

### LIVE STOCK THAT PAYS.

IF YOU WANT FINE SPRING LAMBS, HERE IS YOUR SHEEP.

Illustration and Description of the Horned Dorset—Both Sexes Have the Horns. Best Adapted to the Rearing of Early Lambs for Market.

We call the attention of our readers to the Dorset horned sheep, as shown in the illustration. Both rams and ewes are horned. The Dorset belongs to the family of sheep that produce wool of medium length. It is excellent for combing. The wool is soft, white and clean, and weighs on the average about six pounds to the fleece. When the early lambs are marketed the fleeces are sheared off and sold as lambs' wool.

It is not, however, as a wool sheep, but as a spring lamb producer that we commend the Dorset to the attention of breeders. It is only beginning to be known in this country, but the breed has been a noted one in the south of England for generations. It has not yet been sufficiently tried in America to establish its perfect hardiness in the northwest, but in northern New York it has been introduced with the greatest success and good profit.



HORNED DORSET SHEEP.

It is perhaps the most prolific breed of sheep known. For producing winter and spring lambs no ewe has been tried that is equal to the horned Dorset. In England the ewes are bred in April. In September they bring the lambs, which are marketed at Christmas. In this country, so far as they have been tried, the effort has been made to breed the ewes a little later, have the lambs come the first of November and be ready for market in February. No other sheep known has such precocity and vigor as the Dorset. Ewes when bred to Dorsets produce more twin lambs than any others, and often breed twice in a year, thus giving two crops of lambs. A famous flock of 400 ewes owned by Mr. Pitfield, of Bridport, England, produced 555 lambs in a single season.

The Dorset is the breed par excellence for spring lamb raising. Wherever this is profitable try the Dorset. They are hardy and healthy, and in spite of their great horns docile and quiet. At 2 years old they weigh 100 pounds, without being especially fattened. The Dorsets have white legs, with large white faces and black noses and lips. They have a deep, full brisket and long legs which are light of bone. When a cross is made between Dorset and South-down the result is a larger sheep, with a heavier, finer fleece, but not so prolific of lambs.

#### Ventilating the Hens.

Ventilation, properly attended to, is essential to the health of the fowls in winter, and it tends to increase their egg laying. Every hen should have a ventilator, but it should always be closed tight on the approach of cold weather. Many ventilators do more harm than good. The idea is to keep the air circulating only when the weather is warm. During cold weather sufficient ventilation can be given by throwing the doors and windows open in the day time. If impure odors seem to suffocate the inhabitants of the house the one thing useful is a little work in cleaning out the place, and then in distributing some absorbents around. Cold winds and draughts from ventilators cause the death of more fowls than almost anything else in the improved sort of henhouses. Ventilation is essential to the health of the fowls, and, hence, to their egg laying, but it can only be obtained by a little forethought and care. Watch the thermometer, and regulate the air accordingly. It will pay in the end.—Annie C. Webster in American Cultivator.

#### Poultry Hints.

The poultry like a feed of green stuff every day, a head of cabbage to pick at, or a little fine clover hay. Some poultry fanciers save a little rowen clover on purpose for winter food for the hens. Now is the time when a warm mash, of boiled vegetables and meal or bran, is well relished in the morning, and the eggs will be more abundant in consequence. Separate those which are intended as the parents of the next year's stock. The contamination from mixing with inferior stock just before laying begins will last many weeks, and perhaps months, as many a fancier has learned to his cost. Select those that seem as near perfect in form, size and color as can be found, and so mate them as to improve rather than deteriorate. Select those that are good, free layers, if you would raise pullets that will lay well another year.—American Cultivator.

#### Mutton Eaters.

The rapid increase in the consumption of mutton in the United States is considered worthy of especial note in the annual report of the department of agriculture for the current year. The secretary for agriculture observes that a canvass of the principal cities of the country would evidently show that the consumption of mutton has doubled in thirteen years, that is between 1875 and 1888, being a rate of increase twice as rapid as the advance of population. He adds that "the healthfulness of mutton, its suitability for summer use in warm climates and its growing popularity as highly fed animals of the best mutton breeds become more common in our markets, contribute to the rapidly enlarging demand," and he considers that "this branch of sheep raising should receive greater attention."

### COMPOSTING MANURES.

Composting Versus Drawing Out Manure as Fast as Made.

The idea is becoming prevalent that composting is of little benefit, and that the cheaper method of drawing out the manure as fast as made and spreading it on the land is nearly as good. It is argued that the manure must ferment some time, and in the soil there is little chance for its fertilizing properties to escape. But, says American Cultivator, we suspect that the fact of the new method saving labor is with many the most important consideration.

It is not doubted that composting manure makes it more immediately available. It does not add to the benefit that the manure ultimately gives, but if the compost heap is properly protected it need not detract from it. Assuming that the same quantity of manure will ultimately in either case put an equal amount of plant food in the soil, there is still a great advantage in having it ready for use early in the season. Excepting winter wheat and rye, no farm crops are sown late in the season, and even these make only a small part of their growth in the fall. If manure is applied late in spring unfermented it is often past mid-summer before the crop gets full benefit from it. Corn ground, cultivated often, may be helped by the 1st of July, but small spring grains, on ground covered in spring with wholly unfermented manure, rarely receive much benefit.

Stable manure is never drawn out wholly unfermented. It has to be gathered into heaps for greater convenience in handling, and thus gathered fermentation, especially with horse manure, begins quickly and progresses rapidly. It is for this reason in great part that horse manure is generally reckoned worth more than that from cows. It is somewhat soluble before being applied. Pile the cow manure in heaps a few days, give it equal fermentation, and if the cows have been fed as well as the horses their manure ought to be equally valuable.

We believe farmers would find it to their interest to pile up all manure at least a few days, and especially in winter, before drawing it to the fields. Of course the heaps thus piled up should be protected from rains and snow, and should also be covered with loam or other absorbent to prevent evaporation. In such condition they might be left a month or more without loss by evaporation. The extra labor in piling up the manure is partly offset by the lessened amount to be drawn, and its finer condition, which enables it to be more evenly distributed, and by its greater availability.

It is somewhat strange that this principle has not been more generally recognized. Farmers pay large amounts of money for commercial manures, mainly because they are immediately available and easily distributed. If they put more labor in composting their own home-made stable manure, a part at least of this expense would not be needed. The farmer might himself compost the manure, and if he purchased commercial fertilizers, mix both, and thus get double the immediate benefit from manuring that he does now.

#### The Use of Comb Foundation.

Beginners who are not familiar with the use of comb foundation will find help in the following advice given by A. I. Root, recognized authority on all matters pertaining to apiculture, in his bee and honey manual for 1891. He says: I think there is little question that it pays to use foundation in full sheets in the brood frames and sections, especially the latter. If you think you cannot afford so much you should at least have a strip for a starter. It will help much more than it costs in getting straight, even combs. You can use a starter any width from one inch up. Heavy, medium and light brood foundation is used only in brood frames, thin and extra thin only in surplus boxes.

For frames without wire, and those deeper than L frames, heavy or medium brood should be used. Never use light brood in full sheets without wire, and even with wire medium brood is much more satisfactory. Light brood costs less per square foot, but is very liable to sag without wire and to wrinkle when wire is used.

If you use only a starter in section boxes thin foundation is best; if full starters are used extra thin will be better, as it is not so perceptible in the honey when finished, and does not make what has been called "fishbone" in comb honey, it being so thin some have trouble with the bees tearing it down, and therefore they prefer to use thin. For the person who is not sure what he wants we advise medium brood for use in brood frames and thin surplus for sections.

#### Profits of Sheep Raising.

Aside from the usual profit of sheep raising, the farmer who judiciously pastures them over his land for a number of seasons will have the finest and most productive lands known to agriculture. In this manner a further and more staple source of profit may be secured than from any other class of stock. Sheep require frequent change of pasturage, and good range for them is always compensated for by an increase of vigor and growth. Do not keep your sheep confined, and in herding allow them to scatter about as much as possible at their will.

#### Agricultural Notes.

The smart man will cut clover hay and mix corn and bran with it for his hogs. The next smartest man will give his hogs ensilage and bran with some linseed meal mixed in.

If a farmer who grows beans has no sheep he can soon teach the cows to eat bean fodder.

It is the freezing and thawing that is injurious to pansies and strawberries. Cover them to prevent this.

When the hens are slow to lay, one of the best invigorators is a mess of lean meat twice or three times a week. About an ounce for each hen is sufficient at a meal.

### FREIGHT CONDENSERS.

WHAT THE ADVANCED FARMER RAISES LIVE STOCK FOR.

Farmers with Grass and Grain to Market Prefer to Get the Goods in a Shape Where It Can Walk Off of Itself—Shall It Be Horses or Steers?

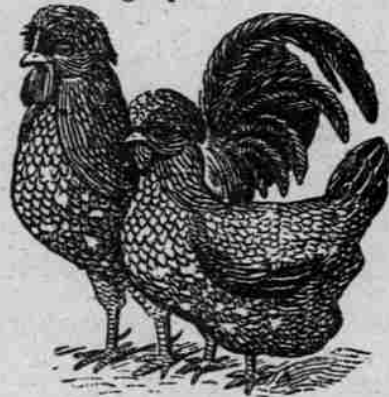
Advanced farmers in the west use the farm's animals merely as freight condensers. They have a large amount of grains, grasses and hay for which they must seek a distant market, and they prefer the animal which will carry these products to market with the greatest profit. With some farmers the hog is preferred for grains, the steer for grasses, while others prefer the sheep, still others the horse, while ordinarily a combination of these with the corn is required to serve the purpose of the farmer.

There has been no little discussion as to the difference between the capacity of the horse and the steer to make a profitable use of food. The horse, pound for pound, sells for about two and a half times as much as the steer, but the first cost is relatively much larger. Given both as weanlings there is probably very little difference between the cost of the pounds added—that difference is in the conditions and circumstances of the farmer, rather than in the animals themselves. With winter blue grass pastures north of the winter mud line we are satisfied that a pound of horse-flesh can be made cheaper than a pound of beef. German experiments seem to show that the steer digests coarse food a trifle better than the horse, while French and American experiments lead to about the same results.

Whether, therefore, the horse or the steer should be preferred depends on considerations other than those of the cost of making the pounds. These are liability to damage from accidents, the character of the farm as to its adaptation to grain or grass, the individual tastes of the owner, the quality of brood mares or colts available for purchase, and other matters of like character.—Homestead.

#### Fancy Poultry.

The chicken breeder who has got far enough along in his business to gratify his eye for the picturesque cannot do better than to go in for fancy fowl raising to some extent. But he should do it cautiously, and even here with an eye to ultimate profit. At the country places of wealthy people fancy fowls are in demand. They look handsome and striking about the grounds. Rich people are increasing in the United States every year, and more of them are wanting country places, therefore the careful breeder of poultry novelties may be tolerably sure of a market for them if he lives in the right place.



HOUDANS.

One of the most picturesque breeds of fancy chickens is the Houdan, a French fowl. The Houdans are black and white penciled birds, with splendid crests or topknots. They are bearded about the throat, and are altogether odd and attractive. They are very good layers, too, producing fine large eggs, but the hens are not inclined to the sitting and hatching business, and it will be well to let some of the common hens mother the chicks, or stepmother them, according as one regards the hen that lays or the hen that hatches the egg as the mother of the chick. The Houdans come naturally from a warmer climate than our northern states, therefore they must have warm, dry quarters in winter. Their flesh is excellent eating. Like the Dorking, they have a fifth toe.

The Japanese bantam is another odd and pretty fowl. It comes black and white. In rearing bantams the object is to make them as small as possible, and the chicks of a little Japanese bantam hen look scarcely larger than young birds.



JAPANESE BANTAMS.

A pair of these quaint and attractive little creatures is shown in the illustration. They are popular as pet chickens. If you want to keep them very small indeed, hatch them in the fall, so as to stunt their growth by the cold weather. The flesh of the bantam is excellent, though there is not much of it, and bantam eggs are considered the finest flavored of any for table use.

#### Points of Interest.

Gather eggs twice a day during freezing weather.

For breeders, select the pigs from old sows. They will be longer bodied and have stronger bones. For pigs to market, and mature early, however, young sows' offspring will fill the bill.

Dr. Koch's lymph has been tried on cows with lung disease, and been found to work as well with them as with human beings.

Many a well to do farmer got his land paid for by raising hogs. In suitable localities no better paying stock can be kept.

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