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COATS TAKEN IN EXCHANGE

TYPES OF SWINE

The Modern Bacon Hog Compared With an Old Timer.

Professor Hayward of the Pennsylvania State college, writing in The National Stockman, compares the modern Tamworth hog with the typical old timer. It will be readily seen, says he, that the modern economical bacon pig is no more like the old time hog than a wheelbarrow is like a barouche. Two hundred years of breeding by the coters of Staffordshire, England, have not made the worthless, hard keeping,



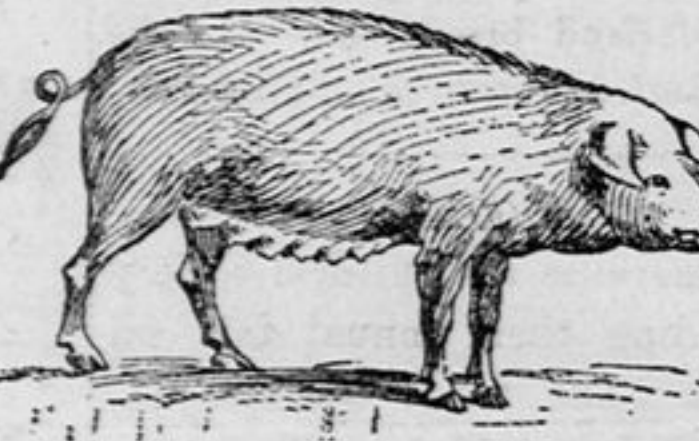
MODERN BACON HOG.

slow maturing hog that the Tamworth bacon hog is supposed by many to be, but in the hands of those who were aiming to get the maximum amount of meat of the finest quality this breed has become a type of hog that feeds as kindly, matures as quickly and yields more lean meat than any other type of hog known.

In a number of breed tests conducted by various experiment stations where the Tamworth, the bacon type, was fed the following results were obtained, which may be of interest: At Geneva, N. Y., it was found that the average cost of pork from the Poland-China for three years was 4.01 cents per pound, and from the Tamworth at the same time and for the same length of time it was but 3.81 cents per pound.

In averaging the results obtained from the Maine, Massachusetts an Ontario experiment stations, where Berkshires, Poland-Chinas, Tamworths, Chester Whites and Duroc-Jerseys were fed, it was found that the Poland-Chinas required 407 pounds of food to produce 100 pounds of grain, the Berkshires 419 pounds, the Tamworths 420 pounds, the Chester Whites 500 pounds and the Duroc-Jerseys 522 pounds.

Last fall two neighbors killed two litters of pigs' out of Berkshire and Chester White sows, which at 5 months



OLD TIME HOG.

old averaged 125 pounds each dressed, with no special care or feed. The head of a barrow that dressed 436 pounds weighed but 27 pounds, and the meat contained a very large proportion of lean to fat.

There is no doubt but that the bacon type of hogs are as economical pork producers as we have, and as our markets become more discriminating hogs of this type will be raised to fill the demand for leaner pork.

Judgment in Feeding Rape.

All rape growers should remember that in turning sheep and lambs for the first time on rape they should go on a full stomach and for the first three or four days remain in the rape field a short time only—say an hour. In this way of introducing them to and familiarizing them with the new and very tender and succulent feed, there is not the least danger from bloat, which sometimes occurs when hungry sheep and lambs are allowed to gorge themselves on this palatable plant. During the first few days of rape pasturing the sheep should not be turned in when the plant is wet with dew or rain. Little precautions like these will save possible loss and within a week at most give the flock immunity from further danger. The rape field is a luxury to sheep and a source of great profit to the owner, who can well afford to act on the above hints.—American Sheep Breeder.

Cheviots For the Mountains.

Take him all round, the Cheviot is a beauty. Better still, his beauty is considerably more than "skin deep," for he has character, compactness, courage, carriage and cleverness beyond any of the hill breeds, and with his remarkable, unusual and altogether economic combination of wool and mutton traits, is destined to a very important place in American sheep economy. Of all the breeds now in this country none are so well suited to the hill and mountain districts as the bold, self reliant, hardy, hustling Cheviot, and that settles the question of his future status in progressive sheep farming in this country. All that is necessary for nationalizing the Cheviot in America is more push and enterprise among his friends and promoters.—American Sheep Breeder.

Fifty Thousand Dollars Insurance on a Jersey Bull.

Application has been made for insurance of \$50,000 on the famous young Jersey bull Merry Maiden's Son, owned at Hood farm, Lowell, Mass. This is the highest amount of insurance ever asked for on a bull or cow. Merry Maiden's Son is believed to be the most famous Jersey bull living, as he is the son of Merry Maiden, the champion sweepstakes cow in all three tests combined at the World's fair, and his sire is Brown Eessie's Son, whose dam won the 90 days' and 30 days' tests at the World's fair. Thus Merry Maiden's Son unites the blood of these two famous cows, and great results are expected from his progeny.

DRAFT HORSES:

Their Breeding From a Commercial Point of View.

For 19 years I have been connected with the business of rearing, breeding and sale of draft horses, says O. Thiesler of Kansas, and from actual experience I find that the greatest mistake made by the average farmer is careless laxity in selecting sires for breeding purposes. For instance, if a farmer has a rangy mare, he is apt to select a high, rangy horse with which to pair her. This is a great mistake, for the aim should be to select a sire which will tone down the defects of the dam in the colt and supply those qualities in which the dam is lacking.

While the draft horse question is not an issue here today, nor is the thoroughness of draft horse breeding held in the highest esteem, I am assured that there are no more lucrative or encouraging results obtained than those which attend the draft horses and the crossing of the best imported blood with the native mares of America.

Even in the present generally existent depression of prices of nearly all farm products and the very low figures at which all classes of horses are selling I see from our market reports that in eastern cities a good draft horse is a ready seller and will bring more money in proportion to the expense of breeding than any other stock in the markets.

My past experience teaches me that a good draft horse can be reared to the age of 4 years and put upon the market for less money than a steer of the same age and of equal condition. At present prices for the draft horse, if properly handled, he will sell very readily in the eastern markets for \$100 to \$150, while a good, average price for the steer would be \$50 to \$60.

Breeding Young Animals.

Defects, either constitutional or moral, do not show themselves as a rule until an animal has reached full physical and mental development, says the St. Louis Republic.

On this account before animals are used for breeding sufficient time should be allowed for the quality and character of the parents to develop before the progeny is reared. Every individual animal, male or female, has a character of some kind to transmit, with some modifications, to its offspring. This character may be positive, negative or neutral, but whatever it is something should be known about it before it is used for reproduction, for heredity has much to do with traits and character in animals. For this reason great care should be taken to know that animals have good characters as well as good constitutions. A vicious horse or colt is apt to breed vicious offspring, and a weakly constituted animal is sure to breed offspring of weak vitality. Vitality or constitution cannot be fed into an animal; it must be bred.

No infallible rules can be laid down with reference to the age at which different classes of stock may be bred. The short lived races, like swine and sheep, arrive at maturity in much less time than horses and cattle, but even in the case of the shorter lived animals it is best to await the period of reasonably mature development if the best results are expected.

Generally a sow or ewe is as fully developed at 1 year as a heifer or filly at 2 1/2 years.

Of course there are conditions when it may be considered best to breed early. The development of the dairy qualities of the heifer is often made the excuse for breeding her early, and to some extent the end sought makes it justifiable under certain conditions.

Maternity at a tender age is a severe strain upon the animal, and it often interferes seriously with the subsequent growth and development. An animal stunted during growth by any cause seldom fully overcomes the effect, no matter what the after treatment may be.

Especially when breeding to improve the stock it is best to wait until the animals are reasonably well matured, as the value of the offspring may be predicted with less risk of disappointment.

Cheapening Pork Production.

Trials at the Oklahoma station tend to confirm the conclusions announced from two or three southern stations that planting peanuts, sweet potatoes, cowpeas or soy beans and allowing pigs to harvest the crop will be found a profitable practice. Peanuts, cowpeas and soy beans are highly nutritious, well adapted for making muscle as well as fat. The sweet potato is less valuable pound for pound, but a good yield can be secured at small cost. Pigs can harvest either crop more cheaply than man. There is possible danger from early frost in the case of sweet potatoes. With cowpeas it seems best to turn the pigs in the lot before the peas are fully ripe. Feeding some grain in connection with either of these self harvested crops usually will increase the profit. The great value of wheat as pasturage for pigs is recognized by many. Some have found good results from pasturing early sown oats. The best summer pig pasture for pigs in Oklahoma is alfalfa. Where this is not available sorghum, thickly sown, will be found desirable. The fairly matured sorghum stalks make excellent hog food in the fall. They will be eaten somewhat readily even in winter.

Range Bees.

A man who recently traveled over a good deal of the west says there is no doubt in his mind but there will be a great shortage of range bees for market this year. The people have not many young cattle or breeding animals on hand and complain that they do not know where to get sufficiently young cattle to stock their ranges without giving up all chances of profit in advance.—Live Stock.

FRUIT AND FLOWERS

NUT GROWING.

Plain and Practical Talk of Interest to Amateurs.

The planting and cultivation of various kinds of nuts will sooner or later be given more attention by nurserymen and landowners than at present. The hybridization of nuts has already begun, and it can be safely predicted that many new hybrids will be produced in the near future. A nut of this sort has been obtained by crossing two distinct varieties, the black walnut and California walnut, and has been given the name "Royal." Mr. Luther Burbank, the originator of various new hybrids in fruits, is the successful experimenter, says a Country Gentleman correspondent, whose remarks are further reproduced, as follows:

On almost every farm there is more or less space which could be utilized and converted into a nut grove at very little expense or trouble—the steep sides of a swale or gully, hillsides that are too steep to cultivate, a row of nut trees planted on each side of the lane, or planted in fields used as permanent pasture; in the latter case the trees, if not planted too thickly, would add to the value of pasture land by the delightful shade given.

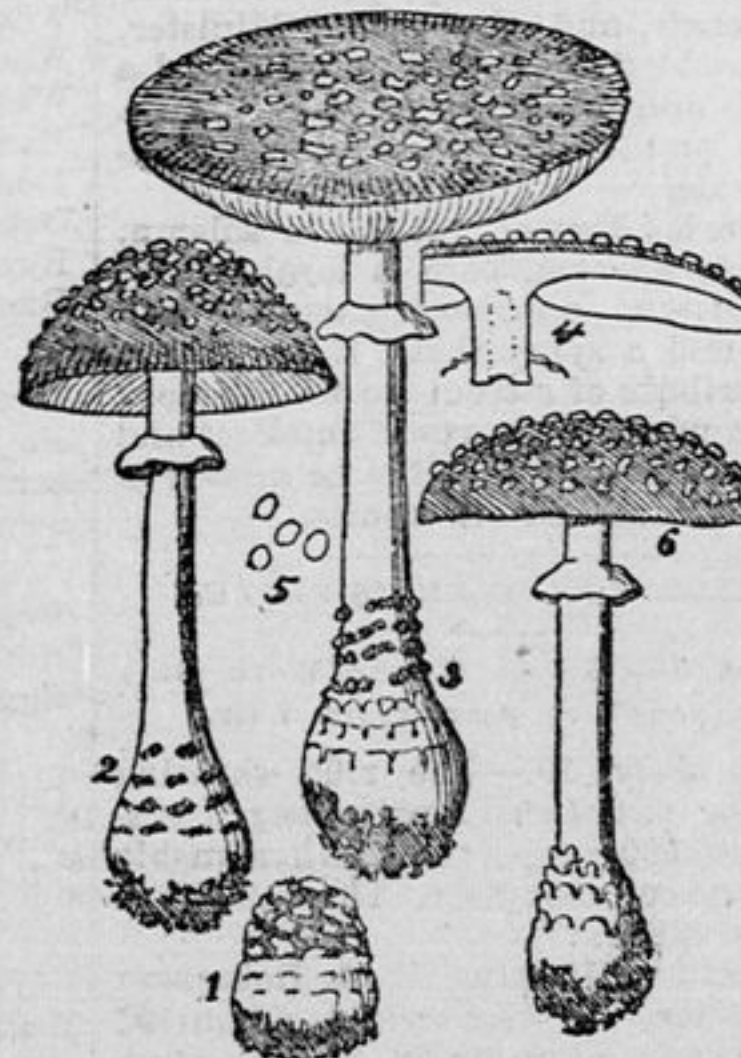
Nature seems to have distributed the various kinds of nuts in soils and localities best suited to their growth. For instance, the chestnut is always found growing on a sandy soil, while a hickory is rarely found growing in sandy localities, yet would thrive in sand if planted there. The chestnut will thrive if planted in almost any deep rich soil where there is good drainage. I have often heard it said that a chestnut tree if planted on any but a sandy soil would not live, and I have also heard it asserted that it cannot be transplanted successfully; but I have proved to my own satisfaction that both of these can be done quite successfully. The chances of success can be made greater by introducing a little of the soil natural to the tree into the hole in which it is to be planted.

The writer transplanted some 10 or 15 sweet chestnut trees last spring. Digging good sized holes, we carefully placed the trees in them and then filled the holes nearly full of sand. After pressing down the sand we covered the latter with about two or three inches of clay loam to prevent their drying out. All but one or two of these trees are alive and will be grafted the coming spring with improved varieties.

Not long since I read an article on chestnut culture by Jacob Dingee of Pennsylvania. Mr. Dingee's method was to cut off the old trees or any young ones that were too old to graft down to the ground. They would then send up a new growth of sprouts. These were thinned out the next year to a few more than were needed. At each stump or root the sprouts were grafted when two or three years old. They were afterward again thinned out to a suitable distance apart.

A Very Poisonous Toadstool.

Amanita muscaria, fly amanita or fly toadstool, has been pronounced by Professor Halsted of New Jersey to



THE FLY AMANITA.

be our most common, cosmopolitan, poisonous toadstool, growing in woodland especially under evergreen trees and sometimes in open pastures, being found at nearly all weeks in the growing season after the 1st of June, and is the species which caused the death of Count de Veceli at Washington in November, 1897.

On account of the large size and highly colored yellow, orange or scarlet cap, flecked with white, the species is easily recognized. The white or yellowish stalk, four to six inches long, somewhat woolly or scaly below, rises from a gradually widening bulbous, rough base and an incomplete vulva or cup. The cap is three to eight inches broad, with white gills, slightly tinged with yellow, and bright scarlet or yellow upon the upper side, where the white fragments of the vulva adhere closely to the smooth skin of the pilius, that is striate near the margin. Various stages in the development of this dangerous toadstool are shown from 1, the young "button" stage, to 6, the fully developed specimen.

Beds For Pot Plants.

In making beds or perennials or pot plants that are expected to shift for themselves, dig the soil quite deeply. After planting them give the bed a thorough soaking underneath by making a few holes in which to pour the water. Pour in as much as the porous soil will absorb, but keep the surface perfectly dry. Plants moved during cloudy weather if treated in this manner will hardly wilt.—Gardening.

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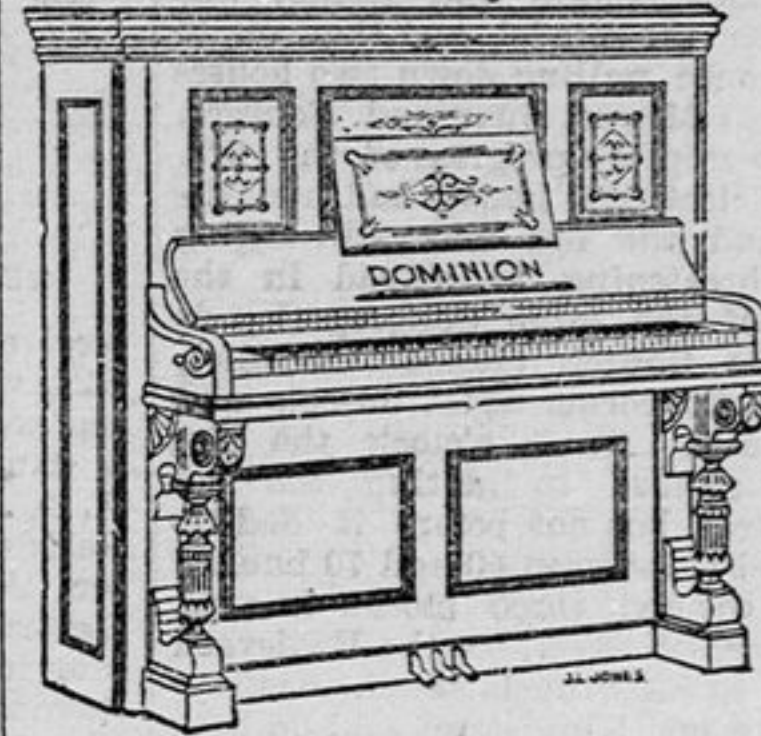
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