

is the greatest sufferer, has only his own interests to consider, and generally is loudest in his efforts to have the act repealed. With the producer, who probably owns his farm, it is entirely different, and he should look forward to improve his holding as well as his pocket.

Toronto. WILLIAM AGAR.

Breeding and Feeding Pigs.

The present and prospective market prices for pigs are certainly encouraging to farmers who are catering to that trade. Probably no other branch of farm stock-raising brings as quick and profitable returns where good judgment and judicious breeding and feeding are practiced. A good brood sow of the best type is a treasure in these times, and is well worthy of the best of treatment. It is agreed by successful swine breeders that the most desirable months in which to have pigs farrowed in this country are March and April for spring litters, and August and September for fall farrows. In the case of litters coming in the winter months, even in sufficiently warm quarters to save them, the impracticability of getting the sow and pigs upon the ground for exercise, and the grit that seems essential to the healthy growth of the youngsters, renders it, as a rule, impossible to keep them gaining in weight at a profit on the concentrate foods that must of necessity be furnished them before grass or other forage crops are available. And late fall pigs rarely do well in winter, being liable to become stunted from indigestion, or crippled with rheumatism, or to develop fat rather than flesh, owing to lack of the necessary exercise to strengthen bone and produce a healthy circulation of the blood. Pigs born in early autumn are almost invariably born healthy, owing to the dams having had ample exercise under natural conditions, and given a free run on grass while young the pigs develop bone and muscle before winter sets in, which gives them the necessary strength of constitution to endure the confinement of the winter months, and to continue to grow and improve under judicious feeding conditions.

All things considered, it is preferable to select for a breeding sow one of a spring litter, owing to the probability that she will have a longer term of liberty to run out on grass during the early months of her life, thus laying the foundation of a good constitution, her bone becoming strong, her limbs straight, and her pasterns strong and upright. If chosen from a large litter, or from the litter of a dam that usually produces large litters, the chances are that she will prove prolific, and to provide for this she should have a dozen well-developed teats showing. The sow selected for a breeder should have good length and depth of body; strong, straight legs, well placed; a full, bright eye; should be broad between the eyes and ears, have a moderately short face, not too heavy jowls; a moderately strong neck, of fair length, smooth, oblique shoulders, not too wide or heavy; a strong, straight back, slightly arched; a thick, full flank; long, broad and level rumps; hams firm and full inside, fleshed well down to the hock, and have a medium coat of fine, silky hair, and a smooth, soft skin, free from wrinkles or creases, and the tail should be moderately fine and set well up on the rump. The sow should not be bred to have her first litter before she is a year old.

In selecting a boar, the same general description may serve as a guide, the only difference being that he may be a little stronger in neck and crest, and a trifle broader in shoulders, but he should not be heavy shouldered, or show signs of a shield at an early age, nor much of that feature even at maturity. He should show pronounced masculinity in all his make-up, including good-sized testicles, without coarseness or undue grossness, and should, for best results as a feeder and the sire of good feeders, have a quiet and contented disposition, as should also the breeding sow. The sow intended to be kept for breeding purposes should not be kept confined in a pen at any stage of her life, except for a week after farrowing a litter. Her food should be a well-balanced ration at all times, and pasture in season of good mixed grasses; clovers, vetches or rape fill the bill. Skim milk, shorts, bran, oats and barley, according to supply and cost, may constitute the supplementary feeds. It is well wherever practicable to have a plot or two near the piggery, on which to grow the pasturage. In the feeding of young pigs, after weaning, nothing equals skim milk, which should be fed lukewarm, and as the pigs grow older a mixture of two or more of the foods above mentioned may be added.

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The Farmer's Side of Steer Feeding.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

I write, not for the purpose of criticising Prof. Grisdale's experiments on stock feeding, but rather to encourage farmers to do more stall-feeding of cattle, as I am convinced more than ever, by putting it into figures, that they will do better by fattening their cattle than selling them thin, and selling their coarse grains and hay. I am sorry to see that Prof. Grisdale's experiments have a tendency to discourage stall-feeding of cattle, and from a farmer's standpoint I must say I do not agree with him in prices allowed for feed; they are not relative. He quotes prices thus: Straw, \$4 per ton; hay, \$7; skim milk, \$3; pasture, \$2 per month. Farmers' prices here would be: Straw, \$1 per load; hay, \$5 per ton; skim milk, \$5 per ton; while one-year-old cattle, last year, were pastured for 50c. per head per month. This should materially alter the cost of production of calves and older cattle. Where is the farmer who would not give more for a ton of sweet skim milk than a ton of straw? As straw is only salable in very limited quantity, therefore all or nearly all of it is only worth what it will make in manure. The packers were paying \$5.50 and \$6.00 a ton for hay this season, and the farmers had to board the men and team the hay to the station. Why charge more for hay in feeding cattle than the farmer can get for his hay in his barn?

COST OF PRODUCTION OF STEERS FROM TWO TO THREE YEARS OLD.

As I said in my last letter, I have been fattening three steers this winter, and as I weighed two of them last spring before putting them to grass in May, I will give my experience in feeding them for 11½ months, hoping it may be the means of encouraging some of the doubtful ones to do more stall-feeding:

	Pounds.
Average weight last spring	870
Average weight 26th Nov., when put in stable	1,115
Average weight when delivered April 24th	1,445
Average gain on grass 6½ months	250
Average gain in stable 5 months	330
Value when put to grass—	
870 lbs., at \$4.25 per cwt.	\$36.97½
Less shrinkage to take to market, 40 lbs. at \$4.25 per cwt.	1.70
	\$35.27½
6½ months' grass, at \$1 per month per head	6.50
Hay fed and salt per head	.50
	\$42.27½
Value when put in stable—	
1,115 lbs., at \$4 per cwt.	\$44.60
	\$42.27½
Profit per head on grass	\$ 2.32½
Value when put in stable—	
1,115 lbs., at \$4 per cwt.	\$44.60
Average amount of grain fed:	
12 lbs. per day, 150 days; 1,806 lbs. at 1c. per pound	18.00
30 lbs. roots per day, at 5c. per bushel	3.75
Cut straw, 1,500 lbs., at \$1.50 per ton	1.12½
Hay, 60 days, per day, 15 lbs., at \$5 per ton	2.25
Cutting straw per head	.15
Oil cake, 25 lbs., at \$33 per ton	.41½
Cost of labor, 5 months, feeding cattle, per head	5.00
Salt, etc., per head	.25
	\$75.54
Value of manure	5.00
Less 5c. per cwt. to clean grain and take to market	.90—\$ 5.90
Cost	\$69.64
1,445 lbs., at \$5 per cwt.	\$72.25
Cost per head after allowing for value of manure 69.64	
Profit per head	\$ 2.61

The cost of labor is on a basis of \$250 a year for a man, with board, etc., being \$15 for four months in winter, and \$23.75 per month for eight months in summer, with board, etc.; or \$16 for four months, and \$34 for the last four weeks. The value of the manure is on a basis of 200 loads from 40 head of cattle, at \$1 per load. The cutting of straw was done with a threshing machine, at an extra cost of 40c. per hour for 7½ hours—\$3.00 for 40 head of cattle, 7½c. per head, double quantity allowed for fat cattle.

Perth Co., Ont.

T. H. A.

Selling Stock by Correspondence.

In a country of such magnificent distances as we can boast of, the expense incident to a personal visit for the selection of pure-bred stock, in many instances, hinders improvement indefinitely, unless farmers, having confidence in the honesty and integrity of breeders, take the risk of ordering stock by correspondence. As a matter of fact, a very large amount of business has been and is being done in the purchase and sale of pure-bred stock in this way, and, so far as we are aware, generally with fair satisfaction to the buyers. With few exceptions, the men who are breeding and who advertise such stock for sale are, we believe, honest and reliable, though there may be some who are not as good judges as they might be, and who may send out stock which they think good, but which a better judge would consider undesirable. To neglect to promptly acknowledge the receipt of money, or to continue to fill orders when the stock has been culled so that those remaining are not nearly up to the standard of the best the breeder has been sending out or to the description given the purchaser, is inexcusable, and is a mistake that no breeder who values his reputation as he ought can afford to make, and will not make if he puts a proper estimate on the golden rule of treating others as he would like to be treated under similar circumstances. If a breeder has been so fortunate as to receive more orders than he can fill with reasonably good stock, or such as compares fairly well with the description, common honesty and fair dealing requires that he acknowledge his inability to fill the bill creditably, and that he return the money with this explanation. The man who fails or refuses to do this or make a satisfactory compromise or settlement, deserves to be compelled to do so by legal process, or to be publicly exposed as unreliable and unjust. We firmly believe that, as a rule, breeders are more careful to do the fair thing when entrusted with an order by correspondence from a buyer who has not seen the stock than in the case of one who makes his selection in person, as then the buyer is his own judge and himself assumes the responsibility for his choice, and as the breeder is likely to be a better judge than the average buyer, the latter often fares better by purchasing by letter than he would were he to make his selection personally, to say nothing of the great saving in the matter of expense in travelling and time. At the same time, we would advise, when it is practicable, or the travelling expense not too great, that purchases be made in person.

While writing upon this subject, it may be opportune to impress upon breeders who sell by correspondence the importance of extreme care in shipping that the buyer receive timely notice of the day, and, if possible, the train on which the animals will be shipped, so that he may not make unnecessary trips to the station, or the stock lie there a day or more before being called for. Special care should be taken that the stock before being shipped is well cleaned of vermin, and is comfortably bedded and supplied with plenty of light food with which it cannot injure itself by overeating. Animals going a long distance should be provided with a water barrel, and a bucket should be included in the outfit, and in the case of cattle shipped in winter, they should be blanketed. In shipping sheep or pigs in crates, good taste and good business tact would suggest the making of neat, light, yet sufficiently roomy crates, with the address of the buyer plainly appearing, as well as the business card of the breeder, being attached, which serves as a travelling advertisement and an evidence that he takes a proper pride in his business, and is not ashamed of the stock he sends out. First impressions count for a good deal on the receipt of an animal, and if it arrives in a rickety old crate, in which it has been cramped and crippled, or the wool or hair is rubbed off in places and lice are seen crawling on it, the buyer is apt to be disappointed and to conclude that the shipper is a careless and indifferent breeder, hardly worthy of the name, and the latter need not wonder if he receives a letter expressing disappointment or dissatisfaction, although the animal, when cleaned, rested and recovered from the effects of the slovenly shipping, may later prove entirely satisfactory. On the other hand, the buyer should not be too hasty in condemning stock on arrival after a tiresome journey under uncomfortable conditions. Allowance should be made for the circumstances, and judgment suspended until the animal is rested, filled, and fully recovered from the effects of the shipping, when, if he is nearly right, he may grow on his new owner, and disappointment may give way to entire satisfaction.

His Satanic Majesty took a hand in the fruit business at a very early stage of the human race, and, if all accounts regarding packing on one hand and selling on the other be true, he is still doing business at the old stand.