



BARREN LAND.

How Highland Sheep and Goats May Be Profitably Utilized.

There are millions of acres of land in the United States worthless for ordinary agricultural purposes which might be profitably utilized as pasture for goats and rugged breeds of sheep. The country traversed by the Alleghany mountains is largely of this character. Western stock growers are considering the subject of range sheep, and the opinion was recently expressed at an important convention that some day the different parts of the range country will have types of sheep adapted to their conditions. In Britain the mountains have their distinctive types, as represented in the Black Faced Highland and the Welsh Mountain. The valley lands have their types as represented in the heavy



SCOTCH BLACK FACED RAM.

bodied Lincoln and Romney Marsh breeds, and the intermediate downlands have their types, as represented in the Southdown, the Oxford Down and the Hampshire Down. These types are largely the result of environment. The natural conditions of the country have produced a type of sheep that are adapted to their surroundings, and the attempt to supplant them with any other type of sheep would be a mistake. So will it be on the ranges someday. Montana ranges will have their type of sheep and Oregon ranges will have theirs, and so of the other range countries. The attempt to reduce these types to uniformity would be a mistake, and the sooner that these types are fixed the better for the sheep industry.

The Scotch black faced sheep is attracting considerable attention among American stockmen in the mountain districts. The character of the breed is shown in the accompanying illustration of a ram owned by Charles Howatson of Glenbuck, Scotland, which was awarded the championship prize at the recent exhibition of the Highland and Agricultural Society at Glasgow. This breed of sheep is remarkably rugged and able to endure the exposure and privations incident to mountain life. The natural qualities of these sheep are such as fit them for places where no other sheep would thrive.

Hartlin's System.

C. J. Hamlin has long believed in the wisdom of placing his best bred and most promising fillies to breeding, and he has yearly consigned some of his greatest young mares to the breeding ranks. Some of those mares have been placed in training after raising a couple of foals, and have raced very successfully, Emily, 2:11, being an example. From now on it is quite likely that nearly all the fillies raised at Village Farm will, after being broken and partially developed in a speed way, be bred before they are fitted for racing. One of the fastest young mares Geers had in his stable last winter was The Abbess, sister to The Albat, 2:11½, but in accordance with his policy in this respect Mr. Hamlin had her sent back to the farm this spring to be mated with Rex American. After raising a foal The Abbess will be placed in training, and will then be raced to her limit. Before being returned to the brood mare ranks. This manner of treating young mares certainly insures their reaching their full powers without sustaining any of the injuries which baby campaigners are so liable to receive, and it is quite likely to be adopted by other breeders when they come to look for the reasons of the Village Farm's success in producing great race horses.—Horse World.

Forage For Hogs.

"The Alfalfa Hog" opened up the whole subject of forage for stock. Personal experiences were given in regard to the relative merits of alfalfa, clover, sugar beets and sorghum as feed. Alfalfa was generally favored for hay, but as pasture on most soils it will kill out in a short time if hogs are turned on it. Dr. Peters of the state farm condemned alfalfa as feed for either horses or cattle. Experiments conducted there show that if eaten when damp it results in windbroken horses and bloated cows. Several valuable animals were lost. On the contrary, S. Andrews of Friend, who had both alfalfa and clover pastures, reported that he lost but one animal on alfalfa as against nine on clover. Where the two seeds are sown together hogs prefer the clover. As a forage plant sorghum was favored by several speakers.

Quick Work.

Thomas Kibon, proprietor of the Stroudsburg Woolen mills of Stroudsburg, Pa., recently had delivered to him a complete suit of clothing made from the wool of sheep whose fleeces were sheared only that morning. The world's record of eight hours, held in Scotland, was broken by one hour and 54 minutes. The suit was delivered to Mr. Kibon a few minutes before 1 o'clock, at his residence, and in a few minutes he was attired in it. Previous to Mr. Kibon lowering the world's record of from sheep to finished clothes it was held by a mill at Galashiels, Scotland, and the time was eight hours.

GRASS FOR HOGS.

Two Ends Accomplished by Furnishing Swine With Pasturage.

The hog by nature is a grazing animal, and I believe that pasturage for him is not only a luxury, but a necessity. By a succession of blue grass, clover and rye we can at all times have good pasturage for our hogs, and by furnishing them with pasturage we accomplish two ends—we harvest the crops without any expense or labor, and at the same time the hogs in harvesting it take the necessary exercise and become fully developed in bone and muscle. I believe that the failure of many breeders is due more to this one fact than to any other—the lack of pasturage. Some breeders feed what is called properly balanced rations, feed regularly two or three times a day, rations that contain bone and muscle producing elements—the hog eats and lies down and repeats this as often as he is fed, scarcely ever taking any exercise, as he soon knows that there is nothing for him in his lot except what is put in his trough by his master—and then the breeder can't understand why he has failed to raise a properly developed hog. You might just as well attempt to get a race horse or to make an athlete by feeding only. While nature demands certain feeds, she also makes other demands. As to the cheapness of pasturage there can be no doubt. By a late experiment made by the Wisconsin station an acre of rape was found to be equal to 47 bushels of grain. Just how much grain an acre of clover or blue grass is equal to I am not prepared to say, but we all know that when we feed grain in connection with good pasturage we save much grain, and the hogs are healthier and better.

I don't believe the most ardent advocates of rape claim for it a superiority over clover and blue grass, and I hope some of our stations will give us the full feeding value, as they have done in the case of rape. In the fall, when we generally have a drought, artichokes come in well to fill the gap between the summer grazing and the rye. With plenty of good pasturage we need to have very little fear of feeding too much of that cheapest of all grains—corn. With good pasturage you can safely feed freely of grain. In fact, it never pays to feed sparingly. Hogs should always be fed liberally. The stingy feeder and the hog are not very good friends. I lately visited two different breeders. One of them had his hogs on good grass and plenty of grain, and there I saw a splendid lot of youngsters, and the breeding stock, including a 500 pound boar, were as active as kittens. The other breeder had some fancy bred stock, bought at high prices, with plenty of bran and ship stuff, but no sign of grass of any kind, and he had hardly a single good individual.—J. L. Lisle, Before Kentucky Swine Breeders.

Skim Milk For Pigs.

A writer in a western farm paper declares that the large proportion of water which skim milk contains makes it of too little value to be worth carrying home from the creamery or separator after its butter fats have been extracted. This is not the experience of eastern farmers, who find that skim milk when combined with grain feed makes the very best ration both for growing and fattening hogs. It is easy to see why skim milk should be good for growing pigs, as what nutrient it contains is mainly its casein, which is another name for albumen and one of the best foods to make growth and muscle. But fattening hogs are also equally benefited by having some skim milk with their grain food. No animal can digest a ration that is wholly carbonaceous. Nature demands the material for making muscle and bone. Appetite fails if they are not furnished. Yet years ago we remember hearing of hogs which had been fattened until they were so weak that they could not stand up and had to have what food they ate brought to them. Such hogs would not eat much, as they got no exercise and made small gains in weight, and that not of healthy pork. If good skim milk with some wheat middlings in it had been fed to such hogs, they would have gained in weight much faster, and the hogs would have had the material for bonemaking so as to keep them on their feet until ready for killing time.—American Cultivator.

Put Your Wool In Condition.

The time will soon be here for the flock master to prepare his clip for market. During recent years of low prices an increase in careless handling is seen in the condition many farmers send their wool to market. See that the sheep are tagged early, before getting on the fields of fresh grass. We would like to see the practice of washing generally abandoned, yet if washing is attempted either wash well or don't wash at all. Choose a dry day when the water is flush and the wool is softened by a warm spring shower. Then the grass and dirt will come out more easily. Washing in cool weather and in cold, hard water should be avoided, as it does not clean the wool and colors and injures the appearance of the fleece. Higher prices are likely to prevail than flock owners have enjoyed for some years, and with them will come more careful scrutiny of the condition by the buyer and the casting into the lot of discount wool more of those fleeces that are off condition.—National Stockman.

The Lime Sulphur Dip.

Some of our valued exchanges are again publishing the old lime sulphur formula for sheep dip and advising its use. We do not. It is not a satisfactory dip to the wool manufacturer, and the woolgrower cannot afford to neglect the requirements of the man who furnishes him a market. For the average man the best plan is to buy a good dip and use it according to directions. It may cost a little more in cash, but it will save time and trouble, and it will kill the ticks and the scab without hurting the sheep or the wool.

CATTLE IN NEW MEXICO.

The Ranges Now Being Stocked and the Owners Much Encouraged.

For a short time the uncertainty of a condition of war had a depressing effect upon business generally throughout the country, but the fear of a scarcity of ready money is fast passing away, and business is resuming its normal condition. More especially is this returning confidence noticeable in the cattle business in New Mexico. Reports from all parts of the territory indicate that money for the conduct of the business of grazing and the raising of stock is easily procured, and the day of the prosperity of the cattle owners is again at hand. The ranges are being stocked with cattle brought from wherever animals can be bought, and thousands of head have been placed on ranges that have been unoccupied for several years past. From one section of the territory has already come the cry of overstocking, but that is a condition which can be remedied by driving on to lands still comparatively free. The danger of an oversupply is very remote, and the future of the cattleman seems exceedingly bright.

The old days of haphazard herding and gathering are gone forever. The experience gained in the general smash in the early eighties has not been forgotten, and improved methods for handling and caring for range stock have been evolved from that wreck. Better cattle will be raised, better business sense will be used, and, above all, enormous losses will be prevented by guarding against them. One source of loss still remains—that of "rustling"—but the lawless element that, once rained the mountains and mesas has been almost exterminated, and those who engage in the dangerous pastime now will find short shrifts in the courts and long terms in the penitentiary awaiting them every round up season. The business of "mavericking" and burning brands, thanks to the vigilance of the territorial cattle sanitary board and its inspectors, is growing less popular every day, and the time is not far distant when the most persistent purloiner of hoofs and hides will give up the occupation in disgust.

The stocking of the ranges and the improvement in the cattle business mean much to New Mexico, and will have a material effect upon the general prosperity of the coming fall. The money resulting from the sales made to feeders will have wide circulation, and next year will see the cattle king in all his former glory lord it over mountain and plain in the land of manana.—Santa Fe New Mexican.

More Horses With the Pedigree.

"My only regret," remarked a breeder that had recently fallen by the wayside, "is that I did not have more horses to begin with. Like thousands of enthusiasts, I was carried away by the extravagant sales of certain ill shaped but fast trotters, by the extortionate stud fees asked and received by owners of stallions that today would not be considered worthy of patronage, by the fictitious valuation placed upon brood mares and young stock, and by the general air of recklessness that pervaded every avenue connected with the light harness horse industry. My first purchase was a stallion bred in so called approved blood lines, but lacking in those essential qualifications that recommend the typical good selling horse of the present day. My stallion was long on nonessentials and short on essentials. His pedigree traced to every noted sire of the day and to half a score of brood mares that occupied reserved seats at the table established by Premier Wallace and continued by his successor in office. The artistically arranged tabulation which accompanied the horse never once mentioned the fact that his sire was small, ill shaped and unsound; that his dam would not have sold at public vendue on her personal merit for one hundredth part of the valuation placed by her owner; that not one of his ancestors, so far as proved, had even attracted the attention of buyers looking for serviceable carriage or road horses. In short, the tabulation spoke of nothing that would recommend the stallion, his ancestors or probable descendants to the kindly consideration of a critical public who insist upon buying a horse and not a tabulated pedigree with something in the shape of a horse attached."—National Stockman.

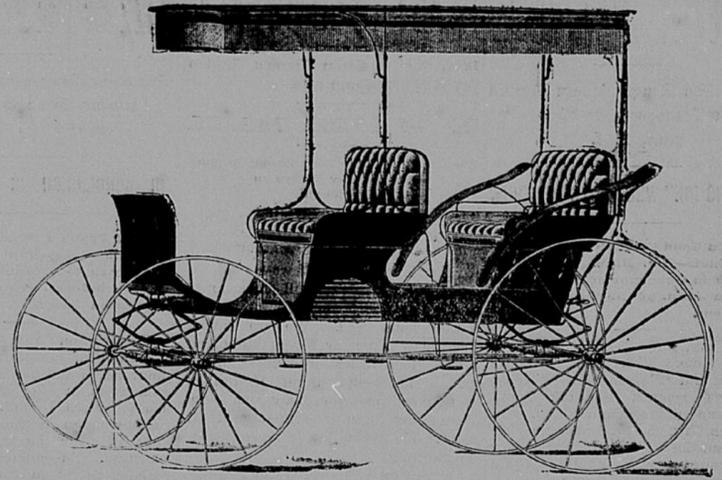
Cheap Hoghouses Best.

The elaborate designs for hoghouses which used to be quite generally published in farm papers are out of date now. It is not best to keep a large herd of hogs together at any time. It is far better that each breeding sow have a house by herself where she can rear her young, not only out of sight, but out of hearing of other hogs. These small hoghouses should be made cheap enough and firm enough so that, if desired, they can be removed and set in another place. In this way a few movable hoghouses, each with a sow and litter of pigs, may be made to fertilize the whole orchard instead of keeping all the manure in the immediate vicinity of the hogpen, if the policy of making a large building and keeping many hogs in it is adopted.—American Cultivator.

Rate of Growth.

An Ohio farmer in the Stockman gives the weight of a litter of seven Poland-China pigs when dropped Jan. 26 as 80 pounds. When 1 month old, they weighed 105 pounds. At the end of another month they weighed 182 pounds, and when 3 months old, still running with the sow, but having food beside her milk, they weighed 387 pounds, having gained 51 pounds each. This is a good gain, but we think not an unusual one for thirty pigs well cared for and well fed. But very few farmers or breeders take the trouble to weigh their animals when growing to ascertain the rate of growth. If it was done often, the farmers would be wiser for it, and perhaps more ambitious to make a good record, and therefore would feed more liberally.

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This Illustration

Is taken from the story "Would You Be Young Again?" by George H. Hepworth. It is a very clever bit of imagining and we are sure it will be enjoyed by our readers. It is one of a series of eight short stories we have arranged to publish soon. The others are:

- The Sergeant of the Guard By P. Y. BLACK
- The Finding of Diamond Pan By GEORGE GRIFFITH
- The Two Doors By CLINTON ROSS
- A Game of Quixotism By TOM GALLON
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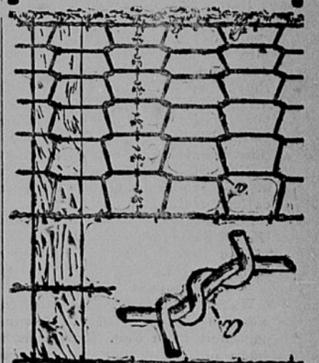
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