

Live Stock and Dairy

CONDUCTED BY CHARLES WM. BURKETT,
Professor of Agriculture, N. C. A. & M. College, and Agri-
culturist North Carolina Experiment Station.

Inquiries of Progressive Farmer readers cheerfully an-
swered.

THE HOG FOR SOUTHERN FARMS.

The hog for the Southern farms is not necessarily one that has a special breed prefixed to its name. I think all of us are inclined to become breed fanciers. We get attached to a certain breed and fail to see good in any other kind. Our ideas become as fixed and as dogmatic as our creeds or politics. I think the hog for us in the South is the one that will produce the most meat at least cost. If we accept this statement in the right way, I am sure we will profit by it. It may sound like a platitude, but yet it is good common sense. I feel it one's duty to keep away from narrowness. I am, therefore, going to practice this by recommending no one breed of swine. I like the Berkshire and I like the Poland China; and then I like the Duroc Jersey, and I think a good deal of the Essex. But I don't like the razor-back. It takes too long for him to mature and it requires too much feed to grow their long legs, that snout, and that long tail and coarse hair. These don't sell when the carcass comes to the butcher's block.

Hence, I would have a hog that puts meat where it finds a market. The Berkshire, the Poland China, the Duroc Jersey and the Essex do this. Hence, I think type should come before breed; and by type, I mean simply those characteristics that go to make a profitable hog. Here they are: Short snout, dished back and short; porky neck; upright shoulders, well covered and fine; long, broad back with deep sides; wide hips that are broad and deep; thick thighs, with meat close down to hocks, and short legs, both fore and hind. The belly line should be straight and parallel to the top line. Such a hog represents a profitable type.

HOW TO GET THEM.

The most practical way is to select from the brood sows you now possess, those that are prolific and that come nearest conforming to the type suggested. Then decide on breed that will meet your own ideas and your home conditions. After all, your own taste will be likely to cast the deciding vote. Now, with this decision made, get a good male. He must be pure-bred and he should be of the type heretofore described; use him and then stick to this breed. Your breed of hogs will quickly improve, and become a source of profit to the farm in proportion to the care, the pasture and the feed given them.

LIVE STOCK IN NORTH CAROLINA.

V.—More About Hog Raising—A Reply to Mr. French.
Editors Progressive Farmer:

On every farm the hog industry should be of sufficient importance to consume waste products, and on most farms there is enough waste material to make the meat for home consumption.

But outside of this, in some parts of our State, there are very exceptional opportunities for swine raising on a large scale. Where there are very fertile lands, yet meagre transportation facilities which would be a drawback to marketing a bulky crop, or a truck crop which is soon perishable, we must look to some condensed and more finished form in which to bring these fruits of the soil to the markets.

Well cured hog meat is one of the best forms in which this rank vegetable growth can be marketed. We have got too "set in our ways" down here in North Carolina about feeding methods. Corn and fodder for the horse, and corn for the hog, is too fast a rule. The hog is very cheaply

and easily fed on clovers and grasses. Sorghum is a splendid fattening feed, and makes an enormous growth on the eastern peaty soils. There are many other crops that the farmers of North Carolina know well that can be grown and changed to pork to great advantage.

Hog raising on a large scale is something new in North Carolina, but with the more general recognition of the adaptability of many parts of the State to this industry it must come to be one of our foremost lines of live stock. Any man who will take it up in the right way, with a good breed to begin with, cannot only make a good long profit at pork production, but can find ready local market for good breeding stock, and have the satisfaction of knowing that he is doing a missionary work at the same time. Think of it, not a single North Carolina swine breeder advertising stock for sale in this paper!

* * *

Mr. French, in article issue March 15th, seems to have misunderstood me in regard to the relative cost of raising a mule and a steer. The comparison was in reference to feed and keep only—this Mr. French himself places at \$35.00 each for two years. It was not suggested to grow mules in competition with steers, or in preference to them, in any sense of the word, but simply this: If a number of work horses are going to be kept, give preference to mares of some heavy breed and raise mules. If the horse is judiciously worked it will more than pay interest on investment, feed, and sinking fund, without having to charge this \$27.00 to the colt.

J. S. CATES.

Milk on the Farm.

Editors Progressive Farmer:

A good test of character is the ability to take honest criticism with self-respect and act upon it. The comments herein made are solely with a view of being helpful to fellow farmers.

The writer enjoys a visit to a farm. There is different scene at every farm; some are neat, tidy, attractive; others are not so. Where one finds neatness there you find milk that is good food; there milk will keep sweet a reasonable time; there butter is not old a day after churning. An invitation to take a meal is accepted gladly because one can see that no matter how plain the food may be, neatness has prevailed in the preparation of it.

Brother Farmers, did you ever drive over to So-and-so's about milking time in the afternoon and find the cows plastered from hip bone to fetlock, part of plaster wet and part dry? Did you notice the battered pail, with a rim of old dry milk along the seams, and the unwashed hands of the milker? Did you notice the pepper appearance of the milk in the pail as it was carried to the house? Did you notice that the strainer cloth was yellow and stiff with old milk, and the jars had a cheery smell? Was your neighbor's wife slouchy in her dress, hair in disorder, the children dirty, and your neighbor smoking a dirty pipe as milk was being put away? If such was the condition on that farm, then it is impossible to have sweet milk or good butter there.

Don't have such conditions on your own farm. Get every thing clean; keep all clean. Your neighbor seeing how you do, will improve his ways.

A man called at a farm once to see a separator at work, got there during milking hour, the milk in pails was well peppered with black specks (disgusting), it was poured through a sour cloth, separator was black, dingy, and a coat of dried milk lined the inside of the bowl. What quality of butter is made at that farm?

The same called at another farm to see the work of a different kind of separator. Here he was met by two neat, clean little girls. They said: "Papa is milking." Here the milkers each

had a damp cloth, the udders were wiped clean, milkers' hands clean, pails shining bright, strainer cloths sweet and bleached (having been in sun all day), the separator was as bright and clean as the day it was made, the farmer's wife in plain, neat, clean dress, hair well combed—in fact, it was an interesting picture throughout. The visitor saw enough at those two farms to convince him that there is a way to have good or bad milk and butter.

If any reader of The Progressive Farmer is troubled with sour milk or cream twenty-four hours after milking let him begin at the barn, clean up, clean up yourself, do all of your part just as clean as water and scrubbing can do. Keep it up. If your wife sees you do your part right, she will very soon change also. You will find the pails and strainers clean, milk will taste better, butter keep longer and sell for more money, wife and children will be neat, and no excuse made to visitors about dirty children.

Mr. Farmer, you cannot expect your wife to be neat and tidy if you are an old slouch.

The Agricultural Department at Washington, D. C., has two bulletins, No. 29, "Souring of Milk," and No. 42, "Facts About Milk." Write to the Department for these, and read each carefully.

READER.

Keeping Books in Poultry Raising.

Editors Progressive Farmer:

Poultry keepers who have never kept any account with their fowls, and then start in and keep a careful record of the outgo and income, are apt to be somewhat surprised at the end of the year. With some the surprise may be very agreeable, while with others it may be the opposite. At any rate it is apt to result in some changes for the better with the owner. If the balance is on the right side and he or she is well satisfied, it is likely to encourage them to do a little better next year. If the books foot up against them they will be apt to make an effort to improve matters, either by giving more attention to the hens or by going out of the business entirely. The latter, no doubt, would be the most sensible move for some.

I will tell of a farmer's wife who decided that

I will tell of a farmer's wife who decided that it would be better to know exactly what the hens were bringing in; so three years ago she procured a poultry and egg record for the purpose, and she has learned by this book-keeping that her Leghorns lay about one hundred and twenty eggs per year, the weight of the eggs being more than four times the hen's own weight, which is about three and one-quarter pounds. She has learned the value of the feed given the hens, and says that the cost of eggs produced in her yards is three and one-half cents in the summer and five cents per dozen in the winter. These fowls are given better care than the average farm flock gets, yet no special pains has been taken with them, only good all-round care. The point I wish to impress upon the minds of those who keep poultry is this: if this person had not kept an account with her fowls she would not have known the profit they were turning in, and it would be difficult to make others around her believe that her hens were doing so well except for those figures in "black and white."

Even in a poor market this woman would clear more than a dollar per head on her hens. But there are a great many people keeping poultry who are not doing this; no, they are not even making "both ends meet," but they don't know it.

Then, there are others who say that the hens don't pay their keep, and are a nuisance, when, if they really knew what they were talking about, they would find the hens the most profitable stock on the place. But these are matters that you will never know about as they really are until you keep a book account with the fowls. Many people dislike to be bothered setting anything down; they prefer to let things go on, and guess at the profit or loss.

The ones who make the most money, no matter what they are into, are those who have a system for carrying on their business. They have things in the proper place, and when the eggs are gathered it takes less than a minute to set down the number brought in. When the eggs or poultry are sold it's not much trouble to put down the amount received, and at the end of the year it is not much bother to foot it all up, but it's dreadfully interesting all the way through. Don't take my word for it; try it for a year.

A POULTRYMAN.

Cleveland Co., N. C.