

Stock.

STOCK NOTES.

A good appetite is a good point in any animal. It won't pay to keep over light pigs to fatten a year later unless you provide a warm pen.

Merinos need more coarse fodder in proportion to grain than the mutton breeds do.

An animal shivering from cold and wet is a distressing sight. How do you feel when you shiver? Much of such suffering could be prevented by a little forethought and fore action.

The greatest value of the prepotent power of the Jersey when crossed with the native cow, lies in the effect it has in enriching the milk of the offspring. While it may shorten the supply of milk it enriches it very materially. There is no better cow for a hard-working commercial dairy than a half-blood Jersey.

Movable pig pens are very desirable, and used profitably in many orchards, especially when sows have young pigs which it is found desirable to keep separate from others. They may be moved to fresh soil every few days, and almost any handy man can build a pen with bolts and fastenings to hold it together.

Whatever you give your hogs—and they are expected to devour all kinds of refuse—be sure it is clean and not putrid. The finishing off, when fattening, should be with the sweetest and nicest food that is ever given to hogs. Cornmeal and the refuse of the dairy are good. Good, sweet, wholesome pork, is the product of cleanliness and sound, clean food.

A wiping of straw removes the roughest of the dirt loosened from the horse by the currycomb. The legs ought to be thoroughly wiped. The brush is then to be used to remove the remaining and finer portions of dust from the hair, which is cleared from the brush by a few rasps along the currycomb, and the mane and tail must be combed. The skin of the farm horse should be at all times be clean if not sleek, and a slap of the hand upon the horse will show if there is loose dust in the hair. The currycomb should not be used below the knees, as it is apt to cause injury. For cleaning legs and feet, nothing is better than the water-brush.

Improvements in Cattle-Raising.

The proper shelter and protection of cattle from cold and storm are yearly attracting more attention. Even the range cattle men are beginning to seriously consider the subject, and some have already provided winter shelter. Water and feed in time of draught are also important factors. Many dollars have been lost this season for want of them. To guard against this hot-weather calamity, in many localities on the ranges tame grasses are being cultivated and wells sunk. So far as possible some such course as this will have to be adopted everywhere. Better shelter in winter, with better feed and plenty of water in summer, will make better beef and more of it. It will bring the range beef nearer to the quality of the stalled beef of the states, where warm quarters are furnished in winter and there is no lack of grass and water in the summer. By arranging the conditions so that everything will be more at his command, better stock will result, not only from the improved conditions, but from the systematic use of blooded bulls. Improved quality will command higher prices, and more weight will result from the better conditions of growth. There will be no dry period in summer or cold period in winter to shrink and stunt the growing animal. The transportation of valuable stock will cost no more than that of inferior stock. All the changes will be for the better, the free and easy methods that have prevailed in the past giving place to the better ones forced upon the cattle men by increased competition and the restriction of the privileges of a free range.—Live Stock Journal.

Judging Cattle at Fairs.

Our present mode of judging cattle at fairs gives very little satisfaction and less instruction to the spectators. To see a lot of cattle belonging to the same class led into the ring and silently examined by three men, who finally put a blue ribbon on one, a red one on another, and a white one on a third, without saying a word, is not a very imposing or edifying sight. The enlightenment growing out of the operation is not apparent. This is especially the case when the judgment of the specta-

tors does not correspond with that of the judges. The question involuntarily springs up in every mind: "Why did they put the blue ribbon on this one, instead of that?" And the questioning goes around and on, but no answer comes to the questioning. The judges are probably right, if they know their business, and the spectators wrong. But all would like to know on what grounds the awards were made, and wherein the opinions of the lookers-on are wrong. A satisfactory answer would not only be gratifying, but educational. Why can it not be given? Why can it not be announced in the list at what hours the several classes will be judged, and why cannot a competent person be employed, and, of course, well paid for his time and labor, to give something like an off-hand lecture on the group of animals, and on the individuals in particular, pointing out the merits and defects in clear and comprehensive language? Here would be ocular and verbal teaching combined, and everybody must of necessity be interested and instructed. We should very much like to witness such a system of judging and to listen to the words of the speaker, illustrated as they would be by the presence of the animals. We throw out the hint to our fair managers, and hope something of the kind may be adopted, even at this year's fairs.—Stock Journal.

Teaching Colts.

We have read considerable discussion of the subject of how to teach a colt to stand. The proper way to teach colts anything is to begin when they are very young, and can readily be handled. It is a mistake to let a colt get to be two or three years old, as is often the case, before putting a halter on it and teaching it to stand, as well as lead. We have seen a strong rope halter, with the headstall made of the same rope, put on a two-year-old colt and the colt hitched to a tree or post, and left for half a day or more, to pull and tire itself out. It made its head sore, and almost pulled its neck out of joint. We doubt not, if the colt could have spoken, it would have complained the next day of feeling sore all over and generally sick. The exercise it went through was severe and cruel, but it used to be thought the proper thing for the colt. It is to be hoped that better thoughts very generally prevail now, and colts are taken when they are young, docile, and easily handled by man, and given instruction in whatever may be required of them. It is not difficult to teach a young colt to be gentle, obedient, and even affectionate, by proper handling. It should early be taught to lead, to stand, to have its feet taken up, and to have pieces of harness, or almost anything else, put on it.—National Live Stock Journal.

Improvement of Stock.

A distinguished breeder of Jerseys declares it as his belief that if during the past twenty years nine-tenths of the Jersey breeders had kept at the herds only bulls from cows producing fourteen pounds and over of butter per week, the average butter yield would have been increased from 33 to 50 per cent. Undoubtedly a great deal would have been accomplished in this way; and the average yield of Jersey cows brought nearer to the splendid achievements of the best specimens. This valuable breed cannot fail to be greatly improved from the general disposition now prevailing to select sires with special reference to what has been accomplished in the way of butter production. The line is a safe one to follow, and breeders should be encouraged in every way to adhere to it as closely as possible. With her average product increased to the point which the performance of individuals seems to render probable, the pre-eminence of the Jersey cow as a butter producer would lead to a large and most gratifying extension of the breed.—Breeder's Gazette.

The Care of Horses' Legs.

Much trouble results from the improper treatment of horses' legs when coming in from the road wet and muddy. The part next the hoof carries no flesh, and nothing beyond the skin serves to protect the blood vessels and delicate nerves and tendons upon which the healthy movement and condition of these important parts depend, and sudden changes of temperature, or a prolonged coolness greater than the other parts of the body, is apt to work harm. Too many people wash off the legs under such circumstances as soon as the horse comes in, but it is only among the better informed horsemen that any care is taken to bandage the wet limbs until well dried and the normal temperature fully restored. Con-

cerning this important matter Prof. Brown, contributing a series of articles to the Mark Lane Express on the "Veterinary treatment of Farm Animals," writes as follows:

Ordinarily, horses on returning from work have their legs, and probably a portion of their bodies, scraped and washed. The subsequent process of drying, if attempted at all, is imperfectly performed, and the surface of the skin is left moist and cold until the natural heat of the body causes the evaporation of the moisture at the cost of a large expenditure of heat. Considerable disturbance of the function of the skin may be traced to the effects of the evaporation. The occurrence of mud fever and the different forms of disease which have been mentioned is thus explained.

A happy inspiration induced some one to adopt the expedient of leaving the wet mud on the legs of the horse returned from work, to form a protective covering while the drying process was proceeding. On the following morning the dried mud was brushed off without difficulty, and forthwith "chapped heels," "mud fever," and "grease" ceased to appear in the stables where this plan was adopted.

Further experience has shown that if mud can be washed off at once by driving the animal into a pond, and then continuing the journey home, no harm results. The mischief is done by washing, especially if warm water is used, when the animal has arrived home and is to remain stationary for the night in the stable.

In the case of hunters it is considered advisable to wrap the muddy legs in flannel bandages; haybands will form an effective substitute in the case of the farm horse, but the essential thing is to refrain from any washing or attempt to remove the mud till it is dry enough to be brushed off.

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