

sold. You have nothing to do but take your money. And if you are not with the hogs he will mail the check to you. He is giving you the benefit of his experience for a nominal charge, which amounts to less than 1 per cent on the transaction.

When a producer sells his own hogs, the buyer has all the advantage. He is posted on the market; he does nothing else but buy day after day and naturally he is in a position to make a better purchase than the producer is a sale. On the other hand, the commission man is on the market regularly. He can gauge the packers' requirements very closely and knows just when to ask a higher price or when to sell on a decline. Open markets are the life of the livestock industry and certainly deserve the support of the producers.

Raise Better Hogs

I want to urge you to raise more and BETTER hogs. Finish them. The average yield of hogs purchased on the Portland market is around 75 per cent. This compares with droves put up by packers on the Middle West markets, which yield 78 to 80 per cent. We get some hogs yielding 78 to 80 per cent, but they are all too few, but it is encouraging to buy them occasionally, as it shows that it can be done here in the Northwest.

We have ideal conditions in the Pacific Northwest for hog raising and should take advantage of these natural resources. It is a source of gratification to note the increased production of hogs during the past five years. This is evidence that the hog is coming into his own in this section of the country.

No Danger of Over-Production

Some producers fear an overproduction of hogs, but this is an impossibility. Consumption is increasing far more rapidly than production. We imported from 75 to 90 per cent of the hogs and hog products used in the Northwest from the Middle West up to two or three years ago; millions of dollars were returned to the Middle West in payment for these products, but there are no hogs being shipped in from the Middle West at present, and receipts of hog products are being steadily reduced. This means a great deal to the Northwest, as the money paid for hogs is returned to the producers here and put into circulation. The markets of the world are now at our door. Since the opening of the Panama Canal it is now possible to ship hog products to the Southern and Atlantic states

and also to Europe; the outlet is unlimited. We can ship hog products from Portland to Charleston, S. C., cheaper than the same products can be shipped from St. Joseph, Mo.

Market Your Hogs Alive

It has been the custom for some producers, especially those in territory adjacent to some of the larger cities of the Northwest, to kill their hogs on the ranch and ship them in dressed to the butchers, or in Portland, to the Front Street commission merchants. If the farmer would only stop to figure, he would readily see that he is losing money by doing this. In warm weather he runs the risk of having the meat sour to such an extent that it is a total or partial loss; then, too, when the market is overstocked with dressed hogs, the butchers and commission men have no facilities for holding or packing them and the price will drop from 50 cents to \$1.50 per cwt. in one day, causing heavy loss to the producer. Declines in the live hog market rarely are over 25 cents per cwt. in one day and the usual decline in price is 5 to 10 cents per cwt.

The Three Essentials

Please remember these three essentials in your endeavor to "top the market": Raise pure-breds, finish your hogs, and ship them alive to the open market.

THE VALUE OF SHEEP ON A SMALL FARM

(By T. H. Lafollette)

Keeping a small flock of sheep on the farm is becoming a more common practice in Central Oregon. There are many very good reasons for this.

Such a flock when well cared for will bring in more cash in return for the feed consumed and labor bestowed on them than the same amount of capital invested in any other kind of live stock. They bring two returns a year, wool in the spring and lambs ready for the market in the fall. Both of these products always find a profitable market. Prices at present are exceptionally high and no doubt will continue to be very good for several years at least. The future outlook for this industry could not be better. The world's sheep stock is greatly reduced. It will require many years of careful breeding to replenish it. The open ranges are going at a rapid rate never to return. The farms must take up this great problem. No doubt they will. The sooner

they realize this the better it will be for the nation.

By far the easiest, cheapest and most effective means of keeping down weed pests is by the use of sheep. They will eat more kinds of weeds than any other live stock and eat them closer. In fact there are but a very few varieties which they will not eat with relish and thrive upon them. This is the best way to keep summer fallow clean and in good condition for next season's crop. Plow early in spring while the ground is yet in good condition to work and harrow down in good shape and when the weeds start turn in the sheep and they will do the job nicely and make you money while they do this work for you. Land treated in this way very seldom "blows" as it so often does when it has been worked all summer with harrow or cultivator in fighting weeds. When most of our farmers adopt this method and our county boards are induced to hire flocks to graze the roads at necessary intervals (which is entirely practical and the cheapest means they can use) the weeds will soon almost entirely disappear and crops will return a much better yield than at present.

To grow sheep on the farm successfully it should be well fenced, preferably with woven wire. Such a fence is a necessity on every well managed farm, no matter what other stock is kept, and while keeping the stock it will also keep out most predatory animals. Coyotes will sometimes dig under but will not often do so if the fence is properly constructed. With a proper increase in the present bounty, the increased interest which will be taken by the small sheep growers and the very effective work now being done by the federal government through its expert hunters, the coyote will cease to be the menace it has been in the past.

Sheep are more easily handled than all the other different kinds of live stock. Children usually take a great interest in them and delight to care for them. Give the boys each an ewe or two and they will soon learn to take good care of the flock for you. It will teach them habits of industry and thrift and cause them to stick closer to the farm.

As a plentiful supply of wholesome meat for the farm there is nothing that equals a flock of sheep. The carcass is just the right size for economical use. There is no meat of better quality for family

use when properly grown, butchered and cared for and a surplus is easily disposed of.

Perhaps, all things considered, the best breed for the farm flock in this country, is one of the several strains of Merinos. If lambs for the market are desired, a mutton ram can be used. The Merino ewe, when rightly bred for, is a splendid mother and takes good care of her lamb. She is gentle and kind and easily kept where desired. She can be depended upon to grow a good fleece. She does not shed her wool in late spring as some of the coarser breeds do. But after all, the breed to be selected should be the one most admired by the prospective flock master. Experience will prove its fitness.

It should be managed to have the lambs come very early in the spring before the usual rush of farm work is on so that good care can be given them. Shelter should be provided and feeding should be liberal at this time. Feeding should be done in racks which can be built cheaply and never on the ground. Salt should be provided in some protected place where it will be kept clean and accessible at all times. Salt in excess when sheep have been deprived of it for a long time, will sometimes kill them. But once they are satisfied, there is no more danger.

A plentiful supply of good clean water is necessary. It should be where they can get at it at any time. Sheep do not require as much as other stock, however, but will not thrive without it. Shade is also essential in hot weather.

Sheep are very fond of all kinds of roots usually grown on the farm, turnips, beets, carrots and potatoes, are all greatly relished and while not absolutely indispensable, it pays well to provide a liberal supply for them. Cabbage also makes a very good feed for sheep. All these feeds can be grown cheaply and in abundance upon a comparatively small amount of ground on most farms. It pays well to grow them for any kind of stock.

Where flocks of considerable size are kept, the available summer pasture on the farm may be insufficient during the hottest months. In such cases two or more flocks can be combined for the summer and sent into the mountains in charge of a herder, keeping at home only a sufficient number to keep down the weeds and supply mutton for the farm. Any surplus sheep will always bring a good price from local

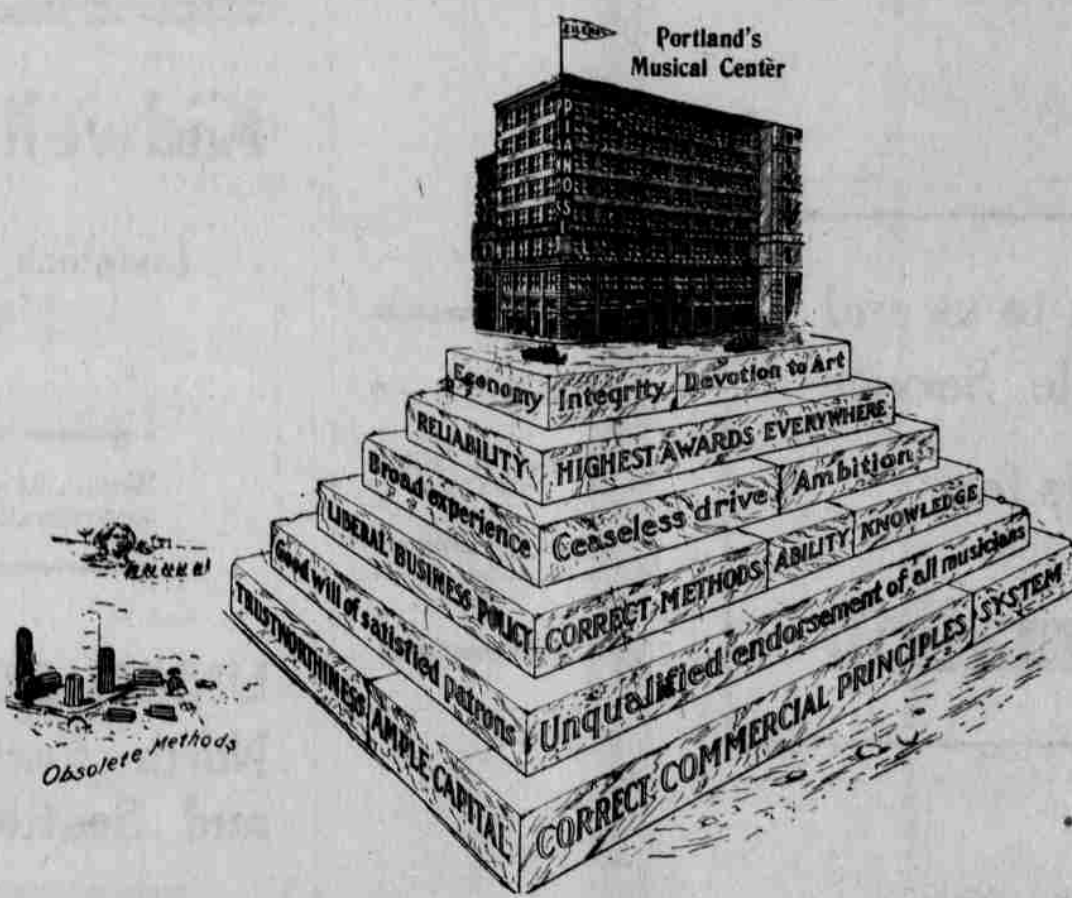
Types of Thoroughbred Stock Advocated For the Farm



butchers before the flocks come out of the mountains in the fall. In some localities outside range help very materially in keeping the flock and enable the farmer to reap the benefit of range which morally belongs to him and not to others. Sheep will glean waste grain from stubble fields closer than any other animal. If not allowed to remain too long when first turned in, there is little danger of loss from founder. A little experience will determine the size of the flock. It does not pay to overstock. A small flock, well kept, is more remunerative than a large one poorly nourished. Great care should be given to the quality of the flock. The selection of the ram is of great importance. A few dollars in price should not be considered when selecting the flock leader. By careful breeding and by proper culling out of light shearing and otherwise undesirable individuals and disposing of them for mutton, a high average of excellence can soon be attained and a flock to be proud of established. When this is done, it is often possible to dispose of breeding stock at advanced prices. Extra copies of this edition of The Journal may be had at 10 cents each. Send one to a friend and help advertise the Prineville country.

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