

The Ranch

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The Importance of Live Stock on the Farm

Permanent and successful agriculture cannot be maintained without live stock. Agriculture based upon the exclusive grain farming must be of a necessity short lived. It leads to a system of soil robbing when all crops are sold through the elevator and nothing returned, and results in an impoverished soil and consequent low yields. It has been the history of all countries that the number of live stock and the value of farm lands bear a close relation. Decrease the number of farm animals and the price of real estate and farm lands go down. Increase the number of farm animals and the value of farm lands go up. This being the case, there ought to be, and we think there is, a very decided reason for it.

Keeping live stock helps to maintain the fertility of the soil. Different crops take certain chemical elements from the soil, and unless this be returned in the way of barnyard manure or the droppings of animals while grazing in the pasture, it will lead to reduced yields, often below the actual cost of production. Commercial fertilizers would in a way prevent this, but they are both expensive and unsatisfactory as a means of conserving the soil's fertility.

The keeping of live stock necessitates a large acreage of pasture lands. The average farmer does not, nor will not, manufacture enough barnyard manure to keep his soil rich, yet, in the growing pasture, plants fill the surface soil with millions of roots,

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which, when decayed, furnish humus. That helps to hold the moisture, aeration of the soil, and gives to it that physical tilth that admits the heat and provides a congenial environ-

ment for thrifty and vigorous growth of plants. busy with other work, or under estimate the value of this asset of the farm. Not one pound that accumulates about the barnyards and sheds should be allowed to go to waste.



A BUNCH OF DUROCS PUTTING ON TEN CENT PORK.

Wm. Bishop, the Holstein cattle breeder of Chimacum, Wash., feeds and markets about 300 of this sort every year.

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DOUBLING THE CROP YIELD.

The average farmer does not begin to live up to his opportunity when it comes to utilizing the barnyard manure. One should never get too

Every scintilla of old straw, hay and cornstalks should be converted into manure. Uneaten portions should be used for bedding; let the animal lie upon it, tramp it, and mingle their discharges with it, and then see that it is hauled out upon the field when

it is at its very best—that is, just as soon as made.

Experiments time and again have demonstrated that yields have been almost doubled the first year, and that the beneficial influences of one application have produced a favorable effect for a period of 10 or 15 years. Farmers have often realized \$25 to \$50 by one day's work with man and team.

It requires no longer to cultivate a field of corn that will produce 60 bushels of grain than one that will return only 30 bushels. The 60-bushel crop will be enough better in quality and stronger in feeding value to liberally compensate for the extra time consumed in harvesting. Every farmer should be on the lookout for the weak spots in his fields, and then during the winter make it a point to apply sufficient manure to make these parts just as productive as the rest of the field. Therefore, wherever possible, live stock should be made a leading part of the farmer's operation, that he may at least expense keep up his soil.

THE BY-PRODUCTS COUNT.

By keeping live stock the farmer provides a home market. Tons of rough, bulky forage crops that are not marketable can be fed to live stock and converted into a finished product of the farm. Cornstalks, straw, beet-tops and small potatoes can be fed to cattle, horses, sheep, pigs and poultry that would otherwise be wasted. If

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A magnificent showing of pure bred draft stallions of the various breeds—also the fine barns and grounds of the Watson Woods Bros. & Kelly Co. of Lincoln, Neb. The barn on the right is said to be the finest horse barn in the country.