

WINTERING CATTLE.

Beef Animals Need Sufficient Feed and Care to Keep Them Growing.

In the western part of our state there is little full feeding of cattle. The stock being carried through the winter consists almost entirely of calves, yearlings and the breeding cows, says the Kansas Farmer. Seldom is it advisable to winter two-year-old steers. The feed will be more economically used and result in greater profit when fed to younger cattle.

It is common to speak of "roughing" cattle through the winter, the thought being that they are simply maintained as cheaply as possible. While getting stock through cheaply is a good policy, there should be different degrees of roughing for the different cattle. It seldom pays to carry calves through the winter on mere maintenance rations. The calf that comes out in the spring no heavier than when it went into the winter has lost money. Mature cows carrying calves cannot profitably be allowed to run down during the winter season. They should make some gain during this period. They can stand a little more exposure than



The cattle fever tick in the past has been a source of great loss in the southern parts of the country, where it flourishes. In recent years the ravages of the insect have been much curtailed, but it is still a pest. The Texas steer here shown was mostly skin and bones before being treated for ticks. After two months tick free it had gained over 200 pounds.

The calves, and in some instances where age are natural windbreaks or shelter they may not even require sheds. At the Hays experiment station young cows have been very successfully wintered out in a pasture. They had the shelter of a timbered creek and were given alfalfa hay and kafir stover. They were wintered at an average feed cost of 4½ cents a day.

It is always important to begin the feeding of cattle early in the season.

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Heavy feeding during the last month of the winter period cannot make up for meager feeding in November or December. While it is economy to let the stock run on pasture as late as possible, the supplemental feeding of rough feeds should begin as soon as the pasture fails to supply enough to keep the stock growing. In some seasons wheat pasture is a great source of feed for wintering stock cattle. In pasturing wheat provision should always be made to feed the cattle in the yard when the wheat fields would be injured by the tramping. This is a simple matter where feed is stored in a silo, for stock can be changed from green pasture to silage and back again to pasture with little difficulty. The change to dry feed is less easily made.

The most important point in wintering stock is to give them such care and feed as will bring them through to the pasture season worth more money than when they went into the winter. Unless this is done the feed and labor put into them have been largely wasted.

The pig that is farrowed and not raised is no profit to any one, writes A. J. Legg in the Farm and Fireside. I note in looking over a number of litter records that quite a number of the very large litters farrowed are lost down to from seven to eight pigs. I once owned a sow that never farrowed more than ten pigs at a time and another that usually farrowed from eleven to thirteen at a litter. These sows were owned at the same time and a record kept of their pigs. An average of the pigs raised showed that the sow that never farrowed large litters only lost one pig while she was kept, and the average of pigs raised showed up as well as the other one. Some sows seem to be naturally careless with their pigs and kill many of them.

I prefer the sow that farrows medium sized litters and raises them to the one that farrows very large litters. From seven to eight pigs are as many as one sow can raise. She cannot eat and digest enough to provide milk for more than that number without danger of injuring her own constitution.

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Most remarkable among execrable writers was John Bell, the barrister of whom Lord Eldon said to the prince regent that he was the ablest equity lawyer of his time, though he could "neither read, write, walk nor talk." Bell was a cripple, and his Westmoreland accent combined with his stammer to make his speech unintelligible. The character of his writings appears from his own statement that he had three styles, one of which he could read, but his clerk could not, while the

second was intelligible to his clerk, but not to himself, and the third baffled both of them.

Nero's Fiddling.

The expression, or story, of Nero fiddling while Rome burned had its origin in the old story that the emperor forbade the flames of Rome to be put out and went to a high tower, where he watched his city burning and sang verses to his lute "upon the burning of old Troy."—New York Times.

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