

RED POLLS IN TEXAS

During the past three years, according to the Texas Farm and Ranch, there have been shipped into Texas from the north something like 500 head of registered Red Polled cattle. These cattle have been selected almost entirely with a view of their excellence for beef production, but as Red Polled cattle, like Shorthorns, have in many places, both in England and the eastern portions of the United States and in some particular herds in the west, been bred for the dual purpose of beef and milk and as Texas buyers of improved stock have not been entirely informed as to the different qualities of these cattle in some instances, Red Polled cattle have been bought and brought to Texas whose pedigree, if understood by the buyer, would have

disclosed the fact that they were bred along dairy lines rather than for beef. This breed of cattle seems to have given marked satisfaction in reference to their capacity for producing milk under the changing conditions necessarily experienced in coming from the blue grass pastures and stall fed winter quarters of the north to the open ranges of the Lone Star State.

The exhibition of a few of these cattle at the state fair last year and the very creditable exhibit made at the San Antonio International fair by both Texas and northern exhibitors have created, together with the sales of this class of stock and the advertisements in the agricultural papers, quite a demand for Red Polled cattle, and the influx of Poland and Poland in the interest of the cattlemen of the state, are pleased to say that the continued exhibition of these cattle will no doubt in the future be encouraged. In this day of the claimed creation of so many new breeds the selection of improved stock should be a matter of careful consideration and investigation, and as cattle are best brought from the north to Texas during the fall and winter months, it may not be inopportune at this time to say that persons contemplating the purchase of Red Polled cattle might profitably employ the same month in correspondence with different breeders in the north with reference to what they have on hand, for what purposes they have been breeding their cattle and all of the questions incidental to the purchase of this class of stock.

Not the least among these questions, in view of recent experiences with cattle above the quarantine line, the question of inoculation against Texas fever is one that should be considered by new purchasers. Dr. M. Francis of College Station, Tex., has had a wide experience in this matter and in recent utterances has expressed his conviction not only that inoculation will prevent any material loss in importing stock, but has said that the proper method of inoculation where persons buy enough cattle to make it worth while to have the work done after the cattle come to Texas and at the home of the owner of them, so that not only may the inoculation be conducted in the immediate presence of the owner, but that the care and treatment of the cattle may be at a place and time where the experience of such a man as Dr. Francis may be available to the owner of the cattle inoculated and that the advice and direction as to their care may be had at the time and by personal conversation between the owner and the veterinarian who does the work.

Stock Raising For Young Farmers.
Young men who are just starting in the business of farming should make up their minds as to what kind of stock they will handle and should secure the best of the kind that can be obtained for by so doing they are laying the foundation for a fortune later on. There is no money to be made in raising scrub stock, says a correspondent of The Prairie Farmer. Suppose one man feeds a bunch of common steers and another a bunch of high grades. It will take the same amount of feed and perhaps more for the scrub lot to prepare the animals for market; then when they are sold the market will be from 50 cents to \$1 higher in favor of the high grade cattle, and the owner of the scrub lot has lost just that much, for the labor and expense of raising the two lots have been the same. Nor is that all. The man who is satisfied to handle poor stock never has anything that will bring a higher price than a fancy price for from the fact that his cattle never attract any attention. The cattle I would advise the young farmer to handle would be the Shorthorn. They are not only beef cattle, but they are fair milkers and average butter makers. Their faces are an honest one attractive to the eye of a buyer. But they must be well taken care of. They must be provided with good shelter and not allowed to run out in the stalkfields all winter. They must be fed well so as to keep them in good condition.

Milk For Lambs.
There is a considerable difference between the milks of various animals, remarks The Sheep Breeder. This varies from 2 to 12 per cent. The cow gives the poorest quality of milk of any milking animal, the average quality being under 4 per cent. The whole gives the richest, its milk having as much as 18 per cent fat. The milk of the elephant comes next, that of the guinea next with 8 or 10 per cent of fat and the sheep's milk has an average of 6 per cent. Thus in the choice of a cow as foster mother for the lambs which for various reasons may need her services a Guernsey cow is to be chosen, her milk having an average of over 5 per cent of fat in it. But lambs may be reared successfully, although they will not get so fat on the milk of any ordinary cow of the pure Jersey breed or crossbred. The thing, however, to consider is how to save the lambs and not to get how to make them fat. When fall growth is wanted the early and regular feeding of a ration of bran, cornmeal and cottonseed meal finely ground together in equal proportions and fed in a trough kept in a creep in which they can gain access while the ewes cannot, with the continuance of the fresh milk to the

abandoned lambs, will bring them up successfully. It is easy to rear such lambs in this way to a weight of 50 pounds alive when 90 days old and add three-quarters of a pound of dry live weight after that until they are fit for market. There is no boom in sheep. The vast increase in value of stocks is the legitimate and unavoidable result of natural causes and hence must be permanent. The rapid growth of population and still more the increased favor for wool, makes it a staple food item for fully 50 per cent increase in the production of mutton, and as this needs time there is an absolute certainty the present satisfactory condition of the markets for both mutton and wool must continue, and it may also improve. And we may easily believe that as sheep increase the growing demand will keep even pace with the growing flocks.

How to Make Hogs Good.
There are many farmers who feed their hogs year and then wonder why they do not weigh more than 150 pounds, says a correspondent of The Prairie Farmer. I have a farmer in mind who feeds his hogs on dry corn and water and then cannot imagine why they do not do better, as he has a fairly good breed. He makes just a well fed his family on dry bread and water and expect them to get fat. I believe a pig farrowed early in the spring ought to be ready for market before cold weather sets in, and this can be done if they are given the proper food and care. It is the staple food that costs the most and from which the poorest results are obtained. If a hog hogs his own during the coldest weather, that is about all you can expect of him. Every farmer should have a good forage pasture for his hogs to be turned on during the summer months. The small cost of seedling such pastures should not prevent the farmers from having them. In driving through the country we see many bare hog pastures, and in consequence many hungry looking hogs are also seen. It seems as though, with the number of farm papers that find their way into our homes, there is no excuse except carelessness for the number of poor looking hogs that find their way into our markets.

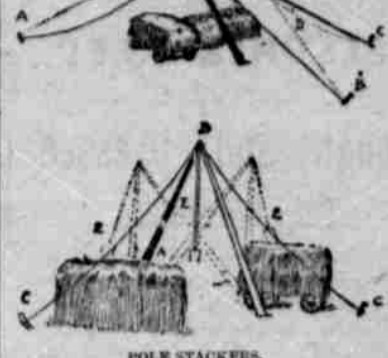
SOY BEANS AS FORAGE.
A Valuable Catch Crop That Will Stand Drought.
The soy bean may be grown for the grain, for soiling food, for ensilage, for pasture and for green manuring, says Professor Thomas Shaw in The American Agriculturist. Its greatest value, however, will probably be found in furnishing soiling food for dairy cows, as it is in the proper condition for being thus fed at that season of the year, when but few plants are available for such a use—that is to say, during the latter part of the summer. The soy bean is a hot weather plant, but is able to stand more drought than the cowpea. When once well rooted, but finds that would wilt and wither many other forms of vegetation will not seriously injure the soy bean. In appearance it resembles a common bean, but the foliage is larger and much more luxuriant, and the habit of growth is more upright. With all the conditions favorable this plant in summer grows to a height of 4 or 5 feet, and it produces a large yield of green food. Some of the early varieties, as the medium or green, can be grown successfully farther north than the cowpea. The claim, however, that they will flourish as far north as the cowpea is a little exaggerated, since it will stand drought better than the cowpea. It has special adaptation for some of the states west of the Mississippi and south of Minnesota—as, for instance, Kansas, Nebraska, Arkansas and Oklahoma. Its province as a catch crop is more circumscribed than that of the cowpea, since in many of its varieties it takes longer to mature. Nevertheless there are many crops which it may be made to follow the same season—as, for instance, winter rye, winter wheat, grain sorghum, etc., or an early crop of any varieties. A warm, rich vegetable soil with a porous subsoil is best adapted to the growth of the soy bean. The soils of the fertile prairie, therefore, are a natural home for it. On poor, sandy soils it will not make a large growth unless these are first fertilized.

It is not only the change of food that in the cause of butter being more yellow when the cows get to pasture, though that has much to do with it, but the sunshine which they receive when out in the pasture, says The American Cultivator. It has been proved that the cow standing in the barn and fed on winter rations gives a higher color to her butter in the summer than in winter, and more when her stall is on the south side of the ble where the sun can shine in most of the day than when she is kept in a dark stable. It has also been found that, as a general rule, or, we will say, an invariable rule, other conditions being the same, her milk will be richer in butter fat during a succession of pleasant, bright days than at the end of two or three cloudy days, even though they are neither cold nor wet. No young animals grow strong and thrifty when confined where they do not get sunshine. If any farmer or stockman has his stables so that the sun cannot shine into them most of the day, it will pay him well to alter them around to the sunny side, cut away and put in more windows and, if he is where cold weather prevails in winter, provide for double windows, with an open space between them, to give sunlight and still keep out the cold weather, and while making alterations he should not fail to provide for a system of perfect ventilation to insure the health of the animals and the freedom from unpleasant odors or injurious bacteria in the room where the milking is done. Now is the time to make such changes in the farm buildings before the new crop of hay goes into the barn.

One of the most valuable feed crops for lambs and sheep is the corn-crop, very extensively grown over the United States and where corn may be grown, says The Sheep Breeder. It is really a variety of bean and not a pea, but by whatever name it may be known it is equally good. It is a twining plant and may be sown with corn, climbing up the stems and thus furnishing two crops at the same time. Instead of exhausting the soil as might be supposed, on the other hand, when so grown, it improves the land and helps the corn. It is only that variety of plant closely related to clover which is a very improved variety, and thus it will not only yield a crop of itself, but helps the corn and leaves the land in better condition for the next crop. It may be sown after the corn is planted or if the corn is dropped by hand three peas may be sown into each hill of corn. If the crop is dropped, the peas may be drilled after it, dropping the peas near the corn, and sowing them in the nearest furrow when the corn is plowed.

FARM AND GARDEN

POLE STACKERS.
A Simple and Inexpensive Device For Stacking Hay.
"I would like to give my plan of stacking my hay outside, which, I believe, is simpler than any method I have seen illustrated in your paper," writes a correspondent to an exchange. "There is really no need of expensive derricks for stacking hay. All that is

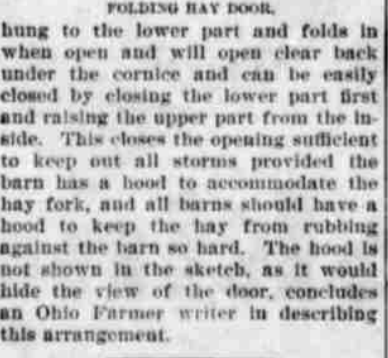


needed is a pole 28 or 30 feet long, large enough and rigid enough to carry the hay on a load a horse fork will be able to carry. The lower end of the pole is set into the ground a foot or so, leaving the hole somewhat larger than the diameter of the pole, so it will have some play. The load is run up to one side or other of the stack and the pole adjusted, as seen in the illustration. Guy ropes B and C are taut and will hold the pole in position while guy rope A is slack, giving enough play to let the pole swing around so the top of it will be directly over the stack, as can be seen by the dotted lines. The hitch is made at a pulley at the end of the pole about four feet from the ground. When the horse pulls on the pole, it swings around over the stack, and the trip is sprung which deposits the hay on the stack, and when the horse ceases to pull the pole swings back into position again. This plan requires a great deal of rope, but stout wires may be substituted for them. The harpoon fork from the barn may be used.

A somewhat similar affair is a derrick consisting of two poles. These two poles are represented in the sketch by A and B, and the pulley is attached to the pole about four feet from the ground. When the horse pulls on the pole, it swings around over the stack, and the trip is sprung which deposits the hay on the stack, and when the horse ceases to pull the pole swings back into position again. This plan requires a great deal of rope, but stout wires may be substituted for them. The harpoon fork from the barn may be used.

Poisoning the Pocket Gopher.
Poisoned sweet or Irish potatoes is a remedy now generally advised for gophers, which give much trouble in alfalfa fields and elsewhere. The sweet potatoes are said to be better than the Irish for the purpose. An exchange says the potatoes should be cut in quarters, a slit made in each, into which poison is introduced by dipping a knife blade into the poison, sticking it into the slit made in the piece of potato and then closing up. The potatoes are then taken to the field and the underground runs of the gopher found by punching a rod into the ground in a line between two freshly made mounds. When the run is found, make an opening into it with a spade, put a piece of the run and close the opening. The mound should be leveled so that new ones may be easily seen. Gophers may be trapped by making an opening into the run large enough so that a steel trap can be set in the run level with the bottom. The trap should be covered lightly with dirt and the opening closed with a board which is covered with dirt, so as to exclude all light.

Gable Barn Door.
It has always been a good deal of trouble to close the end door to a barn where hay is taken in with a horse hay fork. We prefer to drive in the barn to unload the hay, but will admit that a barn will hold more when it is taken in at the end. The cut explains itself. The upper part of the door is



hung to the lower part and folds in when open and will open clear back under the cornice and can be easily closed by closing the lower part first and raising the upper part from the inside. This closes the opening sufficient to keep out all storms, provided the barn has a hood to accommodate the hay fork, and all barns should have a hood to keep the hay from rubbing against the barn so hard. The hood is not shown in the sketch, as it would hide the view of the door, concludes an Ohio Farmer writer in describing this arrangement.

When to Dip.
It is a dangerous thing to dip sheep soon after shearing, says a Sheep Breeder. As a rule the skin of the dipped sheep becomes very tender on account of exposure to the air, and the following season the fleeces are thin and the sheep are liable to die. This is due to the fact that the dip, producing still more cold, carrying off the natural warmth of the skin, adds to this chilling. This excess of refrigeration is mostly felt on the back along the spine, which is the seat of the spinal nerve and controls the nervous system of the digestive organs. This is very apt to produce inflammation of the covering membrane of the most important nerve, by which course the whole system is disturbed and the sheep suffers from the loss of its many disorders, meningitis. It produces paralysis; the sheep is unable to rise, the neck is stiff, turned to one side, and the majority for want of immediate and proper treatment. In some instances, when the weather has been unusually cold with rain or snow storms, many of the losses have been severe, equal in some reported cases to 50 per cent of a flock. Unless the risk of scab is imminent it is advisable to defer the dip-

ping for at least two weeks or longer, as the condition of the weather may be. As a rule the dipping is to be regulated by the condition of the sheep and the risk of scab. It is not to be done, as is easily discovered by the shearer, and it is thought advisable to dip as soon as two weeks after a fleece is taken off, the sheep should be house, or, anyway, all those that appear to be in need of protection. If the safety of the lambs after dipping the ewes it is advisable to wash the hind parts of the sheep with warm water before they are turned loose. There is no growth of wool within the winter time to interfere with the dipping.

In my garden I grew black sweet corn on the same plot for three years, and the following season the fourth I dug it over and planted pure white sweet corn, and the resulting crop had black and white kernels on the ears, says a New Jersey gardener.

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