

# RULES ON NEW HOMESTEAD LAW

## ENFORCEMENT WILL BE STRICT

Two Successive Leaves of Absence Not Allowed Entryman, and Actual Tillage Required—Does Not Affect Any Who Commute.

The Interior Department at Washington has issued instructions for the enforcement of the three-year homestead law. The following synopsis has been prepared by the Commissioner of the General Land Office:

1. The period of residence is reduced from five years to three, the credit to begin, however, from the establishment of actual residence upon the land; proof must be submitted within five years from the date of entry.

2. Cultivation for three years, counting from date of entry, is required, including actual cultivation of not less than one-sixteenth of the area beginning with the second year and not less than one-eighth beginning with the third year and until final proof. Tillage of the soil is required, a mere breaking of the soil is not sufficient, but this must be accompanied by planting or sowing of seed. Grazing is not accepted, except with respect to certain lands opened to entry under special acts providing therefor. Except as to certain lands in Idaho and Utah hereafter mentioned, the cultivation required is the same on entries under the enlarged homestead acts as on ordinary entries; that is, the cultivation of the former (heretofore required) is reduced by half.

3. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to reduce the required area of cultivation; this will not be done on account of the physical or financial disabilities or misfortunes of the entryman, but only where exaction of cultivation to the statutory proportion is unreasonable under the peculiar conditions governing the lands. The entryman must make application for the reduction during the first year of his entry. Forms will be furnished for that purpose. These applications are primarily passed upon by the General Land Office, but the ultimate decision thereon rests with the Secretary of the Interior.

4. After residence upon the land for one year, soldiers and sailors who served in time of war may have credit for the period of their service. They must, however, show cultivation of not less than one-eighth of the area for at least one year.

5. The General Land Office is authorized to extend for not more than six months the ordinary period of residence, on account of climatic conditions, sickness or other unavoidable cause. Applications for this relief will not be considered in advance, but the homesteader's rights will be adjudicated when the question is raised. The homesteader is required to go upon the land when the hindering cause is removed.

6. The entryman may absent himself for one continuous period of not more than five months in each year following establishment of his residence, but he must show bona fide continuous residence during remaining portions of the three-year period. Two five months' periods of absence immediately succeeding each other, though in different years of entry, will not be allowed; six months' absence renders the entry subject to contest. Moreover, in considering either final proof or contests, extended periods of absence are respected only where notice has been given to the local land office of the beginning of the intended absence and also notice of the homesteader's return. The acts allowing leave of absence to be granted by the local land officers have not been repealed.

7. The privilege of commutation (where it heretofore existed) is not affected by the new law, except that the entryman must be a citizen of the United States, and the old practice under which commutation was allowed by persons who had merely declared their intention of becoming citizens is now abrogated as to all entries.

8. Where a homestead entryman dies, his widow or other statutory successors may make up the three-year period by adding together the period during which the entryman complied with the law and the period during which they cultivated the land, residence not being required of them. However, if the entryman himself has not complied with the law in all respects before his death, the entry is forfeited by his default, and, upon proper proof, the entry will be canceled.

9. Unless a homestead claimant files an election on or before October 4, 1912, to make proof thereafter under the old law, entry is subject to the provisions of the three-year law of June 6, 1912. The required residence is thus reduced from five to three years, but the specific cultivation provided by the act must be shown. Moreover, proof must be submitted within five years after the

date of entry.  
10. Any hardships which might result from the above are eliminated by the ruling of the Secretary of the Interior that a person having an entry under the old law may show the cultivation of the proportions named in the new law for two successive years, though they may not be the second and third years of the entry. Moreover, he holds that where the proof, showing compliance with the new law, is submitted upon an old entry after the expiration of five years from its date, the entry may be, in the absence of adverse claims, submitted to the Board of Equitable Adjudication for confirmation. Said board consists of the Secretary of the Interior and the Attorney General.

11. Where the price of a tract of land is required to be paid, the annual installments extending beyond the period of residence required under the new law, proof may be submitted as in other cases, final certificate not issuing until the entire purchase price has been paid.

14. Persons having entries made prior to June 6, 1912, are especially warned that it may be to their advantage to have their entries adjudicated under the new law, and that they should carefully consider the matter; if they desire to submit proof under the laws under which their entries were made, they must on or before October 4, 1912, file at the local land office an election to do so; blank form will be furnished by the various local land offices.

**Senate Adopts Amendment.**  
The Senate has adopted an amendment to the sundry civil bill, made by Senator Borah, providing that homesteaders who made filings prior to June 6 last may perfect title under the three-year or five-year homestead law, as they prefer, even though they fail prior to October 4 to elect under which law they will proceed.

**Sows and Their Litters.**  
Twelve Berkshire sows owned by the Kansas Agricultural college farrowed 103 pigs this spring. They raised eighty-two, making an average of about seven pigs from every sow. Thirteen Duroc sows farrowed 132 pigs. The Duroc sows raised 101, or almost eight pigs from every sow. Six Poland China sows farrowed forty-three and raised twenty-nine, averaging slightly less than five pigs raised from every sow. The total number of pigs farrowed was 278; the number reared 212. The highest number farrowed by any sow was thirteen. The sow, a Duroc, raised ten of the thirteen, but two of the other Durocs and one Berkshire raised ten also. One Berkshire and one Poland China sow raised only two of the three pigs that each farrowed.—Kansas Farmer.

**The Horse's Hoofs.**  
If the horse's hoofs are hard and inclined to be "shelly" do not let any body put oil or grease on them, for this only clogs the hoof material, which should absorb water instead of repelling it. Such hoofs are best treated by soaking them several hours together in warm water slightly salted or by turning out the horse at night in a pasture where he will get the hoofs wet in the dew.

The Bulletin has a supply of application blanks for hunting licenses which anyone can secure by calling at this office.

## LIME AS A FACTOR IN STOCK FEEDING

We hear much about a deficiency of lime in the soil and of the benefits to be derived from thorough applications of ground limestone upon acid soils, but we hear much less about the status of lime in a common feeding ration, writes W. A. Freehoff in the Iowa Homestead. Stockmen will talk all day of balanced rations, the necessity of having the proteins, the carbonates and the fats in just the right proportions, but there is never a word about calcium, the base of lime. It may be due to the fact that a balanced ration may, whether we realize it or not, have enough of all mineral elements required by the animal. Yet it is true that a balanced ration may easily have a deficiency of minerals, to the resulting detriment of the animal fed.

Stockmen are familiar with the experiments now being carried on at the Wisconsin station to determine the phosphorus requirements of different animals. These experiments are being conducted not so much from the standpoint of the practical feeder in comparing rations as with the object to

determine the role of different elements as they may be found in different grains.

One of the experiments by the Wisconsin investigators is particularly interesting. A cow giving normally



Polander, the grade Jersey cow herewith shown, is owned by the Montana Agricultural college. In May, 1911, she was started on a year's test under Montana conditions with Montana grown feeds. Her feed during the year consisted of pasture, clover silage and clover and alfalfa hay for roughage and bran, oats, shorts and barley for concentrates. Her record for the year was 18,200 pounds of milk, containing 44.5 pounds of butter fat, which would make 1,550 pounds of 16 per cent butter.

from twenty-five to thirty pounds of

milk was selected. She was fed a balanced ration deficient in lime. Her feed consisted of grains and oat straw combined in such a manner that the proteins and carbohydrates were in proper proportions for milk production. In fact, the cow was fed a ration common to many farms. Many men rather than feed hay to their cows fill them up on the cheaper straws and stovers and balance the ration up as best they can with mill stuffs and grains grown on the farm.

This particular cow was kept at the same ration for fifteen days. During this time she continued to produce her usual amount of milk and seemed to be in perfect health. But when she was examined at the end of the experiment it was discovered that one-fourth of her skeleton had gone into the production of milk—that is, one-fourth of the lime in the skeleton had the experiment continued further the cow would certainly have kept on producing normal milk, but she would have so weakened her constitution as to have caused a final collapse. This marvelous trait of the cow—or of any animal, for that matter—of drawing upon her own body and frame to supply deficiencies in the ration in order to build up the skeleton of the young normally and to feed that young with normal milk has been observed so often as to make it a law.

The deer season opens August 1 and you will need a license to go hunting. Applications at The Bulletin office.

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