

DAIRYING

DEHORNING.

Dr. A. S. Condon Gives His Views

To the Editor:—Some one has sent to me a copy of THE DESERET FARMER and for all of which I here express due thanks. Hastily running through the many interesting articles I chanced on one entitled "horns a detriment in the feed lot" and I venture a few words of observation thereon. The main point sought to be established half way down the column is set forth as follows, namely:—"Indeed, from our observation of the operation of the behaviour of animals while undergoing it (dehorning) we are of the opinion that the pain attending it is very much exaggerated in the popular mind." In deed, it is not exaggerated, nor is it possible for any combination of words to exaggerate it. From an industrial standpoint it may be defended, perhaps, but never from the aspect of trivial pain. I do not care who the writer in The Wisconsin Farmer is, I dare state without fear of being questioned by competent authority that the operation of dehorning a well developed and mature bullock is productive of agony unspeakable, and that animals suffer less by castration, terrible as that suffering is.

I am not writing this in opposition to dehorning cattle, but the operator should not be taught a false theory and seek to defend himself by the words of a false teacher; he should realize exactly the effect of his acts on dumb animals and continue to dehorn them intelligently, if he thinks the interests of the herd require it.

The inner structure of the horn is a dense ganglion of nerve tissue richly supplied with blood channels and all surrounded by a horny (keratin) frame to protect them. So great is the pain during the process of dehorning that I have seen animals fall to their knees in a faint and the bellowing die away for a moment to a low moan.

Of course all that sickening bellowing, and the frantic plunging to break away, is a manifestation of pleasure and a freak of the animal to amuse the spectators and add to the hilarity of the occasion, or else

who does the creature plunge and bellow?

It is impossible for a human being, I care not how emotionless and strong of nerve fiber he may be, to look on the scene of dehorning and say that it will be possible for him to ever forget it. No man ever gets used to doing the operation and he always approaches the day thereof with dread. Many a man has told me this. Even butchers whose whole lives are spent in the shambles of blood and violence shrinks from the work of dehorning cattle.

I know, of my own knowledge, two men, one is Weber and the other in Morgan county, who have been overcome by manifestations of agony in the brute being dehorned, and have fallen dead. I knew both men well and they were no mollycodles as a good many who will read this will certify, for they will readily remember who I mean. How many more have fallen dead from heart shock on these occasions of whom I never heard, of of course I cannot testify to, but there must be a large number; it would be singular if such tragedy were confined solely to this little valley.

Let the rancher go right along and continue to dehorn his cattle, and let the Deseret Farmer, and the Wisconsin Farmer continue to teach the wisdom and utility of doing it, but let no one attempt to teach the doctrine that the dehorning of animals is a painless operation—to the animals.

THE PASTURE.

Prof. H. R. Smith.

There is a great deal of current talk among farmers to the effect that when land reaches a certain valuation, say \$100 per acre, one can not afford to keep it in grass for pasture purposes. With pastures such as we often find on some farms, I am frank to say that the returns in beef would hardly pay a fair rate of interest on the investment. We know, however, that it is possible to have on good rich land a growth of grass during an average season that will return a net profit quite as great as the same land in grain crops. English farmers have a large part of their

land in grass, and land there commands a figure fully two or three times as high as the best land in this country. If such a pasture as they have, which is the very best, does not return a fair income on the investment, they certainly would not have so much grass. We have a pasture now on the university farm which will easily produce 250 pounds of beef per acre without grain each season. Two hundred pounds per acre would be a very conservative estimate of what might be produced on any farm if a good stand of the right kind of grasses is secured. At 4 cents a pound this would mean \$8 per acre, which would pay interest and taxes on a valuation above \$100 per acre. With a mixture of alfalfa and brome grass much more beef than this could be made each year from one acre of ground. The trouble with many of our pastures in the state is that the right kind of grasses are often not used, manure is seldom put upon them, and in many instances the fields are overpastured. We know very well that beef can be produced cheaper with grain on good grass than any other way.

There is nothing that would furnish as much good feed to the acre as alfalfa, but the danger from bloat is so great that there is almost too much risk in pasturing it. It is claimed, however, by a large number who have made the experiment that a mixture of brome grass and alfalfa is a perfectly safe pasture, especially when some discretion is used in turning on cattle. In fact, I find a large number of farmers make a practice of turning cattle on pure alfalfa. In several instances, however, they report sooner or later losses from bloat. I would recommend giving it a trial, as I am sure the returns would please.

A GOOD WAY FOR FARMERS TO START A BANK ACCOUNT!

Get a lot of good cows and a hand separator. Write to the ELGIN DAIRY, Salt Lake City and they will send you some ELGIN RED CANS. Fill the cans with cream; ship to the ELGIN. Keep on sending every week; then on the 10th of the following month the ELGIN will send you pay for all the cream you delivered the previous month; then start your bank account,—but keep on shipping cream as long as you have any use for money!

FOR SALE.—Two Pure-bred Holstein Bulls, one four months old, the other about a year and a half. For further particulars write, NELSON BROTHERS, Richmond, Utah.

THE COW PEA.

One of Salt Lake's dailies last week advocated the use of the cow pea by Utah farmers, but the writer of the article confessed that he didn't know much about it. The confession was not necessary. Cow peas, are as the writer said a leguminous crop and therefore a soil renovator; in other words it plays the same important role in gathering nitrogen that clover does in Wisconsin or lucern in Utah. Cow peas are especially well adapted to the south and we believe would succeed in the St. George country without question. It is more of a bean in its botanical relations than a pea, being closely identified with the lima beans of our gardens.

We do not hesitate to say that lucern makes a better forage crop for Utah than cow peas and the wise farmer will leave the testing of cow peas and other untried crops to the Experiment Station until they know that they are on safe ground.

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE.

A number of young men graduates of our Agricultural College will enter eastern colleges and universities this fall to better equip themselves for usefulness in our home school. Prof. Stewart goes away to take up advanced work in agricultural chemistry; Prof. Greaves has just returned from Illinois State University with his M. S. degree; Prof. E. G. Peterson goes away for a year or two for work in Bacteriology; Mr. Harris for work in Agronomy; Mr. Jensen for work in Physiological Botany, and next year a number have announced their intention of going away for advanced work.

In preparing these young men for these responsibilities Dr. Widtsoe is showing a determination to place the Agricultural College right in the front ranks. He is not only giving these young men leave of absence for study but is giving them every encouragement, and we can see in this movement a faculty that in a few years will make of our Agricultural College the pride of every student of the mountain country.