

## DEHORNING OF CATTLE.

In a report of the bureau of animal industry Richard W. Hickman, V. M. D., chief of the quarantine division, says of dehorning cattle:

The dehorning of partly developed and adult cattle can be very satisfactorily performed without other apparatus or instruments than a good, strong clothesline and a clean, sharp meat saw or a miter saw with a rigid back in the hands of a fairly good mechanic. The same simple means for controlling the animal are just as applicable when the dehorning knife is to be used as when the horns are to be removed with the saw. This consists in securing the head of the animal to the horizontal rail or stringpiece which holds the upper ends of the stanchion boards. The animal is put to the stanchion in the usual manner. Then one end of a heavy clothesline is passed around the upper part of the neck and tied in a knot that will not slip; otherwise it will choke the animal. The free end of the rope is now carried between the horns, through the stanchion, to the front, up and over the horizontal stanchion rail, then down underneath the neck and up and over the top of the stanchion rail to an assistant, who should hold it firmly. Now release the stanchion, allowing the animal to withdraw its head, so that the horns are just inside of the stanchion rail or stringpiece. Then, keeping the rope tight, pass it once around the muzzle, up and over the stanchion rail and through to the front again to the hands of the assistant, who should stand three or four feet in front of the animal and hold the rope firmly, but prepared to release it when told to do so by the operator. The animal is now ready for the dehorning operation.

It is necessary that the rope be held by an assistant, as in the event of the animal struggling during the operation so as to throw itself off its feet, or if there appears to be danger of its choking, the rope may be slackened promptly at the word of the operator and the animal partly released. This, however, is rarely necessary, for as soon as the head is secured the operator should be ready, standing at the right shoulder of the animal with his saw, and proceed to saw off first the right and then the left horn. The horns should be severed at a point from a quarter to a half an inch below where the skin joins the base of the horn, cutting from the back toward the front. The illus-



DEHORNING WITH SAW.

tration shows the animal and the operator in position for the dehorning operation by this method. It is a good plan before commencing the real work to experiment upon an animal in the matter of control by snubbing the head to the stanchion rail as described.

If the stanchion rail is too wide to permit of properly securing the lower part as well as the upper part of the animal's head, the turn of the rope around the muzzle may be omitted and the last lap of the rope carried around the stanchion rail to the front and to the hands of the assistant. The rope should pass each time over the neck of the animal to the stanchion rail, so that the laps are between the horns, in order that the rope may not interfere with the work of the saw.

It is not usual to apply any preparation after the operation of dehorning to prevent bleeding, as the loss of blood is not sufficient, as a rule, to be of consequence. Care should be taken, however, to prevent substances from getting into the openings left after the horns are removed. The horn cores are elongations of the frontal bones of the skull and are hollow. They communicate with the frontal sinuses, or air spaces, of the head. Therefore substances which would act as an irritant in these cavities are apt to set up an inflammation, resulting in the formation of pus or an abscess, which may prove quite serious. Fragments of horn detached in the process of dehorning would serve as such irritant and by their presence in these cavities cause inflammation.

If the animals are dehorned when the flies are about, it is well to apply some pine tar with a view to keeping the flies from the wounds. Some operators do this in nearly all cases, thinking that it facilitates healing. The dehorning operation should always when possible be performed in cool weather and upon animals which have at least attained the age of two years.

Inquiries are frequently received as to whether the operation is painful and whether it may not be classed as cruelty to animals. Those who have had extensive experience in dehorning appear to agree that the pain induced by the operation has been greatly over-estimated, as careful observation has shown that shrinkage in the milk yield following the dehorning of cows as well as the decrease in the butter fat yield are very temporary and insignificant. On the other hand, the worry, pain and cruelty often inflicted by cattle upon their mates before being dehorned of their horns is much more to be considered.

## RAMBOUILLET SHEEP.

A Breed That Stands High Among the Wool Producers.

A breed of sheep that during the last twenty years has come to the front in this country is the Rambouillet, a French breed, that is by many classed with the Merino. It is the largest of the fine wool sheep and comes close to being a general purpose animal.

The appearance of the head is characteristic, being covered with a dense growth of wool extending over the face and around the eyes. The body is deep and well fleshed, and the chest is deep. The neck is rather thick, but comparatively free from wrinkly folds. Ears are short and silky, legs short



WORLD'S CHAMPION RAMBOUILLET.

and straight. Yield of fleece is very heavy because of its thickness and combination of length and fineness. It is bright and lustrous and in a good specimen is of even quality.

As compared with the Spanish Merino, the Rambouillet is considered a better mutton form, with more weight and quality of fleece and greater hardiness. Many of the American flocks were started from German sources, some of the best types of the breed having been developed in the northern part of that country. The first importations were known as the French Merinos, but the present name has been generally adopted during the past twenty years.

As a mutton producer the breed ranks fairly well, although not maturing so quickly as some breeds and producing a coarser mutton than some others. Yet it matures fairly early and produces a salable class of mutton, probably superior to any other of the Merino breeds. At the international stock show the Rambouillet mutton was priced at \$5 per hundred, live weight, compared with \$5.75 for the Southdown.

The ram shown in the illustration was sold in South Africa in 1907 for \$1,000 and later in Argentina for \$1,600. It weighed 300 pounds, wool 37½ pounds. It was raised by Thomas Wyckoff of Michigan, who pronounced the breed "the greatest mutton and wool sheep on earth."

### Feeding the Calf.

The aim in calf feeding should always be to prevent scours, and this is one of the things which should be watched closely. This ailment in skim-milk calves is the result of indigestion brought on, as a rule, by overfeeding, but also by feeding skim milk in poor condition and from dirty pails. Every feeder of skim milk to calves must sooner or later learn this lesson. He must learn that if the calf has scours the feeder is not doing his work right. In the case of scours reform your system of feeding instead of purchasing the many remedies advertised, and in dairy farming one of the important qualifications is the learning not only of making but of saving money. There are numerous and most excellent home remedies for scours, and I do not venture a recommendation. In our experience of rearing several hundred pure bred calves we have not had to exceed a dozen cases of scours, and these were in our early experience. One or two raw eggs broken into a calf's mouth have cured such cases.—T. A. Borman at Missouri State Dairy Association.

### Points For the Shepherd.

Oats, wheat bran, linseed meal, clover hay and roots are the best foods for breeding ewes.

No young animal will attain to as good results as the one liberally fed. This applies to lambs as well as other animals.

Sheep are dainty feeders. They will not eat hay that other creatures have munched over. They refuse grain taken from a ratty crib.

An excellent plan in handling sheep is to provide well protected yards into which they may be turned on fine days and have a shed for the stormy, blustery weather.

Put the unthrifty appearing ewes by themselves and give a little extra feed. Perhaps they are suffering from the greed of the boss in the flock and are not getting a full ration.

### Damp Stables.

Damp stables are caused by a lack of sufficient circulation of air to take up the moisture. When the barber wishes to dry your face quickly he uses a fan to circulate the air about your face and thus take up the moisture. Every cow is throwing off from seven to ten pounds of water every twenty-four hours. It will condense on cold walls unless sufficient fresh air is circulated through the stable and often enough to dry it up. There is no other way to take up this moisture or prevent it. In regard to the temperature of a stable, keep it at 50 to 55 degrees. But in all these things a stable must be properly ventilated.

### Variation in Milk Flow.

It was found at the Nebraska experiment station that, as a rule, the variation in milk flow in individual cows from year to year was due to length of lactation and rest before freshening. A long lactation period favors a large milk production; also a long period of rest before freshening brings the same result.

## Notice to Mariners.

Capt. Holmes of the Am. S. S. "Roscrans" reports by wireless to the B. H. O. that on March 22, 1909 in Lat. 33 48' N. Long. 123° W. he sighted a spar painted red standing about 12 feet out of water.

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