

existence. During the season they should have all the good pasture they want, and during all the year oats should form a liberal portion of their ration, for they thrive on them while young better than on almost anything else. During winter see that their quarters are dry, warm and clean, and they will turn out at breeding season in good shape.

Points in a Good Beef Steer.

Mr. J. M. Imboden, of Decatur, Mo., in an address delivered before an association of the stockbreeders, gave his ideas as to beef cattle points as follows: There is no one breed of beef cattle better than all others under all circumstances and conditions. The trouble with cattle from the butcher's standpoint is too big shoulders, giving the forequarters too large a proportion to the rest of the carcass. The muscles that are exercised the most are the toughest; for this reason the inside two-thirds of the round is good, while the outside is not so good. A thick, mellow hide—not a hard, harsh hide—denotes more clean meat than a thin hide. A straight back, well sprung rib and width of loin indicates a large amount of the high-priced meats in the carcass. The comparison of animals in the show ring is often so close that the awarding of the prize turns on a very small point, as a tie or a dimple in the back, which cuts no figure in the usefulness or profit of the animal. A typical beef animal should have a thicker neck than the dairy breeds, the flesh should begin at the front; the animal should have the greatest possible thickness of flesh along the back between the shoulder and the hips, and the width of the hip should be carried forward to the shoulders. The Angus are the thickest-fleshed beef cattle; their great fault is too much of a spread of the shoulder blades at the top; they do not mature quite as quick as the Herefords. It would be hard to tell which of the beef breeds at thirty months old on the same care and feed would make the greatest gain. Young animals develop muscle along with fat, and when fattened young contain a larger proportion of lean meat to the fat, and hence more profitable to the butcher. The first 1,000 pounds put on a steer is the cheapest, as the animal is growing as well as fattening, and the cost of the increase of weight increases with age.

Roots for the Swine.

Many feeders who believe in root feeding to stock and practice it are prejudiced against feeding them to swine. For some reason they believe that any food which will not add to the weight of the swine is not suited to them. This is a decided mistake for until a hog can make the proper growth of bone and muscle it is not in condition to take on fat properly or profitably. It is not that roots have any great amount of food value, for they do not, but they act on the digestive organs and increase the appetite for the foods of a fattening nature; hence for this purpose alone are they valuable as a part of the winter ration. Hogs that have been corn fed for many weeks in succession frequently get off-feed, and one of the best correctives for this trouble is a mess of roots fed daily for two or three weeks. Sugar beets and carrots contain more sugar than most other root crops, but mangle wurzels are not to be despised as giving variety in the ration for swine.

Hogs that Eat Chickens.

The habit some hogs have of eating chickens is one that perplexates a good many hog raisers, especially the general farmer who has hogs as a side line. There is but one remedy for the habit—either kill the hogs or keep the fowls confined to yards. On most farms the latter cannot be done without going to the expense of building yards. Young hogs seldom acquire

the taste for chickens if they are well fed and have range in a field or orchard. The hog is carnivorous, eating flesh of all kinds, as well as grain, grass, fruit and vegetables. Old sows are likely to develop the habit, especially when they are confined to small yards and do not have a proper variety of food. After a hog has once acquired the taste for chicken meat she will soon become expert in catching young chickens or old fowls that come near. We know of no way to break them of the habit. By giving the hogs good pasture and but little corn until fattening time, but furnishing them such foods as bran, middlings, skim-milk and vegetables, they are not apt to acquire the habit unless taught by older hogs.

Milk as feed for pigs has a feeding value far beyond its actual food elements if given in the proper combination with other rations, but it is a great waste to feed pigs exclusively upon it, no matter how plentiful it may be. Middlings and grass should be fed with it, so that double the number of pigs may be kept with the same milk.

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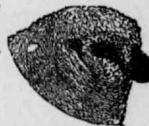


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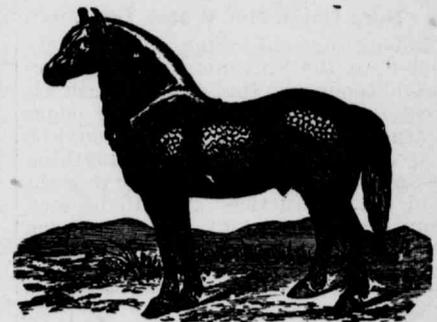
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