

for a sire to mate with the few females they might pick up. If several men in a community were of the same mind they might advisedly co-operate in the purchase of a right good sire. Commencing with a few females it does not take long to grow into a herd. A half dozen men each securing one or two females and one bull for joint use, would not have to wait long before they would have stock to sell.

There should be a coupling of good blood, breed type and individuality, especially in the herd sire. He is half the herd. His qualities will be stamped on the progeny of probably fifty or sixty females, thus the reason for strict attention to be paid to the quality of the bull is plain.

There is plain and fancy breeding in all classes of pure-bred animals. If starting into pure-breds pay the price for a representative of a family that has been in demand at good prices in pre-war days as well as during the past three or four years. Some breeders are fortunate in having practically their entire herd of breeding females of a certain popular strain. It is not too late for you to start. There will always be a demand for good stuff. Even if some of the pure-bred stock must be beefed, they make more economical gains than the animals of nondescript breeding. Beginners are too apt to get the idea that all pedigree stock is good stuff and to buy indiscriminately. There is cull registered stock and lots of it. Study the pedigree; see what the ancestors have done in show and sale rings, and then study the individuals. Get the type, form and quality along with the papers. The better bred the stock the less likelihood of their being culls.

Canada has far too small a live-stock population, both of meat and breeding animals. In an agricultural country of this extent the number of cattle, sheep and hogs could well be doubled and then increased. This increase will come only by the one-hundred acre farmers adding an animal or two to their herds and flocks. Canadian farmers might well improve the quality of their stock by co-operating in the purchase of the best herd headers, and then exchange the sires with breeders in the neighboring community when his progeny comes of breeding age. Too many right good bulls are sent to the shambles just when their value as stock getters is becoming known. If handled right a bull's usefulness need not end at three or five or six years, but continue for eight to ten years. We cannot afford to continue sacrificing so many good breeding sires. Stockmen might well consider the purchase of a three or four-year-old bull that has left the right kind of stock, in place of using an untried, immature animal.

Common Sense in Difficult Parturition.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

How many valuable cows and most valuable mares have been ruined through undue force having been exercised to pull away the foetus in a time of difficult parturition! Even under an experienced veterinarian's care and instructions I have witnessed as many as four strong men pulling on a rope attached to an unborn foal in the endeavor to take it away. Cruelty? Yes! especially when the mare was standing up and every muscle of her body apparently straining to defeat the purpose of the operation.

Recently it was my privilege to witness the benefits of some common-sense advice from a layman in just such a case with a valuable pure-bred cow. The veterinary was hard to convince; he thought the idea ridiculous, but he tried it and now will always use the method.

It was simply to turn the animal over on its back, all feet in the air and keep them there. The muscles, without a point to brace from, were immediately all relaxed—save those special muscles which have to do with parturition—and the foetus came away with comparative ease. To secure the animal in position on its back a trip rope was run through rings attached to hame straps secured singly around the ankles or fetlocks; the rope was allowed to play slightly through the rings to avoid all shock or jars from the animal kicking. The loose end of the rope was thrown over a convenient "sleeper" or "summer" beam and made fast, taut enough to keep the legs of the beast more or less upright. Two large-sized, round or rounded, fence posts were fastened in position, one on either side, and padded with old bags to avoid chafings—fastened in position much as a butcher would "block" up a bullock before starting to skin it. One needs only to consider the extremely tender, in fact, delicate nature of the tissues of the female passages to appreciate the terrible suffering caused by undue force applied to extricate the foetus and allow it to be born. All of this suffering is reflected afterward in slower recovery, loss of condition and loss of milk, if not in the death, as is often the case, of cow and calf, or one or the other. To avoid these results and alleviate the suffering by any practical methods is not only humane but exceedingly profitable business, and when so simple a method is at hand as this one of position, in what is otherwise difficult obstetrical work, it will no doubt be highly prized and welcomed everywhere. It struck me that every stockman should have the advantage of this knowledge so I have written it down for the benefit of readers of The Farmer's Advocate.

York Co., Ont.

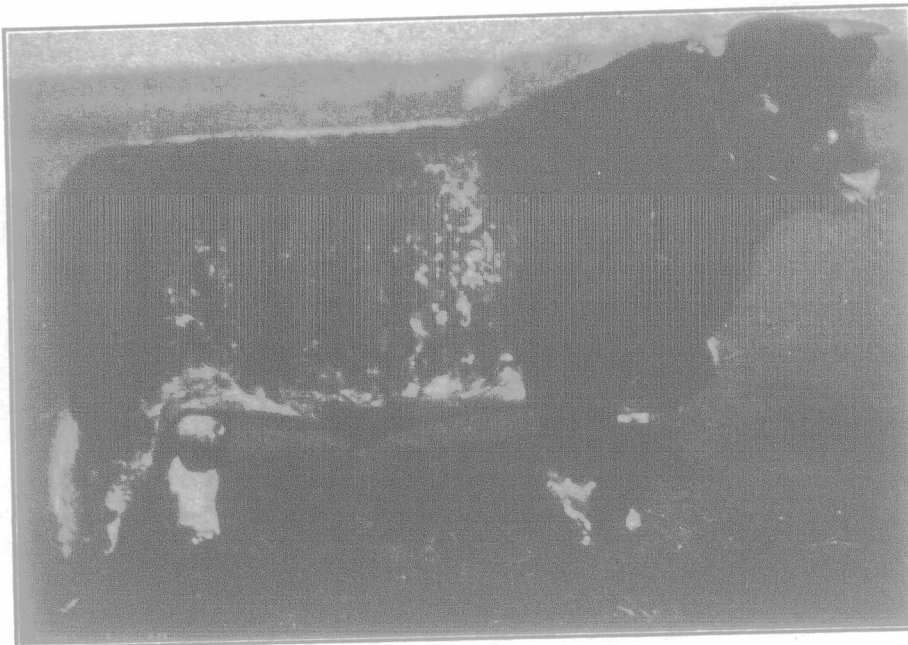
CHAS. C. NIXON.

Selecting Breeding Stock.

The summer and early fall is the ideal time to select ewes for the flock, either to increase its size or to replace old or otherwise unprofitable ones. Ewes that do not produce regularly should be dropped, also those that breed out of season. After the flock has been established the needed increase can be taken from ewe lambs. When selecting breeding females the early maturing lambs of the right type, should be chosen, thus making it possible to produce earlier maturing stock each year. It is also possible to select from the offspring of heavy milking dams, as this is a desired quality and can best be determined by the mother's performance. In selecting the stock to be added it should be of nearly the same age and preferably from the first part of the crop, as these lambs are thriftier and larger at the breeding season and will produce the desired early lamb.

No matter where the ewe stock comes from, the selection should be uniform, as this means that the future lamb crop will not be culled so heavily when sent to market. The ewes should also be well grown and thrifty, not necessarily fat, but showing that they receive good feed and are free from disease. A good constitution for a ewe is indicated by active movements and alertness to strange sounds. About the head of a good mother there is a matronly appearance, indicating that she will not only care for her young, but is fearless enough to protect it. Pink skins, wide chests and full breasts, high heads, short legs, placed well apart and a suggestion of style, vitality and compactness in their form are desirable. Since mutton and wool are both products of the farm flock, a ewe of good mutton form is much to be desired, as very excellent lambs can be secured when crossed with pure-bred mutton rams. At the same time a dense and compact coat of wool is necessary, as such a fleece will usually pay for the keep of the ewe. Moreover, a well fleeced ewe can stand greater changes of climate and endure more hardships.

Yearlings and two-year-olds are the desirable kind, as they have their lives of productiveness before them. Age can be told by the teeth.



Everlasting.

Shorthorn bull which brought \$18,500 at an English sale.

A pure-bred breeding ram of a certain breed should be used consistently in the flock. The pure-bred carries a concentration of characters, which makes it possible for him to impress his form and appearance strongly upon the lamb. Since this is true, it is important that he should be of the mutton type so as to produce lambs of greatest market value. However, it is also important that he have a good fleece if ewes from the lamb flock are to be kept. Such a ram must be symmetrical or evenly developed, wide and deep for his length, or blocky, have well filled thighs, deep, full twist, wide loin, well sprung ribs and a firm even flesh. He should also be active and vigorous, showing bold, brisk, direct movements, a bright, wide-open eye, a broad, heavy nose and expanded nostril, stylish carriage and prominent front. Masculinity is desired, as indicated by the heavy nostrils, wide head, and short, heavy neck. He should be well developed, but not of excessive weight. It is not necessary to have a ram that is a top notcher in the fancy points, but it is imperative that he show the outstanding characteristics of his breed.

See that the burs and burdocks growing along the fences are cut and burned. Not only are burs in the wool or tails of the animals unsightly, but they are a nuisance and require considerable time on the part of the attendant to remove them.

The condition of the sow at time of breeding and during pregnancy greatly influences the size of the litter and the weight and vitality of the pigs. It does not pay to allow the breeding stock to get in too thin a condition; neither should they be too fat. There is a happy medium for best results.

THE FARM.

Losses on Barn-Yard Manure.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

The losses on barn-yard manure are enormous and very many farmers handle their manure so carelessly that you would believe they do not put much value on it. I have seen manure thrown out of the stable through a hole or window in the building and there the rains of heaven pour down on it and leach out the very essence of its strength; and not only that, but the rain that falls on the roof drops down on the manure and the full strength runs down a ditch to the creek and thence to the river and onward to the ocean.

I have often told the farmers of Ontario and Quebec that the farmers in the Maritime Provinces do not need to keep many cows to maintain the fertility of their soil. In many sections, especially around the Bay of Fundy, they have dykes built to keep out the high tides, and when they want to fertilize their land, they can open a gate and allow the salt water that has the overflow of the manure piles from the upper Provinces to come in and lo! it is enriched to a wonderful amount, and they can cut abundant hay for several years and then the operation is repeated. To handle manure without too much loss, I think the better plan is to haul it from the stable, direct to the field in the winter season, but there are times when the snow is gone and the frost coming out of the ground, when it is not practicable to do so. At such times it should be stored under cover to prevent loss. Manured that is stored under cover and the liquid parts saved and thrown over it, has double the value of manure kept out in the open sun and rain. I have seen farmers bore holes in the stable floor to allow the liquid parts to run away when if they had put some kind of litter, such as cut straw, dry leaves, or even saw dust, they would save the most valuable part of the manure.

An old uncle of mine, (this piece of advice for owners of gardens), used to save his potato tops and weeds that had not been put out of business at the proper time, and made a compost heap, adding tops of rhubarb plants, in fact, anything that is about a garden going to waste. On washing days add the dirty water from the

wash tub, soap suds and even chamber lye, and empty this over your waste pile heap; in the fall you will have a load or two of the richest kind of fertilizer, better than you can buy anywhere. Such crops as will surprise you will be raised just from the fertilizer you have been saving up through the summer and fall. This same uncle of mine had one acre of land, in fact it was only an arpent, as it was in a French neighborhood. He planted it with apple trees in 1877 and he also planted between the trees in each row, gooseberries, raspberries and red and black currants. One year he sold no less than \$53 worth of gooseberries.

In the year 1896 there was sold from this acre, 200 barrels of No. 1 apples, \$25 worth of raspberries and \$15 worth of gooseberries. There was a large family and they used all they wanted of vegetables and fruit

all summer. Thirty bushels of potatoes were stored in the cellar and twenty-five bushels of such vegetables as beets, carrots, turnips, onions, etc. Hay was cut twice on the part that had been seeded down and about a ton and a half of corn fodder was stored to feed the cow. There were more than fifty bushels of apples, mostly wind falls and small ones given away, besides at least five barrels of No. 1 fruit stored for winter use. All of the above grew on one arpent of land and never one dollar's worth of fertilizer bought for said plot. The manure from one cow, thirty hens, and the heap of compost was quite sufficient to keep the fertility up to the proper standard.

If farmers would make up their minds to see how much manure they could make in the course of a year and then be sure and protect it from the sun's rays and the rain, by keeping it covered, as well as providing a cement tank or large puncheon to hold the liquid parts so that at least once a month the liquid could be poured over the manure pile, what an abundance of crops would be raised. In olden times the French farmers used to haul their manure out to the river to get rid of it, never dreaming that they would require it to keep the abundant crops growing.

I also hear that many farmers in our Northwest are burning up their straw stacks every fall to get rid of the straw. They should keep a few steers or cattle and use it for bedding and some of it for fodder so as to keep their soil rich, for if it gets run down they will find it difficult to bring it back. A good pile of well rotted manure is like a good bank account, it will make a good return if properly utilized.

I would emphasize the importance of saving the manure, in order to save buying fertilizers, as these days artificial fertilizers, like other things are very high.

Nova Scotia

P. MACFARLANE.