

ready learned to eat feeding with its mother. We also feed a little of the best and cleanest hay we have on the farm to the colts, and through the winter we throw into their boxes a handful of white carrots every day, and keep a lump of rock salt where they can get it at will.

Either before or after weaning we halter break our colts by tying them up in their box stalls for a few hours every day, but let them free at night. We keep two colts in a box stall, but let them out every day (unless it would be an extremely cold stormy one) to feed and play around a big straw pile which we have in a sheltered place for the purpose. I would like to say here that I find nothing to take the place of the aforementioned milk for a colt. A colt fed as described will go right ahead after weaning, and be sick and fat when spring grass comes. Of course, the oats may be increased as the colt grows older. We always keep our colts well bedded with wheat straw, and only clean out their boxes twice a week.

LIVE STOCK.

Feeding Hogs for Profit.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In your issue of Dec. 16, a Middlesex farmer offered some criticism of the hog-feeding competition carried on in this county last summer. As I was the winner of the trip, and the feeder of the bunch of hogs that aroused so much interest in the writer of the article, I considered it my duty to reply and let the public know what I consider very important points in feeding hogs.

When I entered this competition I made up my mind that I would not spare any time, as far as looking after the pigs was concerned. I made a particular study of how those pigs should be fed and looked after, as I do not consider the amount of feed everything. The type of hog, cleanliness of surroundings, thriftiness before weaning, and the method of feeding, all are considered before the kind and amount of feed consumed.

The hogs which I fed were from a Chester White boar, while their mother was part Poland

China, and her mother was pure-bred Yorkshire. I prefer the Chester White breed. You cannot get a pig that is continually on the move to put on as many pounds, according to feed consumed, as one that will remain quiet and graze until it has plenty, and then go and lie down. The Chester White is the quietest and best grazing pig we have, and I considered the cheapest feed I fed was the pasture that they got. However, a poor Chester White is no better than a poor pig of any other breed, and there is a good deal in selecting from a litter the pigs that will be the best feeders. Personally, I like a long, deep pig, broad between the eyes, with a short head. I like them well filled behind the shoulder with a deep, thick heart. If you get a good heart girth you will always get a strong constitution. I also like a pig to be well-muscled over the loin.

We have all heard the saying, "As dirty as a pig pen." Now, this must not be the case when you are feeding hogs for profit. Put yourself in the place of the hog, and if you are fed right up to the mark and you are filthy you certainly will not feel much like eating, I don't care how good your food is. People often neglect this very much, and then they will complain that their pigs are not doing as well as they should. I kept my pen as clean as it could be kept. I never let the litter remain in it more than two or three days, and each time I cleaned it I covered the floor with dry lime. This kept it dry, and the pen always had a sweet, healthful odor. I would then put in plenty of clean, dry straw, so that the hogs always had a good bed to lie in and were never dirty. I took great care to keep the trough clean and disinfected, and in this way my hogs never missed a meal.

A great deal of what a pig will be is determined before it is weaned, and I must say that if the Middlesex farmer owns a sow that will not raise pigs up to six weeks weighing more than 25 lbs., he had better get rid of her before he goes into the hog-feeding competition. I like to feed the sow so she will nourish the pigs well, and I like to see the pigs in the trough themselves when they are two and a half to three weeks old. I am sure if the sow is well fed on bran, shorts, chop and skim-milk or whey, and the pigs eat anything themselves, there should not be any difficulty in getting pigs from forty to sixty lbs. at six weeks old. Young pigs may be bothered

with worms. However, a little charcoal fed in their feed will keep the stomach free from these pests.

My method of feeding comes next. I follow the new way and only feed twice a day, and just feed what they will clean up nicely in half an hour or so. To my mind by feeding three times a day you nearly lose the noon feed. There were several young farmers in this locality who experimented in feeding hogs twice vs. three times daily, and proved that the pigs made as good gains with less feed fed just twice a day. I always soak my feed one meal ahead. Now, I suppose that it bothered the Middlesex farmer to tell how 1½ lbs. of grain would soak up 1-1/3 lbs. of whey, but that is easy. I put in plenty of water to make it soft and mushy. After I poured this feed into the trough I would take a couple of handfuls of ground charcoal and throw it in on top of the feed. This kept the hogs healthy and gave them a good appetite. I took great care not to get the pigs tired of any one kind of feed, and to do this I kept changing from one kind to another, and in this way they never missed one of the 224 feeds which I fed them. I always kept one trough filled with good, clean, pure, cold water so that the pigs could have a fresh drink whenever they desired.

When the pigs were twelve weeks old and weighed about 100 lbs. each, I let them on pasture. Now, I don't think I ever saw a better bunch of grazers, and it is to the good pasture they had that I attribute the gains that they made. One thing I would advise any farmer, is to give his pigs good pasture, it is the cheapest feed.

These hogs received 1,025 lbs. of whey in 224 feeds, which is about 1½ lbs. per hog per feed, and 1,125 lbs. of grain, which is 1½ lbs. per hog per feed, plus what grass they would eat (which was considerable). The four pigs weighed 808 lbs. when weighed. At six weeks the four pigs would weigh at least 200 lbs., making 608 lbs. gain. They gained 608 lbs. on 1,125 lbs. of grain. This is not impossible with good care and good pasture.

To successfully feed hogs one must make a very careful study of them, and give them the same care that you give any other animal on the place. To my mind pasture and charcoal were the most profitable feeds which I fed.

Middlesex County. ARCHIE D. LEMON.

Steer Feeding Practice in Vogue this Winter.

The era of the heavy bullock, fitted for the trip across the ocean, is past for a time, at least, but steer feeding to supply the home market and the demand in the Eastern States is still flourishing. Many professional feeders relate tales of the prosperous days when they could feed on a two or two-and-one-half-cents margin, but the proposition does not seem a bad one at the present time when one cent per pound as a margin is a fairly high average. The market fluctuates considerably, and it is not uncommon for the "steer-man" to sell at the same price that he paid for his cattle six months previous. However, that does not discourage the man who has played the game for a number of years, for he knows that a fluctuating market, taken advantage of in the proper time, may result in a fairly good profit. A steer feeder must possess two attributes, skill and nerve. He must know what and how to buy and how to feed. That requires skill and experience, but he must also be able to watch a market gradually weakening when he has a load or several loads of finished steers that will daily make a large hole in the bin and mow, when the hay and grain are almost exhausted. That is when he must have nerve. On the other hand a load of proper steers, well fed, will return a fair market price for the feed they consume, and in most cases will sell high enough to provide a surplus over and above actual costs which the feeder may consider as recompense for his labor. Steer-feeding bears no resemblance to a get-rich-quick enterprise, but on the other hand those engaged in the business are usually quite contented, they have a few moments to spare in summer or winter, and appear to be marketing their fodder and grains in such a way as to realize good values for them. There is usually an atmosphere of prosperity about the home of the steer feeder; a prosperity which he takes time to enjoy.

This conception of the business was impressed upon the writer by a recent visit to some of the steer-feeding districts in an endeavor to obtain from professional feeders information as to their methods in the past, and how they are feeding this winter. When all fodders and concentrates are high in price, greater economy must be practiced. Methods that have carried some of the best-known steer-feeders through trying times should be interesting to all that have to do with stock under existing conditions.

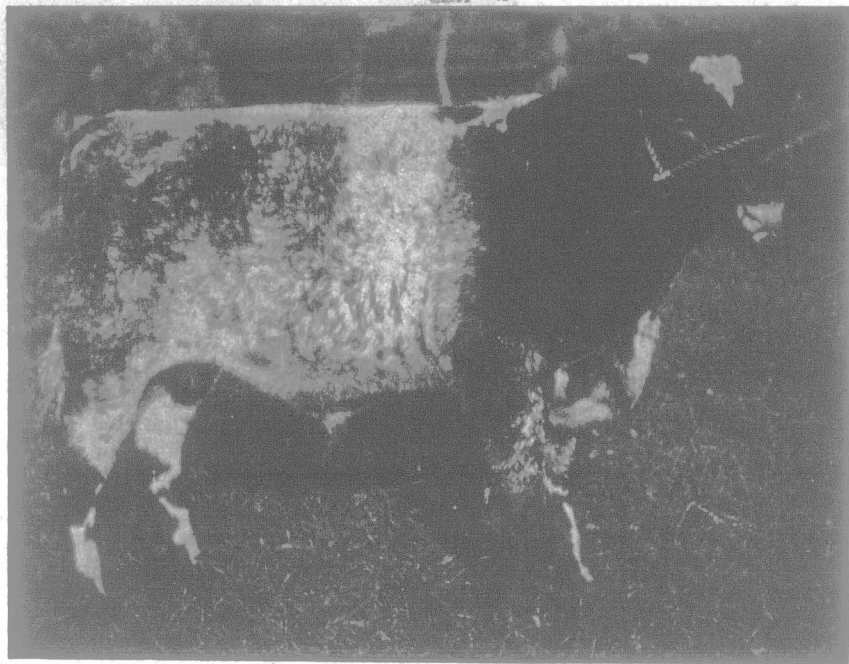
A visit to the home of Thos. McMillan, in Huron County, found his stables full of steers and horses. In all 103 head of cattle are being

fed for the shambles, part of which will be finished in the stalls and the remainder off grass. They are all being handled loose, for experience, and the scales have influenced Mr. McMillan in favor of this practice. They were graded into car-load lots so that all in the same run would be alike in size. It is often necessary to grade them twice to get the desired uniformity; once when they go in, and again about one month later. The stables are so arranged that the horse manure, with the coarse litter it contains, can be

ence in the treatment received by the steers to be finished in the stalls and those to be grassed, which difference lies principally in the feeding. Silage is the basis of every allowance, around it rations are built up.

Stall-finished bullocks are started on 30 lbs. of silage daily and about 2 lbs. of chop, with hay once a day, at night. Sufficient silage is mixed with straw and ground grain once a day to last for three feeds. The chop and shorts, the latter also being fed, are mixed with the silage, and

straw on the cement walk in front of the mangers during the forenoon, and this quantity is sufficient for the following noon, evening and morning feeds. The grain allowance is very carefully and gradually increased until spring, when the steers will be getting 8 or 9 lbs. each, considerable of which is shorts, oil cake and cottonseed meal. In order to balance the ration and feed home-grown grains to the very best advantage, Mr. McMillan strongly advocates mill feeds. Pea-ground oil cake has been found to be the most acceptable form in which to feed that material. Cottonseed meal was used quite extensively last season, and as at a low price it is probable that considerable will be fed again this winter. About the month of March sees the beginning of these highly nitrogenous feeds in the ration. Two lbs. of oil cake and 2 lbs. of cottonseed meal is the maximum amount of these feeds when combined with the chop from the coarse grains. From 1 lb. to 2 lbs. of each per steer is usually fed, however, after the beginning of March. They are not mixed with the silage, straw and chop, previously mentioned, but are sprinkled on them after being put into the mangers. Some of the chop is from mixed grains. Usually a mixture is sown consisting of 1 bushel oats, ½ bushel barley and 1 peck of goose wheat per acre. The crop of grain resulting from



Edgecote Pirate.

A Shorthorn bull calf which recently sold for 400 guineas (over \$2,000).

used to bed the cattle. Large doors at both ends of the stalls will permit a team to be driven through so the manure can be taken directly from the stable and spread on the land. In Mr. McMillan's own words, "One cannot add to the value of manure by handling it, but you can add very much to its cost. This system of team work and taking the manure at once to the fields is emphasized very strongly on this Huron County farm."

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