Farmers' Column.

Give fools their gold & knaves their power
Let fortune's bubbles rise and fall;
Who sows a field or trains a flower,
Or plants a tree, is more than all.

Feeding Cattle.

On nearly every farm there is to be found hay, straw, corn fodder and other things that do not find ready sale. These fodders are deficient in the albuminoids. If we try to feed a young growing animal of 500 pounds weight on meadow hay alone we should have to feed him 37½ pounds a day to supply the needed flesh-forming substance, while we should be feeding an excess of six pounds of carbo-hydrates, which would be worse than wasted, taxing the digestive organs to do an amount of work of no benefit.

Clover, Hungarian, bean vines, and the beans themselves, are, as a rule, over supplied with flesh-forming elements, and oftentimes good results may be obtained by a mixture of these two kinds of fodder. I would advise every farmer to grow all the Hungarian and clover possible for home feeding—Shorts are particularly adapted for milch cows, as they contain a large amount of phosphate. They are better than mill feed or middlings. Cows sometimes gnaw old boards and bones on account of a lack of phosphate in their food. A ration of shorts daily for a few weeks will entirely stop this habit.

Manure is more or less valuable in exact ratio to the kind of food and the animal that produces it. Young grazing cattle fed on cheap hay and no grain make very poor manure. From milch cows fed in a liberal manner and often on heavy grain rations, a good amount of rich manure is obtained. All of our cheap fodder are of little value for manure. Thus a ton of oat straw is worth but $3.50, while linseed and cotton seed are valued at $20 to $25 a ton. Hence we see it is well to look at this feature of the case before buying our supply of grain.

Care of stock has much to do with the result. Study them closely, see what they require, and use common sense in supplying it. Feed only at regular times, and two feeds a days is better than three. It is the nature of our neat stock to eat large quantities of food very rapidly, and then to lie down and remasticate it. I have followed this method for the past five seasons, and to much benefit.

I would water directly after they are done eating, as they will drink better at this time; although those who, like myself feed ensilage, will find that once a day will be as often as they will drink. If you compel your stock to drink water down to freezing, you must remember that enough food must be consumed to warm this water to blood heat, and as a cow will often drink ten or twelve gallons a day, which must all be raised from a temperature of 22 degrees up to 98 degrees, we see what a quantity of food will be required.—This also a applies to cold stables. If your cows slack up during a cold spell, it is due to the fact that the food has been used to keep up the temperature of the animal.

The grinding of ten bushels of corn on the ear costs 75 cents, and it would shell out five bushels, which I can have ground for 30 cents. I pay 45 cents for grinding 80 lbs. of cobs, or $11.25 per ton, which is too much. It is claimed that cob meal is as good as the clear meal. Perhaps it is, but the cobs are not worth more than $8 a ton; and are less than one-fourth the weight of meal. I think the effect is mostly mechanical, and that as good results may be obtained by a mixture of shorts or other bulky feed.

I have adopted this plan: To a mixture of eight bushels of corn and four of oats ground together, I put 200 lbs. of shorts and 200 lbs. of cotton-seed meal, which are thoroughly mixed.—By this method the meal is divided up and is better to feed, especially if you depend on help who would as soon feed one cow all shorts and another clear cotton seed as to give the proper amount to each.—*Exchange.*

I have for many years fed bran and recommend it to others, and do not know of any other food so valuable in winter to keep the system in a right condition, when stock are on dry rations. Bran is for winter feeding what grass is in summer—It regulates the stomach and bowels, and enables the animal to better digest and assimilate the other food eaten. I would not attempt to winter yearling colts and calves without bran each day unless I had a supply of carrots for them. I also find it valuable in fattening hogs, and considering that there is much less risk of cholera or other diseases when the diet is part brain than if all corn.—*Woldo F. Brown.*

The body, says F. D. Curtis, should be made first, and the fat added under favorable conditions. The time of fattening should be as short as possible—and here the value of breeds may be considered. The pig that will grow fast all over and get a good frame in the fewest months, and then round this out in the shortest time, is a model pig, whatever be its breed. To do this there must be a strong appetite, and a powerful digestion and assimilation which no fancy or folly should destroy.

When corn meal is fed during the special fattening stage, it would be better to mix an equal bulk of bran with it. The bran will prevent the meal from having its usual constipating effect and keep them healthier. After the frame is well grown, corn is best to put on fat. Rye and oats may be ground together and fed with the corn meal.

Hog cholera has become epidemic in some portions of West Virginia, and farmers are terribly excited over the progress of the scourge. Many of the farmers have lost from 20 to 50 head.

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THE firm of Burch & Montgomery having been dissolved by mutual consent, I have associated myself with the old reliable firm of Bullen & McKeever for the transaction of a General Commission Business for the sale of Cattle, Sheep, Hogs and other country produce. Thankful for the liberal patronage of my country friends in the past I respectfully solicit the continuance of same in the future.
Respectfully,
J. W. MONTGOMERY.

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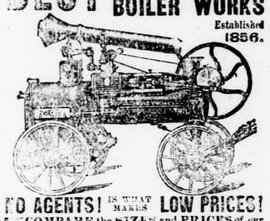
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