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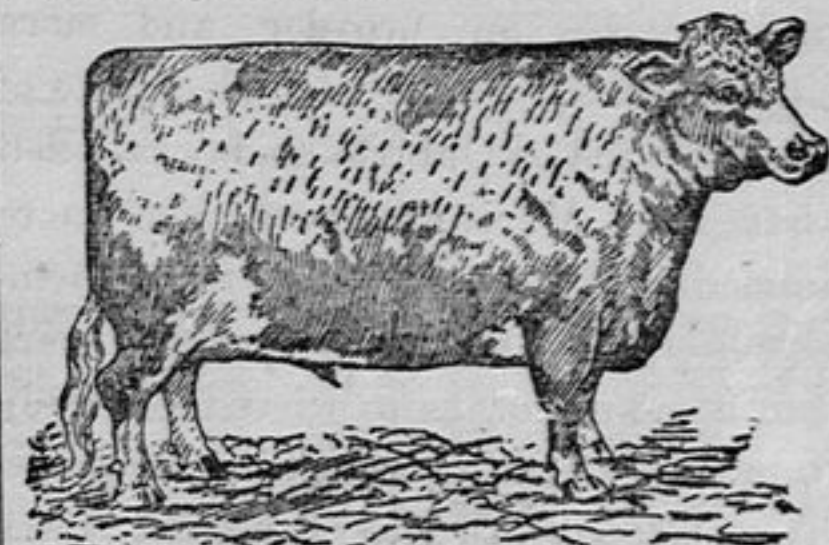
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THE LIVE STOCK.

THE GREAT AND GROWING ANIMAL INDUSTRY.

"Only the Breath Wasted"—Shall We Raise Geese?—Farm Horses and Colts—Dishorning Cattle—The Western Beef Industry. Incubator Chickens—Prize Steer Dot.

Here is a picture of the steer Dot, that took the prize at the last fat stock show in Chicago. Dot belonged to the Aberdeen Angus breed.



FAT PRIZE STEER DOT.
This animal was slaughtered when he was 2 years, 1 month and 3 days old, and weighed 1,496 pounds. After being dressed the carcass weighed 1,040 pounds. Dot's short life was devoted to the laying on of fat, and he took it on at a rate of a pound and three-quarters for every day of his existence.

Shall We Raise Geese?

To tell the naked truth, I could not say that my wife's little flock of geese ever did me or my grass any visible harm; at any rate not enough to complain about. They never required any attention, seldom anybody would steal them, and we were never troubled about feeding them. They seemed to be as self supporting birds. They furnish us a fat gosling once in a while and new nice feathers all along to keep up our pillows and make new ones for the children. So that I acquiesced very quietly to my wife's ruling and better judgment. It seems to me that every farmer in the country should have his small flock of geese, especially when he has a running stream for them to dip in.

Last fall I came up with one lady who supported a flock of about one hundred geese and about fifty ducks. She had no farm, but lived on the side of a big mill pond and her husband was a miller. The waste of the mill aided in the support of the geese and ducks. They in turn aided considerably in clothing and educating the children. These are little things, but you must remember it takes little things and many of them to run a country. Some farmers' families derive all of their pin money from their feathers and poultry and eggs, and are as happy as larks in the enjoyment of such things as they need. Feed fewer ducks and use a little more economy.—M. in Tennessee Farmer.

The Western Beef Industry.

[Extract from paper read by Hon. Elijah Tiley before the Nebraska Improved Stock Breeders' association.]

Another cheering indication is the interest farmers are taking in the introduction of good beef blood into their herds. The difference in price between high and low grade steers is becoming more marked every year, and if we have to compete with the states farther east we must bring our cattle up to the standard to which they have theirs. The market for prime cattle is always good, and we must remember in breeding and feeding that the cattle of the plains come into competition with our medium cattle and tend to lower the price, while they would not affect the price of prime cattle, and there would be less cause to cry out regarding said price.

Taking it altogether, I consider the outlook very flattering for the future. The day of the large ranch and the scrub steer is past, and with the cessation of their competition and more careful breeding, buying and feeding on our part, we may look forward to more prosperous times in the future to repay us for the present and past depressions and discouragements. God speed the day.

Incubator Chickens.

Without entering into any dispute with incubator men I wish to say that to secure the best results you cannot use a male that is hatched by any other means than by its mother hen. The warmth producing incubation, being imparted by flesh and blood to the egg in the open, is a far different process from the heating of confined air and confining the eggs therein, giving the embryo two puffs of breath per day of open air when the eggs are being turned. I leave all theory aside. I say for myself, I want no male to sire my chickens that owes its life solely to an incubator. I believe an incubator hatched chick cannot as a rule be grown as large. I believe an incubator hatched hen will not lay as large an egg as she was hatched from, the same coming from a naturally born hen. But in the early season, that you may have fowls for early exhibitions and winter produce of eggs for kitchen use, you may and are compelled to use incubators, for at that time there are few sitting hens.—I. K. Felch.

Farm Horses and Colts.

Keep the work harness of farm horses in good repair and complete. Horses work better in whole, well fitting harness than in broken, patched up ones, and there is greater satisfaction in handling them. See that the collars fit properly, and always keep them clean, without which care sore shoulders are sure to result. Galled shoulders are often the result of and indication of carelessness in this respect than of anything else.

When training colts train them to fast walking. A work horse that walks all ways at a fast gait and does it naturally and easily, as he will do if properly trained, is worth twice as much as one with a slow, lumbering gait. On these prairie farms where there are no natural obstacles to encounter, it is a waste of time to drive slow walking teams.—Dakota Farmer.

ONLY THE BREATH WASTED.

Utilized from His Horns to the Tip of His Tail.

The blood of the beef animal is caught and sold to make albumen for sugar refiners and other manufacturers, one use of it being the cheap substitute for hard rubber and other plastic materials used in the manufacture of buttons and other articles. Next the hide is taken off, and after the meat is dressed the contents of the stomach are removed and dried and baled for manure, and the stomach itself is prepared as tripe. The hide goes to the tanner, the head is skinned and denuded of flesh for the sausage maker, the horns are knocked off and go to the comb maker, who knocks out the pith and sells it to the glue manufacturer, who is ever ready to take all the refuse from any part of the steer.

The horny covering of hoofs are almost as useful as the horns for making buttons, etc., and the feet make oil and glue. The shinbones make the finest of bone handles for various purposes, and all the remainder of the bony structure which the butcher is unable to sell with the meat finds its way eventually to the manufacturer of bone fertilizer and bone black. With the bones there is usually considerable marrow, grease and glue stock, all of which is used by the bone men in various ways. A few of the tails are absorbed in cold weather in the manufacture of ox tail soup, but usually "the tail goes with the hide," and becomes spoiled for domestic use while lying around the tannery.

Every scrap of the skin of the animal, even the pate, as the skin of the head is called, is used in one way or another, and the refuse of the tanneries forms an important part of the income of the establishments. This explains why large establishments with facilities and arrangements to utilize all these parts, and with labor saving machinery for the various operations of slaughtering, etc., can pay all expenses, including freight two ways, out of what mainly goes to waste in ordinary butchering operations, when only a beef or two per day is killed.—Orange Judd Farmer.

Fattening Lambs.

Twenty Spanish Merino ewe lambs, small, oily, wrinkly, woolly specimens, were selected. Their average weight on Jan. 2 was only 52 3-20 pounds. They were confined to a comfortable shed, in which was running water, and were regularly fed with hay three times each day, while the grain ration, given at noon and night, consisting of oats, bran and a little cracked corn, weighed only one-third of a pound to each sheep per day. At the end of thirty days, or on Feb. 1, the lambs were reweighed (at the same time of day as before) and showed an average gain of 5 3-5 pounds each in weight.

This is apparently nothing extraordinary; but it is really an increase of over 10 per cent. on their original weight in thirty days. The grain ration, it will be observed, was very small indeed, and designed for a healthful growth, and not for fattening purposes. Mutton sheep are fed at least four or five times as much grain, and that of a more carbonaceous nature, when they are being fitted for the market. But a lot of ram lambs fed and treated in a similar way did even better. They made an average gain of exactly seven pounds each, or nearly 11 per cent. on their original weight. One lamb—a small one weighing but fifty-four and one-quarter pounds—made the phenomenal growth of ten pounds, or an increase of over 18 per cent. in the thirty days.—L. W. Peet in Rural New Yorker.

Dishorning Cattle.

The question of whether or not it is cruel to dishorn cows is now before the Scotch courts, the defense being that it is necessary to cut off the horns of Irish and Canadian cattle to keep them from goring each other in the feeding courts used in Scotland during the winter. One witness testified that experience had converted him to favor dishorning, and that he now practices it with all his Guernsey cows, who seem to suffer little pain from the operation and the quality of whose milk is not affected by it. The English courts have held that the practice was cruel one.

Points of Interest.

The better farmers of the present day are beginning to prize the mule above the ox or the horse for farm work. A pair of twelve hundred pound mules at worth from five to six hundred dollars to any farmer.

Farmers who a few years ago stocked their fish ponds with carp are now changing to the European brown trout finding that a much preferable table fish. I do not want a kicking cow, says Jol Gould, but I do want to see one who nerve enough to, when abused, kick her abuser into the furthest corner of the barn so severely that when he arrives there he will understand she has the better developed brain.

Raise all the colts you can. It is ancient saying that one strong, gentle old mare has paid off the mortgage many a poor man's farm.

Every farmer may and ought to have a fish pond on his premises. It will take away that lack of variety which the worst feature of farm diet.