

PRODUCTION OF CATTLE IN WEST

Investigations Conducted in Nebraska Show Wide Variation in Figures.

FEEDING PERILOUS VENTURE

Buying Right and Selling Right Are Controlling Factors—Some Farmers Carried Animals Through With Profit.

According to cost of production investigations conducted by the United States department of agriculture in co-operation with the University of Nebraska in parts of Nebraska during the past two years, the average cost of corn-fed cattle laid down at market was \$14.91 per hundredweight for 2,293 head fed in the winter of 1918-19, \$13.83 for 3,041 cattle in a survey study during the winter of 1919-20, and an average of \$13.39 for an additional 795 cattle upon which detailed cost figures were secured during the same winter. The costs upon some droves were found to vary widely from these average figures, with the major portion going to market the first winter (1918-19) carrying an expense bill of from \$13 to \$18 a hundredweight, while in 1919-20 the costs of most of the cattle were between \$11 and \$17. The facts thus far brought out by the investigation would indicate that during the past two years, in the district covered by the survey, cattle feeding was a precarious venture, more likely to be unprofitable than not. There was an average loss per head of \$3.17 on the cattle for which records were obtained in 1918-19, and of \$10.69 and \$14.57 on two groups for which records were obtained in 1919-20.

These figures are the results of the first two years' work of a five-year study of the basic factors of the cost of fattening cattle, which is being conducted in Nebraska by the office of farm management and farm econom-



Good Pastures and Good Stock Are Essential for Profitable Beef Production.

ics, in co-operation with the University of Nebraska and the bureau of animal industry, United States department of agriculture. Similar studies are being conducted in Iowa, Missouri, Illinois and Indiana, and preliminary reports on the work in these states will be forthcoming shortly.

Feeding Plays Minor Part.
The greater part of the Nebraska cattle covered in the survey work of 1918-19 made their gains at a cost of from 20 to 35 cents per pound, with extremes ranging from 12 to 48 cents, while of the cattle covered the next year the greater part made their gains at from 15 to 35 cents per pound, with an extreme range of from 8 to 53 cents. While economical feeding is shown to be the major factor in the cost of fattening after the steer is bought, the investigation substantiates the fact that feeding usually plays a minor part in determining profit or loss, and that buying right and selling right are more often the controlling factors.

The cattle in question were bought at about the same figures in both years of the investigation. In 1918-19 three of the droves were bought at between \$6 and \$7, but most of the cattle covered in the study went into the lot at between \$8 and \$12. Of the 21 droves covered by the detailed cost-accounting method, 11 cost between \$10 and \$11. The weight of the feeders varied rather widely, averaging about 700 pounds with but few over 1,000 pounds or under 500.

Feed, the most important factor of the cost of fattening the steer after purchase, was found to constitute from 75 to 90 per cent of all the expense involved in handling the steers after being put on feed.

Wide Variation in Cost Factors.
The wide variation in the factors affecting cost was reflected in equally wide variation in the total cost of the finished cattle. During both of the years of the study the cost of the cattle covered in the surveys ranged from about \$8 to \$22 per hundred fattened, the average for 1918-19 being \$14.91, and for 1919-20, \$13.83. The droves covered by the cost-accounting method showed a much narrower range, from \$10 to \$18 with an average of \$13.89.

The financial return varied widely, ranging from \$50 profit or more per head, reported for 40 head in 1918-19, to \$50 or more per head loss, reported for 155 head in 1918-19 and for over 200 head in 1919-20. As has been stated above, on the average there was a loss incurred in handling cattle each year, reaching \$14.57 per head as the average loss of the 795 cattle on the detailed route in 1919-20. However, a number of farmers carried their cattle through with profit.

SHRINKAGE OF GOOD HAY DOES NO INJURY

Loss of Water Does Not Affect Feeding Value.

Properly Cured Product Has Bright, Natural Green Color—Information Soon to Be Given Out by Department of Agriculture.

Shrinkage occurring in good market hay is due almost entirely to a loss of water, which has no feeding value, say specialists of the United States bureau of markets. Such shrinkage seldom



Loss of Water Causes Shrinkage in Weight of Hay, but Does Not Injure Feeding Value.

causes an actual money loss to the farmer, because any loss in weight in baled hay is borne by the shipper, who usually receives the hay as soon as it is baled.

If the shipper-stores baled hay for speculation, there often will be a money loss caused by shrinkage, because he has purchased an excess amount of water.

There is practically no loss of dry matter in market hay that has been properly cured. Proper curing is indicated by a bright, natural green color. Improperly cured hay may lose dry matter, but such hay is not in demand in any of the terminal markets.

The water content of hay at different periods of curing and storage, methods of making hay to prevent excessive shrinkage in storage, methods of determining shrinkage on individual farms, and other general shrinkage information of interest to all agencies engaged in the production and marketing of market hay is given in a publication soon to be issued by the department of agriculture.

MARKETING SHEEP AND HOGS

Figures Furnished by Department of Agriculture Show Cost of Loading, Feeding, Etc.

Of 54 carloads of sheep, including 11 single-deck and 43 double-deck cars, the cost of loading and bedding cars average \$0.019 per 100 pounds live weight, according to figures furnished the general trade commission by the United States department of agriculture. Other marketing expenses, including freight, varied from \$0.239 to \$1.97 per hundredweight. The shrinkage in weight varied from 8.53 to 8.97 per cent, the majority of the shipments averaging approximately 8 per cent.

Similar records on 253 carloads of hogs showed the cost of loading and bedding to average 1.5 cents per 100 pounds live weight; feed at market approximately 8 to 9 cents; commission charges, 4 to 10 cents; miscellaneous expense, 2 to 10 cents, averaging approximately 5 cents; and the total cost of marketing including freight from varying districts approximately from 33 to 50 cents. The shrinkage in weight on 873 carloads of hogs varied from 9.88 to minus 4.59 per cent.

LATE MOLTERS ARE FAVORED

Hens That Undergo Transformation During July and August Are Not Best Layers.

It has been observed that the best layers usually molt during the latter part of September or the months of October, November and December. Hens that molt during July and August are not the profitable hens, as they rest for three or four months while they grow their new feathers and will not start in laying until the following February or March. These hens are not the kind to use either in the breeding pen or the laying pen. In some cases, the early hatched pullets of the year previous will start molting during June, and a little judgment should be exercised in such cases. A check should be made with other tests.

PROPAGATING RHUBARB ROOT

Plants Which Have Not Done Very Well This Season Should Be Dug—Replant Next Spring.

Rhubarb which has not been giving very good results during the past season, should be dug this fall, and the roots allowed to remain in the open during the winter. In the spring as soon as the ground can be prepared, the large root or mother root should be divided into from six to eight parts and planted. A root four to five years old becomes root bound and produces small stems.

OUT-OF-ORDINARY PEOPLE

Chicago as a Cultural Center



uncultured city. Chicago leads in music because music here is democratized, serviceable. Civic music associations, city club forces, Chicago Woman's club activities have spread popular and low-priced concerts over the city.

"Music is something more than a fashion, and Ravinia is not a 'society' pet exclusively. It occupies an increasingly important part in the consciousness of the town, and Ravinia is an institution of which the city is particularly and inordinately proud."

Henry Kitchell Webster, the novelist, lives in Evanston, but is really a Chicagoan. Discussing his new novel, "Mary Wollaston," he makes the claim that he is the first novelist to take the cultural forces of the Windy City seriously.

"H. L. Mencken," he says, "has called our city the literary capital of the country. In music, now, that is, to my mind, unquestionably true. Chicago is the musical capital of the nation, and it is about one distinct phase of this, Ravinia Park, that I have written largely in 'Mary Wollaston.' Grand opera in the Auditorium is to be expected, and the success of that organization is natural, but summer opera in so beautiful a spot as Ravinia is not to be expected in the Chicago of world fame, the Chicago of the railroads, wheat pits, stockyards. Ravinia is a fine accomplishment, a thing that could never have happened in a

Prince of Wales: Nice Fellow

The prince of Wales, while visiting the British West Indies, made the statement that they were "not for sale." This declaration has just become generally known. All the discussion which has been going on for some time in the British and American press on the subject of the transfer of the British West Indies to the United States in part or complete payment of the war debt owing by King George's empire to Uncle Sam's treasury is thus set at rest by this statement by the prince of Wales that the subjects of his father's crown, whether white or otherwise, were "not for sale."

Moreover, the prince of Wales is now known to have made this statement on the authority of his father, King George, and of the imperial government.

It is to be expected that the prince of Wales should be much in the public eye. But since his recent trip, all the world will watch his career with interest. For he showed himself to be a normal, modest, intensely human young man and won all hearts by his simplicity, affability and democracy.

He is not an intellectual, and he is certainly not a dullard. He rather fills the average of the youth of modern times, with an extreme fondness of modern activities, which include golfing, walking, jazz dancing, sightseeing and the rest. He is rather bashful than otherwise and is much more at home in the midst of a hearty crowd—the more democratic the better—than in the most august of formal gatherings.



Scott: Northwestern's New Head



Prof. Walter Dill Scott, noted psychologist, has been selected by the board of trustees to succeed Dr. Lynn Harold Hough as president of Northwestern university. He is an alumnus of the university and has been at the head of the school of psychology. He is president of the American Psychological association. He was graduated from Northwestern in 1895 and after four years abroad, during which he took a degree from Leipzig university for psychological research work, joined the faculty of his alma mater 20 years ago. Four years ago he was given a leave of absence. He went to Carnegie institute, while for a year he rendered for 30 firms the type of service he has of late been giving to Chicago companies.

He then went into the army, where he created the now famous system of classification of personnel. He was commissioned a colonel and was attached to the general staff. For his service he was awarded the D. S. M. During the last year he has been lecturing once a week in the school of commerce of Northwestern university.

President Scott is 6 feet 3 inches. He was born at Cookville, Ill., in 1860. He is the author of several books on applied psychology.

Dedication of Roosevelt Road

Mrs. Alice Longworth, daughter of Theodore Roosevelt and wife of Representative Nicholas Longworth of Ohio, poured water from the Sagamore Hill well into the concrete used in the last foot of Roosevelt road at Wheaton, Ill. Roosevelt road now runs from Michigan boulevard in Chicago to Wheaton, about 30 miles. Next year, it is stated, it will go on to Geneva, where it will connect with the Lincoln highway.

"People can construct beautiful buildings," said Col. R. R. McCormick, "and one day they will crumble in ruins or be torn down. Nations may rise and fall. Races may come and go. But highways, once opened to man, last forever. We have this day opened a highway, an imperishable highway, and we have given it an imperishable name."

Colonel McCormick thanked Mrs. Longworth for coming to the dedication ceremonies, and continued:

"Children of unborn generations will learn, through this road if through no other means, of the man whose spirit made it possible for the United States so well to face its peril in the war."



COZY NINE-ROOM HOME FOR FARM

Contains All Modern Equipment and Conveniences.

WILL HOLD FAMILY TOGETHER

This Comfortable House Has Wing With Garage and Extra Bedroom—Building Will Reflect Credit to Any Farm.

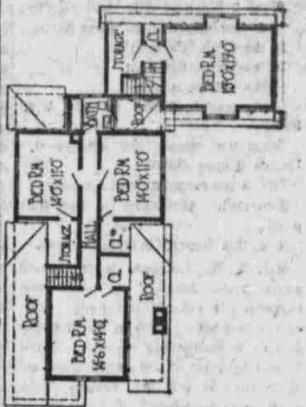
Mr. William A. Radford will answer questions and give advice FREE OF COST on all subjects pertaining to the subject of building work on the farm, for the readers of this paper. On account of his wide experience as Editor, Author and Manufacturer, he is, without doubt, the highest authority on all these subjects. Address all inquiries to William A. Radford, No. 137 Prairie avenue, Chicago, Ill., and only inclose two-cent stamp for reply.

By WILLIAM A. RADFORD.

For a long time the home of the farmer and his family was neglected. It was considered the most unessential building in the farm group. The dairy barn and other buildings for housing live stock came first in the farmer's scheme of things and little attention or expense was wasted on the house.

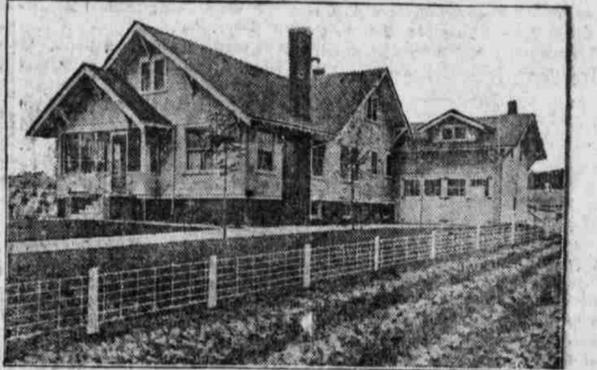
small and compact, it is only a few steps away from the dining room, a feature which means much to the housewife who must serve the meals in the dining room and carry them from the kitchen.

The garage is large enough to hold two cars, being 17 by 19 feet 6 inches.



Second Floor Plan.

Upstairs there are four bedrooms, bath room and two storage rooms. The essential feature of a farm home is plenty of room with ample sleeping quarters because the families are, as a rule, large, and there must be space



Perhaps that is one of the important reasons for so many young people leaving the farm as soon as they grew up and began to appreciate what real home comforts meant.

But with the progress in other things, this old idea has been changed and today the farm home is no longer overlooked or taken up as a necessary evil. It is now the important building in the farm group, a really attractive, modern structure with all the latest comforts and conveniences that the building profession can offer. No longer is the farmwife a galley slave working into the late hours of the night. She has learned the lesson that labor-saving appliances have come to teach.

As a typical example of this progress in modern farm home building we have the delightful house shown here with floor plans. It is a building that will reflect credit to any farm and one that will serve to keep the family to-

gether. This house has not been neglected in this case, having six bedrooms. The bedrooms on the upper floor are about the same size with the exception of the one over the garage which is rather long. This bedroom is not connected with the other rooms on this floor.

Certainly if there were more homes like the one shown here on farms in many parts of the country, the farmer would not be worried over his help. It would be a prominent factor in keeping his own sons satisfied because it affords them all the comforts and conveniences of a home in the city. Home life is essential to contentment. If the home surroundings are made attractive there will not be such a strong desire to leave them. Moreover a home of this type is a real blessing for the farmer's wife. It will do much in eliminating the drudgery which is so frequently found in homes. Her share of work, which is at the best considerable, can be lessened and made easier, by homes of this caliber. Washing machines and other appliances have worked wonders in this direction.

The home on the farm is too important to be overlooked or passed over. It should get the attention of every farmer who will find his time and efforts well spent.

NEW ABSORBENT OF VALUE

Material Used During the World War Put to Practical Use in Many Industries.

A new type of absorbent has come into use for gas masks in chemical plants, in mine-rescue apparatus, and for protection of workers in oil refineries and about blast furnaces.

Its efficiency was explained before the industrial division of the American Chemical society at its meeting at the University of Chicago, by Robert E. Wilson, director of the research laboratory of applied chemistry in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

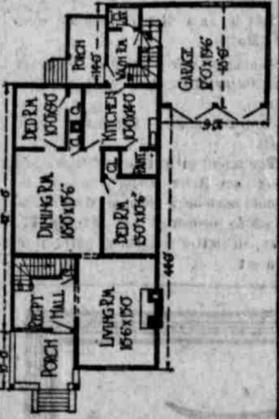
This material, known as soda-lime, was extensively used as an absorbent for poison gas during the World War. Doctor Wilson, profiting by his previous extensive work on soda lime for military purposes, made an intensive study of the efficiency of this absorbent against the various acid gases used in manufacturing. As a result, it was found that the soda lime on the market before the war contained far more caustic alkali than was desirable, and a new formula and method of manufacture has been developed which gives from three to ten times as good efficiency against various gases as was previously obtainable. This development is one of the many practical outgrowths of the work of the Chemical Warfare service.

Protection for Birds.

Neither airplanes, machine guns, battery guns, automatic guns nor any gun larger than a 10-gauge may be used in Alberta to kill migratory wild fowl under the international agreement that has just been entered into with the United States as a participating factor. Motorboats and sailboats are also forbidden as accessories to the sport of duck shooting.

What it is.

"I see where a lot of whisky has been seized that was buried in coal." "Just so. It only proves there is still left liquor to burn."



First Floor Plan.

gether. Built of frame with a brick and concrete foundation, it has an unusually well-designed exterior with a screened-in front porch, an ideal place in the summer.

One of the odd features of this house, however, is the wing in the rear at one side including a garage for pleasure cars and a bedroom above for the hired help. A long driveway leads from the main road to this part of the house.

On the first floor are five of the nine rooms which make up this pleasing home. They are the living room, dining room, kitchen, and two bedrooms. In addition there is a wash-room in the rear, next to the kitchen, a very important feature in a farm home as it affords the workmen a chance to clean up before entering the house. In this way the wife is saved a lot of unnecessary work of cleaning the kitchen after they have tracked it up with muddy shoes.

The living room is large, 18 feet 6 inches by 15 feet, with a large open brick fireplace, a continual source of cheer and warmth during the long winter nights. This room opens into a reception hall on one side and the dining room on another. The dining room is also a comfortable size, 18 by 15 feet 6 inches and well lighted by a triple window. It opens into two bedrooms, one to the rear and one to the side. The efficient arrangement of the floor plan is seen in the location of the kitchen with reference to the dining room. Built along the lines of the present day, in other words,