowing holes. If feed be given, it should be soaked in swill barrels for twelve hours before feeding—no longer—and fed to them as drink.

WOLF TEETH IN HORSES.—A correspondent of the *Rural World* says:—"William Horne, a veterinary surgeon of Janesville, Wisconsin, has recently made an examination of one thousand and seventy-three horses, with a view of settling the question as to whether the so-called wolf teeth are injurious to the eye. Out of 1,073 animals examined, he found thirteen blind in both eyes, seven blind in one eye only, thirty-seven having affection of one or both eyes, six of that number being nearly blind. The whole number of wolf teeth found was 216; only one of the number had a false molar, and only one animal with a wolf tooth showed any symptoms of disease of the eye. Dr. Horne regards this as settling the question positively that these teeth do not do any injury whatever to the eyes, and this conclusion is certainly justified by his statement of facts."

HOW SHEEP GOT INTO AUSTRALIA.—In 1797 three Merino rams and five ewes were carried to Australia; but so slow did wool-growing increase, that it was not until 1807, ten years later, that the first bale of wool was shipped thence to England. But the flocks of Australia did not originate from that source. Mr. Hayes tells us that the development of fine-wool husbandry in these colonies was the result of an accident. Some English whalers captured in the South Seas, about the beginning of the present century, a vessel proceeding to Peru from Spain, in which there were some 300 Merino rams and ewes. These sheep were carried to Australia, and originated the fine Merino wool husbandry which to-day plays so important a part in the fine-wool supply of the world. — *National Live Stock Journal.*

TO PREVENT HORSES JUMPING.—In response to an inquiry, W. H., of *The Western Farmer*, says: To prevent jumping, I have found just two ways effective. Buckle a surcingle around the body, then the halter strap through the fore legs to this; tie so that the horse cannot get his head above the point of the shoulder. Second, place upon the horse a common halter with forehead strap, sew to this a piece of sheepskin, the wool side next the head, and hanging low enough to compel him to hold up his head too high for a spring to enable him to see the top of the fence. This latter suggestion we value as applicable to colts to which the temptation to jump is liable to be presented.

ABSURDITIES.—Under the above heading the *Rural New Yorker* gives a list of popular impressions, from which we extract the following:—"Frosted grass does not tend to dry up cows. Apples in moderate quantities have no such tendency, but, on the contrary, may be fed to advantage, especially sweet apples. Potatoes are said to dry up cows also; nothing is more absurd, for they are eminently a mild-producing food, and when small potatoes are not fed to the pigs, the cows ought to have them." Absurd though it may be, says a correspondent of the *Buffalo Express*, I must contend that cows turned out upon frosted or frozen grass will fall off in their milk just as they will when fed any kind of cold or frozen food. Grass once thoroughly frosted and frozen loses much of its nourishment, and unless kept up by other food, a falling off in the yield is inevitable. Potato skins, either boiled or raw, are strongly diuretic, as also the water in which they are boiled. I would consider the potato skins worse than the seeds of pumpkins. If potatoes are fed raw to cows, it should be in moderate amounts; and even then, an increase in the yield of milk will not be accompanied by any corresponding increase in the amount of butter.

NARCOTIC HORSES.—We learn from the *Gazette Medicale de Bordeaux* that an eminent veterinary surgeon has informed the Medical and Surgical Society of that city that the coachmen of certain families had been for some time in the habit of administering chloral to the horses in their charge, so as to make them easier to ride or drive. It appears that the drug acted like a charm, for horses that had previously been so spirited as to give much trouble to their drivers became as quiet as lambs after a few days of this hypohetic treatment. This great change naturally attracted the attention of the owners of the animals, and they sent for the veterinary surgeon to ascertain the cause of this sudden gentleness. That functionary noticed a certain tendency to sleep in the animals; but scarcely knew to what to refer this unusual condition, when in one of his visits he chanced to find a bottle half full of chloral. Here, then, was the *corpus delicti*, and when the veterinary surgeon questioned the delinquent coachman as to the use he made of the drug, the latter, after much hesitation, owned that, following the advice of a brother whip, he gave his horses a dose of chloral every morning to make them go quietly, and further, that many of the fraternity in Bordeaux followed the same plan. — *London Medical Record.*

A PERFECT CURE.—The efficacy of the cat-o-nine tails in repressing crime has been lately much extolled, but the result of an experiment just reported in an American journal, made with a real cat upon a refractory steer, suggested the possibility that we have all this while been neglecting the substance for the shadow, and entirely overlooking the unusual qualifications for corrective purposes of a most respectable animal. A young farmer in Onondaga County, United States, lately went out to try a yoke of oxen. The near steer lay down in front of the house of one Jones. All the appliances usual in such cases were tried, and Mr. Jones helped to get the ox out of the yoke, but he should strangle himself, after which relief he lay down flatter than ever. "Hang him," said his angry owner. "I'd like to drag a cat across him!" "The very thing," said Jones, darting into the house and reappearing with a splendid tom. The cat was put on at the shoulders of the steer, and drawn steadily and carefully backward and downward. "The steer kicked some," says an eye-witness, but he did not get up, though the cat seemed to understand what was expected of it. Again the intelligent animal was planted well forward and drawn aft, but without effect; this, no doubt, piqued the cat, which, just as it was putting its claws in for a third drag, uttered a few notes of that wild melody for which the cat is adored by the neighborhood. The effect was instantaneous; the steer sprang up, ran home at full speed, and has ever since broken into a sharp trot whenever those sweet sounds are simulated by his drive. — *Pull Mall Gazette.*