

Stock Department.

Holstein Cattle.

Isaac Augur, agent of the West Pittsfield, Mass., Shakers, writes to the New England Farmer thus:

Having heard, from time to time, comments through the public journals and verbally, some in favor and some opposed, I offer a few remarks which have grown out of actual experience concerning the merit of this noted stock during the past eighteen months. Having owned two bulls and two cows, thoroughbred, and having seen their product in milk and butter, I feel able to say something in their favor.

One cow seven years old in the spring of 1875, calving March 17, has given, on an average, twenty quarts per day to the present date. I tested her milk in butter from the 13th of June for seven days, during which time she made fourteen pounds of nice butter, with no extra feed and no more than a common pasture.

The second cow, six years old in the spring of 1875, calved Sept. 22nd, 1875, and after four or five days, her milk was reserved by itself and set for cream, after letting the calf suck what it would three times a day. From the surplus of surplus of seven days, I found, on weighing the butter, thirteen pounds of a fine article, and, in total quantity per day, after three weeks of the time of the calf sucking, she had averaged from twenty-four to twenty-six quarts per day of milk.

November 24th, 1874, I bought a thoroughbred imported Holstein bull, one year old past, and his gain in ten months is four hundred pounds, making an average of forty pounds per month and not on high feed.

They are a fine growing stock, large, good feeders, and can say, with all freedom, that they are, in my estimation, the best for market milkers, butter, cheese, oxen and beef of any thoroughbred stock now known in our country. I should be pleased to show these above samples to any and all who may be pleased to call.

Big Jaw.

This is more properly called "dilatation of the jaw bones." In horses it is sometimes called "big head;" it is a bony tumor, in which the interior of the bone is absorbed, sometimes leaving a mere shell of bone divided into cells, containing purulent cheesy matter. This is supposed to be caused by a deficiency of phosphate of lime in the food, rendering the bones deficient in this most important element, and the following prescription is often given with good result: Phosphate of lime, six ounces; powdered golden seal, two ounces; powdered sassafras, three ounces; powdered ginger, two ounces; oatmeal, four pounds; mix. This will be divided into sixteen parts, one given in the food every night. This will have a tendency to restore the missing elements in the bone. And the general diet should be food rich in phosphates. You may get your phosphate of lime by boiling beef bones in lye of wood ashes, and after it is reduced fine, wash with water and give a small quantity daily in food. The first thing to do surgically is to open it and let out any matter that it contains. Having removed the matter, inject the cavity with weak pyroligneous or weak carbolic acid. This will cleanse it and render healing possible.—Live Stock Journal.

BLACK TONGUE.—The Indiana Farmer says: "This disease has appeared in a few places in the State among the cattle, and in parts of this county is proving quite fatal. The symptoms are inflammation of the mouth; swelling of the head and face. Discharge of bloody saliva, and high fever marks the first stages. Ulcers soon appear under and on the sides of the tongue. Then the throat and neck swell, and if the disease is not checked, gangrene ensues and the animal dies. The disease is said to yield readily to early and proper treatment. The following has proved very successful: The animal should be bled from the neck vein. Give him castor oil, one pint, to be repeated in ten hours if it should not operate; then use the following: Powdered burnt alum, four ounces; chloride of lime, two ounces; corn meal, two quarts. Mix, and with this powder swab the mouth frequently.

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Good Points of a Cow.

1. Youth. A cow is in her prime at from four to six years, and the best paying time to buy is just after the birth of her second or third calf.

2. Prominence and fullness of milk veins, and velvety softness of skin. The milk veins run down on either side of the animal toward the udders and are easily perceptible to the eye, or can be readily found by pressure of the hand, if the animal is not over fat. The skin should be soft and mellow, not hard, rough and "staring."

3. Symmetry, fullness and softness of the udder. It should be broad well spread out, projecting behind the legs, and also reaching under the belly. There should be a softness and thinness to the touch, and an absence of fleshiness and thickness.

4. Perfect number and condition of teats. If one teat is wanting, about a fourth less milk will be the result. A cow's udder, is not, as some suppose, a barrel with four taps, but is divided into four different compartments, called "milk glands," each of which has its own tap or teat. It is only important that the full number of teats be present and in working order, but it is desirable that they do well placed, not crowded together, but pretty far and uniformly apart; rather long and tapering; all pointing out and downwards; equal in size and even appearance.

5. Docility and quietness of disposition. These are indicated by large, mild and clear eyes and an air of contentment generally. A cow that is quiet and contented feeds at ease, chews her cud with entire satisfaction, and will secrete and yield more milk than any restless and turbulent animal, having similar milking characteristics in other respects.

Coal for Swine.

Judge Caton, of Illinois, a noted hog-raiser, says, in the Prairie Farmer: "I have for many years been in the habit of feeding my hogs with an abundance of our common bituminous coal, preferring the poorest, or that which contains a large amount of sulphur and iron, and I think with the happiest results. Let a farmer who has never tried it, throw in a lump of coal as large as his fist, and he will be surprised to see the hog leave the corn and crunch the coal, as if it were the most luscious morsel. Sulphur has long been known as a valuable remedial agent for hogs, and iron is a well known tonic, acting specifically upon the blood, thickening and strengthening it. Here, then, the hog, by eating the coal, gets other important elements besides the carbon. I have never known a hog well supplied with this coal to be sick or off his feed for a single day, and although I cannot give figures showing actual results of careful experiments to prove it, I believe hogs thus supplied will eat more and assimilate their food better, will make appreciably more pork, with a given amount of corn, than those which are without it. At least, I am well satisfied with the way in which my hogs thrive—grow and fatten—under this treatment. Coal is cheap, and may be tried at little expense." Charcoal is nearly, if not quite, as good as coal for hogs.

Sulphur Ointment.

The North British Agriculturist says: Sulphur ointment is generally prepared by melting one pint of flowers of sulphur with four or six of lard, palm oil or other fatty matter. For mange, scab, and some of the simpler inflammatory conditions of the skin of animals, sulphur ointment proves a soothing dressing; but it is by no means the most effectual application for the destruction of those vegetable parasitic growths popularly known as ringworm. For such purposes, if sulphur ointment is used, it is advantageously mixed with about one part of the dark brown, impure carbolic acid to six or eight of sulphur ointment. Silver nitrate, zinc chloride solution, copper and iron sulphates, and other such powerful astringents and antiseptics, applied carefully in tolerably concentrated solution, destroy the vegetable parasite, and thus prevent the complaint spreading. In most cases where the bare circular spots of ringworm first show themselves, they are easily arrested by the in-rubbing of any common oil or saline astringent solution, especially if the animals are not exposed to fresh spores of the disease usually developed amongst damp old straw, and particularly prone to occur where barley straw is chiefly used, whether for food or litter.

Suffolk-Down Sheep.

This is a very useful breed of sheep, says the London Live Stock Journal, as yet only known to local fame, but rapidly extending in popularity with every successive year. It ranks beside the Hampshire and Shropshire, and in form, figure, carriage and general appearance, may perhaps be considered to fall between the two. Visitors to the late Suffolk County Show at Stowmarket, were brought into contact with them, and they were to be met with again at Brentwood last Tuesday and Wednesday. There can be little doubt that throughout the eastern countries either Suffolk-Downs or the Norfolk Downs are propagated numerously. Both varieties ought to be considered as one, for they have pretty much the same origin, and afford no more striking differences in appearance than the Hampshires of the three counties of Wilts, Hants, and Dorset present to view. Those disposed to be very critical may divide sheep into almost innumerable breeds. There are even two sorts of Suffolk-Downs, viz: the more hardy but smaller animals to be found in East Suffolk, which have to browse on the whin commons of the sand-heath tracts of that region, and the larger, thicker sheep, with dense black faces and sharply chiseled features to be found in the good lands of West Suffolk, and particularly between Bury and Newmarket.

The breed has origin in a cross between the old Norfolk and the South Down. The former is one of the numerous kinds which were very popular many generations ago, but are now extinct. The light, sandy heaths of Norfolk and Suffolk were less cultivated a century ago than at the present day, and the ancient Norfolk breed was fully acclimatized to the exigencies of the situation. In process of time it became fashionable to keep South-Downs, or a cross between the South-Down and Norfolk. Thus the old sort became swamped or swallowed up, just as the Wiltshire-horns were in their native country, and it would be, perhaps, difficult to find true specimens of the type of either at the present period.

But it is not many years remarked in one of our agricultural journals that although the pure bred Norfolks are never seen, traces of the old blood are to be found in more than half the flocks to be found in the country of Norfolk. The same may certainly be said of the flocks of Suffolk for, in addition to the Suffolk-Downs proper large numbers of cross-bred sheep are bred and grazed by Suffolk ewes being put to long-wooled rams. On the good lands of both countries no sheep are so popular as "half-breeds" of the true stamp. These derive a large frame, hardihood, strength of constitution, and wonderful milking qualities from the old Norfolk blood, quality from the South-Down, and early maturity, good feeding characteristics and heavy fleeces from the improved Lincoln or Cotswold.

Suffolk-Downs, or as they are frequently termed, black-faced flocks, are however, very numerous. On the poor walk lands, where furze, or whin, extensively appears, of which there are extensive districts in both counties, probably no sort of sheep would thrive so well as this hardy, productive one, which has been acclimatized to meet the exigencies of the situation. Flocks of breeding ewes roam at large on these sheep-walks, who feed almost as much on the young and tender shoots of the furze bushes as the scant herbage of the velvety turf which grows between them. At night the flocks are folded on the arable lands, and often driven for that purpose to considerable distances. They may be folded, as is frequently the case, on a green crop, and almost invariably receive a hearty supper either of tough food, hay, roots, or green produce to make up for the scant fare of the health browings.

HORSE DENTISTRY.—A correspondent inquiring what he should do for a horse that had a decayed tooth, gets the following answer in the New York Tribune: "If your correspondent will carefully clean out the decay in his horse's teeth down to the pulp cavity, and will then carefully touch the dental nerve with pure nitric acid, it will effectually destroy all pain and fit the tooth for filling. If the dentine is very sensitive, first touch it (or pack the tooth) with crystallized carbolic acid. This will blunt all pain in the dentine fibrils. After the decayed bone has been removed, fill the tooth with dentist's gutta percha, mixed with silix, or with an amalgam of tin and mercury.

Horticulture.

Pear Culture for Market.

The pear is a delicious fruit and is greatly esteemed by all. It is more difficult to raise than most other fruits, and it requires experience and skill to do it successfully. Mr. Fahnestock, of Ohio, has been quite successful, and gave a report of his experience at the recent meeting of the Ohio State Horticultural Society, which Mr. M. B. Bateham condensed for the American Farm Journal. As we have a large number of readers in the South, who are engaged in cultivating the pear for the northern market, we publish it, as they may obtain some valuable hints:

The roots of the pear. The roots of the pear naturally run deep, and the best soil is a rich clay, or clayey loam, well drained or naturally dry, and having a clayey subsoil—not too compact, but gravelly, or friable, so that the roots can penetrate it to sufficient depth to escape the reach of heat and drouth. Coolness and moisture beneath, without saturation, are the chief requisites; and to these Mr. Fahnestock attributes much of his exemption from blight and other causes of failure.

Preparation of the soil consists of deep plowing, with a subsoil plow following in the furrow of a common plow, thus loosening the subsoil as deeply as possible, without bringing it onto the surface.

The distance apart, recommended for the trees, is twenty feet. Set small stakes at the places for the trees, in straight rows both ways; dig the holes at least two feet wide and eighteen inches deep. Throw a shovelful of good surface earth into the hole before setting the tree, and fill in about the roots with the same, pressing it firmly with the foot.

Mulching afterwards is of much importance. Mr. Fahnestock prefers, for this purpose, half rotted stable manure having some straw in it. It should be laid around each tree for at least three feet in extent, and thick enough to shield the ground from the sun. It will protect the roots from injury by drouth, and greatly promote the growth of the trees.

Choice of trees.—He prefers trees of healthy growth, not over two years old from the bud, as these are easily taken up at the nursery with their roots almost entire, and hence are not so much checked by removal as are older trees. They are also much easier to train into any desired shape.

Pruning.—Mr. Fahnestock recommends planting all standard trees—no dwarfs—and he trains them into the form of handsome pyramids by cutting off the tops to within two or, at most, three feet of the ground, and removing the side branches, if any, so as to leave nothing but straight stems at the time of planting. When the tree begins to grow, let one shoot take the lead and form the main stem, provided there are two or three others to form branches; but if not, pinch off the head or the leader in midsummer, so as to compel the formation of several branches within three feet of the ground, and then others at different heights, as may be needed for the pyramidal form, but not so numerous or so near together as to crowd each other, or make the tops difficult of access. With a little care each year, not much pruning will at any time be necessary.

Prevention of Blight.—Next to deep soil and mulching, Mr. Fahnestock believes that his exemption from blight is largely owing to his trees having such low heads that their trunks are fully shaded from the sun. He also goes over his trees each spring and scrapes off the rough bark, and washes the trunks with lye or strong soap suds; and if any black spots are seen, he shaves off all the dead bark and washes the places with copers water, which stops the spreading of the mischief.

STOCK AND STOCKS.—We enter our protest against the indiscriminate use of the term "stock." Of late it is applied to particular kinds of trees in a way that leads a person to suppose the speaker refers to seedlings or stocks. The term "stocks," with nurserymen, is a technical one, implying young plants (often seedlings), to be budded or grafted—while the term "stock" (save where it is used in the singular of "stocks"), is general, and is used in all kinds of business, to imply stock in trade. Let us not confound the words. It is proper to say "a large stock of apples or apple trees," but never "a large apple stock," unless we refer to the size of an individual apple seedling. We have frequently heard people inquire the price of apple stocks, when they meant apple trees. Don't mix things, gentlemen.—Eclectic Ruralist.

Strawberries.

Any rich soil that will produce good corn or potatoes is suitable for the strawberry. If the soil is compact, it should be deeply trenched to secure good crops. The plants should be kept clean and the ground frequently stirred during the growing season after the plants are first set. In all exposed situations or when there is but little snow, at the commencement of winter, there should be a light covering of straw or leaves spread on the plants and the entire ground to protect the roots in winter. In the spring remove the covering from the crown of the plants and let the rest remain until after the fruit is gathered, to protect it from dust and to keep the ground cool and moist.

The plants may be set in the spring or fall, but if set in the fall they should be planted early, so as to have them well rooted before winter. For field culture, the rows should be three feet apart and the plants 15 or 18 inches in the row. The greatest amount of fruit is produced when the plants are grown in hills and the runners kept off.

Agriculturist—A splendid berry, large size; fruit sometimes measuring 7 or 8 inches in circumference; flavor good.

Chas. Downing—Fruit medium to large, conical, deep scarlet, fine flavor, productive and promises well for market.

Golden Queen—Fruit large, light crimson, flesh tender, juicy and sweet, with a peculiar aromatic flavor.

Green Prolific—Fruit large, of fine scarlet color. Very productive.

Michigan Seedling—Ripens a week to ten days later than Wilson's; keeps better, more uniform in size; and firmer fruit. For hardiness, vigor, productiveness, and long keeping qualities it has no equal.

Jucunda—A strawberry of the largest size, high color, holding its fruit well up on the vines; bringing the highest price in market.

Nicanor—Plants vigorous and productive, berries fair size, bright scarlet.

President Wilder—Plant a vigorous, healthy grower, very productive. Fruit large, roundish, quite regular, bright crimson scarlet, firm, juicy, sweet and rich.

Russell's Prolific, (p.)—Large size, pretty firm, good flavor, less acid than Wilson's; vines strong and vigorous.

Triumph de Gand—Large, glossy, crimson; a strong grower and abundant bearer.

Wilson's Seedling—One of the most productive and profitable varieties for market culture.

Those marked (p.) are pistillate; others are perfect in their flowers.—From Stores & Harrison's Catalogue.

CULTIVATED AND GRASSY ORCHARD.—The Practical Farmer describes an experiment made on the Eastern experimental farm of Pennsylvania, in a standard Bartlett pear orchard. One portion had been in grass five or six years, and had formed a tough soil. This was carefully and thoroughly plowed last year. Another portion had been cropped with vegetables until within two years, when it was seeded to grass. Both portions had been alike dressed with fresh ashes a year ago at the rate of one bushel per tree. Both set a heavy crop of fruit this year. The trees on the portion two years in grass ripened their fruit sooner, drop their leaves prematurely, and the fruit was smaller than the other. The trees on the portion plowed last year retained their leaves late, the fruit was large and perfect, and sold for \$4 per crate wholesale.

Thos. Meehan, who is good authority on the subject of botany, says that farmers' sons, who are now receiving their education, whose future is to be employed in the noblest of all occupations—the tilling of the soil—should be pretty thoroughly educated in botany. It is not only one of the most pleasing and instructive of all the branches of education, but it is one of the most useful, particularly to a farmer, who will find daily and almost hourly need of it. He is constantly facing its representatives in some form, to understand which is frequently of the utmost importance. Not a plant, especially a weed, can be grown or obtrude itself upon his premises but what will be familiar to him, as much so as the plants composing the leading cultivated crops. He is thus brought face to face with well known acquaintances, be they friends or otherwise, and will give them such a reception as they may respectively deserve.

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