

FARMING

Vol. XVI.

FEBRUARY 21st, 1899.

No. 25

Agricultural News and Comments

In the ordinary silo a cubic foot of ensilage at the bottom will weigh about 50 lbs., while a cubic foot at the top will weigh only about 30 lbs. This would give about an average of 43 lbs. per cubic foot through the whole silo. Knowing this and the size of the silo, it is not difficult to estimate the total weight of the contents.

As the time for lambing approaches the coarse, dirty wool about the ewes' buttocks and udder should be cut away and saved. This should always be done before any succulent food is given the ewes to make them give milk. On many ewes the wool grows over the udder so that the lamb finds it almost impossible to reach the teat.

During the five years that the New Jersey good roads law has been in operation 325 miles of road have been converted from sandy, heavy stretches into smooth, hard roadway. The total cost has been about \$565,000, or over \$1,700 per mile. The people of that State claim that this amount is not so much of a tax as the cost of teaming over the old roads, as double loads can be hauled at all times of the year.

An American fruit-grower recommends a decoction of tobacco stems as a remedy for the sting of the curculio and plant lice. His method is as follows: Half fill a vessel with tobacco stems, loosely pressed down; fill up with boiling water; let it stand till the next day; then syringe the trees thoroughly. Do this when the plums are about the size of a pea, and again two weeks later.

Last summer the Dominion Minister of Agriculture authorized the sending to Great Britain of a trial shipment of honey. The quality of the honey was rated as very superior. One Western Ontario firm followed that shipment by sending several car-loads, and sales are reported at satisfactory prices. Last week Prof. Robertson received a report showing that honey in one-pound bottles was selling wholesale for over seventeen cents per bottle.

Prof. Henry, in his work on "Feeds and Feeding," states that Prof. Roberts, from data gathered at the Cornell Station and elsewhere, makes the average value per ton of manure from farm animals as follows: Horse, \$2.49; cow, \$2.43; sheep, \$4.25; pig, \$3.20. Nitrogen is rated at 15 cents, phosphoric acid at 7 cents, and potash at 4½c. per lb. The value per year is given as follows: Horse, \$24.04; cow, \$32.25; sheep, \$2.29, and pig \$3.06.

In almost all farmhouses after potatoes are peeled for cooking the usual but wasteful way is to throw them in the swill barrel for pigs. They are very little good for pigs, but if cooked and mixed with wheat bran or fine middlings they make an excellent feed for hens. A raw potato is not good for much for any kind of stock. The best part of the potato is in the peeling, and many who eat roast potato find the skin, with a lump of good butter inside, much the best part of it.

The recommendations of the last Royal Commission on tuberculosis in Great Britain are as follows: (a) That the test be applied by a veterinary surgeon; (b) that tuberculin be supplied to only such owners as will undertake to isolate reacting animals from healthy ones; (c) that the stock to be tested shall be kept under satisfactory sanitary condi-

tions, and more especially that sufficient air space, ventilation, and light be provided in the buildings occupied by the animals.

The champion Aberdeen-Angus heifer "Ju Ju," of Glamis, and the winner of prizes to the value of £785, a photo-engraving of which appeared in FARMING for Feb. 7th, was sold to go to Wales. She was 2 years, 10 months, and 12 days old; live weight, 15 cwt., 2 qrs., 21 lbs.; daily gain of live weight, 1 69 lbs.; weight of dressed carcass, 1,248 lbs.; percentage of carcass to gross live weight, 71.03; weight of hide, 66 lbs., and of loose fat, 135 lbs. She made a fine body of beef, of good color, and a fine cutter, though in parts rather too fat for ordinary purposes.

A Nova Scotia dairyman, who keeps four grade Jersey cows, gives the following statement of the product of these cows for 1898:

915 pounds of butter at 20c.	\$183 00
Milk and cream sold.	92 00
Milk used home for two families (a moderate estimate)....	40 00
Skim milk valued at ten dollars per cow...	40 00
	<hr/>
	\$355 00

Average return per cow \$88 87.

The Island of Jersey, the home of the Jersey cow, has a population of 55,000, with visitors and tourists to the number of 40,000 or 50,000 more. About 11,000 cows are kept on 10,000 acres, and 1,000 animals are sold for export each year, with an export value of about \$100,000. The total exports outside of cattle, which are chiefly potatoes, grapes and other fruits, vegetables and cut flowers, are valued at between \$3,000,000 and \$4,000,000 annually. The annual rental of land is from \$40 to \$75 per acre. The whole system there is that of "intensive farming," large products from small areas well cared for. The whole island contains some 25,000 acres, which would only be a fraction of the average Ontario townships. Just imagine one of our townships exporting \$3,000,000 worth of products! The Jersey farmer shows what can be done under the most intense system of cultivation.

The Export Bacon Trade

A few years ago Canadian bacon was almost unknown in the British market, while to-day it is looked upon with considerable favor by the English consumer, and is steadily leading the American product in that market. This should be very encouraging to those who are engaged in promoting this important industry. During the past few months, however, the markets have been somewhat depressed through increased offerings of Danish and Irish bacon, which has caused many hog producers in the country to be somewhat apprehensive as to whether the bacon trade is one that can be depended upon as a money-maker for the farmer. Such drawbacks, however, come at times in the development of every trade where there is keen competition. Those familiar with the development of the cheese trade will remember that it passed through several series of depressions of this kind before it reached the important place it holds to-day. Had our dairymen ten or twenty years ago relaxed their efforts to establish the trade