

# LIVE STOCK



## MAKING MONEY WITH SHEEP

Cost of Raising is Small Compared With High Prices They Bring—Increase Fertility of Soil.

The cost of raising sheep is small compared with the high prices they command or with the cost of production of any other farm animal. The Lincoln, Cotswold and Leicester are probably the three largest breeds of sheep—if any favor in size the Lincoln probably has it. A practical breeder says: "If I want a large-growing lamb, to put on the market at six or eight weeks old, I will use a larger breed than the Southdown, which I might use if I wag after a mutton chop. For such lambs I am partial to the Oxford, but the Hampshire might give as good satisfaction." Sheep are a good medium for increasing the fertility of the farm of the man of limited means. A dozen ewes, properly cared for, will soon raise lambs enough to stock your farm with sheep. The estimate is that five sheep can be kept on what one cow will consume. With good, bright, wheat straw and half a pound of corn daily, breeding ewes and store sheep will winter nicely. One of the difficulties in raising sheep



Part of a Farm Flock.

consists in the great number of worthless dogs. The only remedy for this condition in most cases consists in a high dog tax and enforcement of the laws now on the statute books. Owing to the scarcity of reliable help, the raising of market lambs will prove more remunerative than dairying. The farmer and one hand can easily feed and care for a small flock. Have a dog-proof exercise yard and a roomy pen with a hard earth floor. Commence with a small flock. Gradually increase as the business is found profitable.

## PROPER TIME TO WEAN COLT

Youngster Should Be Accustomed to Eat Hay and Grain Before Removal—Put Mare on Dry Feed.

The colt should be allowed to remain with the mare until it has become accustomed to eat grain and hay before it is weaned. In nearly all cases it will be best to feed the mare for at least several weeks before the colt is removed with ground oats and wheat bran.

Give the mare a roomy, well-bedded box stall, so the colt can eat beside her. This is one of the easiest and quickest ways of teaching the colt to eat.

Give the colt good blue grass and white clover pasture, but put the mare on dry feed. This will help to dry up her milk without causing a swollen udder.

While it is not necessary to particularly push the growth of the colt, it is very essential that a steady growth be maintained and generally it will pay to feed a little grain, unless the pasture is unusually good. Ground oats and wheat bran, say one to two pints per day, fed dry will promote growth of bone and muscle and a well-developed healthy animal.

Corn is not a suitable food for a young growing animal.

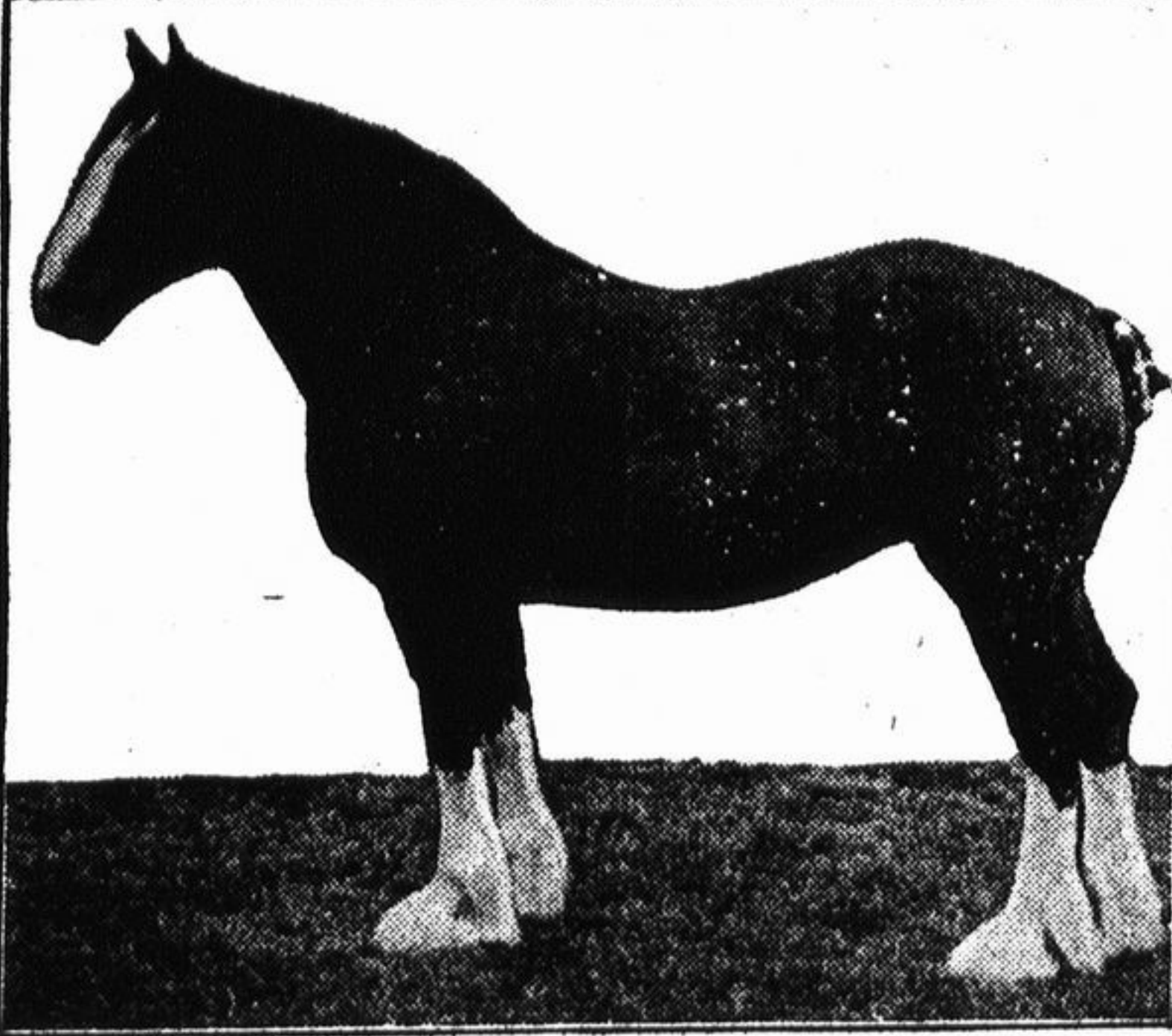
## FEEDING ALFALFA TO SWINE

No Better or More Practicable Method Known Than That of Giving Hay to Animals in Rack.

There does not appear to be any more practicable method of grinding hay for hogs than by feeding the hay via a good rack.

A few years ago some enthusiast wrote a story about alfalfa tea, which he said was the finest thing on earth; that the tea extracted all the animal food in the alfalfa and at the same time left the plant food for the soil. By giving the tea to the hogs they would gain their weight, and then you could scatter the stewed alfalfa back on the land. The story found its way into one of the eastern publications and the western experiment stations have been flooded with inquiries ever since.

## SECRET OF USING BROOD MARES ON FARM



Clydesdale Mare "Boquhan Lady Peggy," Champion at the Highland Show, Inverness.

(By J. M. BELL.) I was on a big stock farm several months ago, and the owner was certainly doing things in the matter of raising mules, that is, he was starting about it in the right way.

Twenty-six fine, heavy draft mares were being bred to a sixteen-hand jack. So far so good.

These mares were doing regular farm work, some of them having been on the place for several years, and out in a large, luxuriant pasture were a thriving herd of mule colts; a credit to their mothers.

It was haying season when I visited that stock farm, and 200 acres of red clover were being cut, wheat was also ripe; 500 acres of that was being harvested. Six mowers in the hay, four binders in the wheat and the mules working to all the machinery, the brood mares working to the wagons hauling the wheat and the hay.

A pair of them to each wagon. A careful driver and a good harness, the mares sleek and fat, working from 12 to 14 hours a day under a hot, southern sun; no time to loiter; a steady rush from rising to the setting of the sun.

But these brood mares were standing it all right and were fat enough for any practical purpose.

In buying these mares, the owner, a young Cornell graduate, had succeeded in getting his money's worth.

Many of the pairs were really matched teams, strong bone, heavy muscles, good limbs, no counterfeits among the twenty-six. No cripples, few blemishes, spavins, ringbones, side bones, even splints hard to find. No mares that could be called aged, so all likely to drop good healthy colts.

I noticed that the brood mares on this farm had on good well-fitting harness, and were invariably handled by careful teamsters, the majority of them negroes.

Here lies the secret of working brood mares on the farm; they must be handled properly and by drivers of experience who understand the difference between a \$200 animal that is expected to drop a colt each season and the \$50 plug mule or gelding.

Now on this farm where over one

hundred head of work stock were kept and used regularly the hours for work were "from sun to sun" at all seasons of the year—no loitering—everything carried on in a businesslike manner but at the same time none of the work animals, either mules or brood mares, were overworked or underfed.

Take these twenty-six mares, figuring twenty of them drop foals each spring, that is six out of the lot will miss—these twenty young colts at weaning time would be worth \$40 each, or a total of \$800, while as three-year-olds they should, if properly grown, be worth \$350 a pair, beside the three crops of colts coming on behind them.

There is no trouble about working a brood mare on the farm, if she is the right kind of mare and driven by the right sort of man, but you must certainly select, for breeding, mares of the right size and temperament.

High-strung, nervous mares will not do for farm drudgery, whether they are draft bred or not.

You want a quiet animal—not slow or sluggish—but with an equable disposition.

An infusion of draft blood will often insure a patient, willing farm brood mare, just as an infusion of thoroughbred blood will give a more spirited animal.

Perhaps no other animal on the farm is so profitable as the right sort of a mare. The price of horses and mules keeps up well and is likely to do so.

The small farmer and also the larger stock farms will use mules in spite of machine engines and motor cars. The city trade uses up thousands of both horses and mules; riding and driving horses are always in demand if they are of the right kind, and the brood mare on the farm is the source from which they are sprung, so in the selection of them good judgment should be used.

Work them regularly, feed them regularly and plentifully. Rest them two weeks before and two weeks after the foal arrives, but let them work a month before and after the colt arrives.

Be light. Never handle them roughly and never overload them.

## RAISE GOOD CALVES OR PIGS ON WHEY

Fed With Oil Meal and Gluten Feed It Will Give Satisfactory Results.

Whey has a food value well worth saving. Its chemical food analysis compared with skim milk, is as follows:

Skim milk, 2.9 per cent protein; 5.2 per cent carbohydrates; 0.3 per cent fat. Whey, 0.8 per cent protein; 4.7 per cent carbohydrates; 0.3 per cent fat.

It will be seen that whey is not as valuable as skim milk, but that it has a very appreciable value, nevertheless. However, whey has a wider nutritive ratio than skim milk, that of whey being 1.67, while that of skim milk is 1.2. This fact must be taken into consideration in feeding whey if one gets its full food value. Oil meal, gluten feed, etc., food rich in protein should be fed with whey, while corn meal, barley meal, faxseed meal, etc., should be fed with skim milk. In this way one can balance the ration and get the full food value of such products, while if they are fed alone, satisfactory results cannot be obtained.

You can raise good calves or pigs on whey if you will feed oil meal and gluten meal with it, but if fed alone it does not contain the food nutrients in proper proportion, hence does not give satisfactory results. It is safe to say that whey is worth half as much as skim milk for feed.

Green Feed Essential. Green feed is essential as a part of the winter ration. When cabbage and beets are not available, sprouted oats can easily be fed. Soak the oats in a bucket for at least twenty-four hours and then place in a pile on top shelf of the sprouter. On the third day spread them out and let them grow to a height of not over two inches, then feed them.

## ALFALFA FOR HOG PASTURE IN FAVOR

Furnished Good Grazing From Early Spring Until Autumn at Iowa Station.

Alfalfa pasture produced the cheapest gains on pigs ever secured at the Iowa station. In 1911 alfalfa pasture, with a grain ration of ear corn plus a small amount of meat meal, produced gains at a cost of \$2.88 per 100 pounds, considering corn worth 50 cents a bushel.

Alfalfa furnished good grazing from early spring until late autumn. It was pastured from May 7 to November 25 constantly, a period of 198 days. Under average Iowa conditions, alfalfa pasture is available for practically six months of the year.

Being extremely deep rooted, it is not greatly affected by drought. In August and September, when clover pasture is dry and hard, alfalfa growing beside it is green, succulent and palatable.

Heavy pasturing of alfalfa is not advised. The number of animals per acre should be so regulated that two or three small cuttings of hay may be taken from the field. This is necessary to insure tender green growth for grazing.

When little buds begin to shoot at the base of the stalk the alfalfa should be cut. In a very few days a fresh new growth makes its appearance. Over-pasturing, without occasional cutting, also tends to injure the crowns of the plant and eventually destroys the stand.

Direct Road to Eggs. Warm food and cold mornings go well together. Direct road to eggs and they are what we are all after.

Too Many Shots. If the shot pile up in the pen at night, the pen is too cold, and there are too many shots in the pen.

# DAIRY



## MANAGING THE DAIRY BULL

Allowing Animal to Run With Cows is Not Good Practice—Plenty of Exercise is Urged.

(By G. W. BARNES, Arizona Experiment Station.)

The practice of permitting a bull to run with the dairy cows cannot possibly be recommended. Especially is this true during the breeding season, and with the dairyman who is milking a large number of cows and has a constant demand for milk, it means practically the entire time. A bull kept in a small paddock where he gets plenty of exercise, pure water and food rich in bone and muscle-forming material such as alfalfa, oats and wheat bran, will be more vigorous and give better service than a bull permitted to run with the cows. It is very essential that the bull should have plenty of exercise, which he cannot get if confined in a stall. Where it is impossible for the owner to fence securely about one acre for the bull, he can very easily provide the necessary exercise, by stretching



First Prize Norman Bull.

a strong wire between two substantial posts and fastening the bull by chain from the ring in his nose to a ring which slips loosely over the wire. This makes a secure fastening and one which experience has proved practicable.

When kept in this way the bull is also more easily managed. A dairy bull makes a dangerous pet, and should never be so far trusted as to be in a position where he can get the advantage of his attendant. Those unfortunate accidents which have sometimes occurred have usually been due to overconfidence on the part of the attendant.

## CONVENIENCE OF MILK CANS

"Shotgun" Can is Easily Covered, Set in Water and Not Difficult to Handle.

Milk and cream from even a few cows can be much more conveniently handled in regular milk cans than in the shallow pans and wide-mouthed buckets commonly used.

These cans may be bought in various sizes. For handling cream and skim milk where separators are used, or even where cream is set to sour for butter making, the "shotgun can" is very convenient. It can be easily covered and set in water and is convenient to handle.

Where even a few cows are kept, a separate room for handling the milk should be provided to relieve the oftentimes overcrowded kitchen. Well houses frequently have a room which, with the addition of a concrete floor, shelves and windows, makes a very convenient milk room.

## EFFICIENT RATIONS FOR COW

Where Silage is Not Obtainable Mixture of Alfalfa, Corn and Gluten Meal is Good.

A ration of 12 pounds alfalfa, 35 pounds corn silage, four pounds ground corn and three pounds bran proved most efficient for a 1,200-pound cow producing 30 pounds milk daily at the Nebraska station.

Where silage is not available, the next best combination is 15 pounds alfalfa, six pounds ground corn, eight pounds corn stover and two pounds gluten meal.

Where neither silage nor alfalfa are at hand, feed 12 pounds millet hay, 12 pounds sorghum hay, two pounds ground corn and three pounds oil meal.

## KEEPING DAIRY COWS CLEAN

Piece of Plank, Arranged in Sloping Manner, Will Cure Animal of Stepping Into Gutter.

Some cows have a disagreeable habit of backing into the gutter and getting their feet full of manure. A piece of plank set about an inch below the top of the gutter next to the cow and sloped to the bottom of the gutter in the rear will remedy this trouble. On stepping on this sloping plank, the cow will slip backwards, causing her to step up. She will forget the habit in a few days, and then the device is no longer necessary.

The plank should not be longer than the length of one stall so it can be removed for cleaning the gutter.

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