

Stock.

STOCK NOTES.

If early lambs are desired the rams and ewes should be mated at this season, and as the difference in the price of an early and late lamb is very great the profit depends upon when the ewes lamb and on the care bestowed.

If when young sheep are shedding their teeth they look poor and ailing, separate them awhile from the rest of the flock and pamper them a little with extra food easily eaten. They will soon regain their wonted appearance.

With the use of bulls of the beef-producing breeds steers are now raised that reach nearly 800 pounds when one year old, and this shows the value of the breeds, the best results being obtained from choice grades and liberal feeding.

In shearing sheep speed is secondary in importance to a number of considerations, such as evenness of work, absence of double cutting, injury to sheep, tearing and mixing portions of fleeces, and for worry and fatigue of both workmen and sheep.

To know the right combinations of grass, grain and other feeds available for hogs in any given locality, and to be able to use them rightly in connection with fresh air, pure water and healthful exercise are points in hog-raising well worthy of careful study.

The Rural World advises shepherds, when the lambs are separated from their dams to be weaned, to examine the ewes' bags daily for a few days and milk away a part of the milk if the udder is full. If the milk flow continues feed on dry hay for a few days.

No two sows should be allowed to farrow in the same place, as they irritate one another and sometimes in their heat and anger devour the young pigs, which swinish cannibalism once indulged in is apt to become a habit from which only the butcher can cure them.

Some of the large mutton breeds of sheep, such as the Oxfords, often shear from twelve to twenty pounds of wool; and this fact, with their ability to attain very heavy weights, should be strong inducement to farmers to use rams of that breed for crossing on the native ewes.

Lambs fed on cow's milk are very apt to get constipated, the stomach becomes distended and hard, the eyes dull and the urine scant. The brain seems oppressed and the lamb lies down much of the time. Gentle cathartics must be given at once, or injections of oil or melted lard.

A few still hold to the idea that sheep need no water; therefore, when it is hard to obtain everything else will be attended to before supplying them, and then make them do on half rations or less. This is cruel, to say the least of it, and shows absurd and wicked ignorance of the commonest requirements of all animal life.

The National Live Stock Journal says if one sets about building up a herd for slaughter there are points he need not be over nice about. Prominent among these is color. The shipper or butcher will buy a good white steer as quick as though he were of any other color, while the breeder recognizes no merit as sufficient to warrant the use of a white bull in his herd.

The practical benefit to be derived from raising good stock depends, among other things, upon the treatment at its owner's hands. Blood and breeding and rare natural capacity are powerless to contribute to successful stock-raising unless accompanied by the co-operation of humane thoughtfulness, intelligent management and regular care. Merit is not proof against neglect, starvation and abuse.

Common Sense about Feeding Horses

If owners and drivers of horses were all posted on the subject of foods and how they should be fed, horses and other working stock would fare better than they do. It is not generally known, although constantly presented through agricultural papers during the last few years, that carbonaceous foods furnish only heat and motion, while the nitrogenous foods are, and many do not even know the definitions of the terms, nor of others that are used as synonyms. But if these facts were known, common sense would teach owners of horses that fast going and hard work require frequent feeding of concentrated food—not so concentrated as to pack in the stomach, but with just enough coarse material to keep the food loose, so that the gastric juice may penetrate and dissolve it. Corn is a concentrated food, but it is not the right kind; it is too carbonaceous, furnishing heat and motion, but a small amount of muscle material and force. Hay and grass are too bulky, and the horse cannot eat enough to get sufficient nourishment when worked hard or driven hard. Oats come the nearest to the nearest to the filling of all requisites of a complete food; yet, if they are crushed, the addition of a little pea-meal would be an improvement in cases where extra exertion is demanded. But it should be borne in mind that the more violent the exertion, the sooner the food is used up and the system exhausted; and as the horse has a very small stomach in proportion to his body, it will be seen that it must need frequent filling when he does extra duty; indeed, it needs filling oftener than it generally is filled under ordinary circumstances. The writer has often heard it asserted that it does no good to feed a horse extra when it has done extra work. As well say the owner does not require extra food when exhausted from hard work. Surely a man taking much physical exercise needs more food than one taking none. The same is true of the horse.—Live Stock Journal.

Not Size Alone. Size is a good thing in a beef animal, if it is not at the sacrifice of quality. A great, slab-sided, raw-boned, and tubby animal may not contain as much meat in its carcass as one several sizes smaller, but holding less offal, and snugger and smoother built. Something never comes of nothing. The coarse, large-boned frame, long legs, immense horns, and coarse, shaggy hair are all made of something. That something was contained in the food which the animal ate. These abnormal developments not only represent the food of which they were made, but also the vital energy that made them. Both the food and vital energy have run to waste in them. Cattle of this sort of make, no matter what their size, are unprofitable to breed and raise. The snug, compact form, straight, and smooth outlines, fine bones, thin, soft coat of hair, small head, short limbs, and short horns, are all commendable features, and to be taken into account before and in preference to size. If to these size is added, so much the better. It is an advantage, for it indicates a larger amount of valuable material; whereas size and weight made up by offal is of no value at all, unless the offal can be worked up into some sort of side product. It has no value in a beef-producing point of view. These economical points of small waste ought to be conspicuous in the bull or bulls of the herd. Whatever the character of the cows, the good qualities in the bull can not be dispensed with without material loss. As a man sows, he reaps. As is the bull he breeds from, so will be his future herd. Quality first and size afterward.—National Live Stock Journal.

Color in Horses. Black horses are of a hot and fiery temper and disposition; the chestnut and brown bay are reckoned to have strength and spirit, and the white are always tender. As to gray, it has always been observed that those which tend the most to black are stronger than the brighter grays. There are besides these other colors in horses, such as the roan, which seems to be the offspring of the bay and white or the bay and gray. The sorrel and white seem to be the author of the dun and cream color, and as for those horses which are called strawberry, they may probably proceed from a coupling between a bright gray and a bay. There are also some horses mottled or red (commonly called piebald), either black and white in spots or chestnut and white. As to the choice of color in a stallion, a person of great skill says the dapple bay; the white bay and the dapple gray are to be preferred, but does not object to a horse of pure black, provided it has a white star and a white foot. In the judgment of others, however, he should be all of one color.—Ex.

Breed for Something. If you have made up your mind to raise a colt, breed for some object. You cannot expect a plug mare and a plug horse to breed a colt of much value for anything. If your mare is worth breeding at all, she can be bred for the production of a colt adapted to some use or purpose. It may be a farm horse, a draft horse, a carriage horse, a trotting horse, or a running horse; in short, a horse adapted to some special use. Whatever the mare may be fit for breeding, or give promise of breeding, see that the horse is the kind desired. There is no good reason why every farmer may not use a mare, team or teams, and breed them regularly, making the production of the colts one of the profits of the farm. If mares are kept and bred, an extra number may be kept with profit, and the time of their foaling may be so regulated as to not seriously interfere with the work of the farm. If two or more spans are kept, their breeding may be so arranged as to give at least one good team at all seasons of the year when farm work presses. They should be so broken as to work together that any two of them may be used as a span, and there should be enough of them so that any or more of them need not at any time be overworked. Moderate work is rather a benefit than an injury to a mare carrying a colt, up to within a few weeks of foaling. Indeed, a little exercise is of advantage up to within a very few days of that time. But of course discretion must be used, and overheating must be avoided. More teams carefully used and bred, ought to be more common on the farm.—Live Stock Journal.

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