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LIVE STOCK

BEST SELECTION OF CATTLE FOR MARKET

Getting dollars out of quality not numbers should be the purpose of the range cattle producer, according to James Wallace of Washington, D. C., cattle grading expert sent out by the Department of Agriculture, who is giving demonstrations on the ranches of the mountain states in line with the effort of the department to improve marketing practices.

The first demonstration in the state was given before students of Colorado agricultural college and Larimer county ranchmen at the college foothills pasture. The following day there was another demonstration before the Larimer County Stock Growers' association at the McNey ranch near Livermore.

"The Department of Agriculture, through this grading work is stressing the marketing side of beef production," said Wallace, in opening the demonstration. "We are not going to look at the herd to pick out the pretty cows, but we'll pick them for beef. The consumer is willing to pay a good price for certain cuts and if we want to stay in the business it will be up to us to raise the cattle that carry the largest percentage of desirable cuts of beef. Now as we go over these cows we will do it with an eye that is to tell us what kind of calves they will produce, when sired by pure bred bulls, that will develop into the most good beef at the lowest net cost."

Mr. Wallace told the cattle raisers that he had spent several months in New York, Philadelphia, Boston and other consuming markets studying selling practices. "Seventy per cent of the beef in these markets," he said, "is now sold as cuts and not as carcasses." He urged producers to study their herds so that they can grade the animals on a percentage basis; that is with a view to getting paid on the basis of desirable cuts of beef and not on weight alone.

"The producer who sells his cattle in bulk gets paid on the basis of the poor animals in the bunch," said Mr. Wallace. "He is penalized on the market because he puts the desirable and the undesirable cattle together. The buyer sees only the poor ones when he makes his bid. Sorting and grading according to market demands will solve the problem."

Feeding Brood Sows as Well as Fattening Hogs

Corn is the easiest to feed, and naturally most hog raisers depend entirely upon this grain for brood sows as well as for fattening hogs. On more than one farm I have seen brood sows running with fattening hogs right up to within ten days of farrowing, says a writer in the Prairie Farmer. With that sort of feed and with that care it's a wonder that any of the litters were saved.

Corn makes fat, and the brood sow does not need that at farrowing time, nor much of it at any time. Corn and tankage or corn and alfalfa hay make good rations for the brood sow. Oats are good for brood sows, and they make good, strong litters. The safe rule is to feed sparingly of corn, use plenty of alfalfa, clover or soy bean forage and keep the grain ration balanced by using tankage or something else.

Brood sows should be separated from the balance of the herd three or four weeks before farrowing time. Young sows particularly require quiet and gentle handling for some time.

Poland sows make good mothers. The old sows will average six or seven pigs per litter and the young sows possibly will not do better than five pigs per litter. These were our averages where from 75 to 100 sows were bred, and where individual quarters were provided for each sow at farrowing time.

Live Stock Notes

An old horse, especially, like an old man, feels the cold.

* * *

Water your horses at least three times a day. The stomach of the horse is very small.

* * *

Kill the worn-out or incurably lame horse. If you sell him, the money that you receive is blood money.

* * *

Punctuality in feeding and watering the stock is very important. They will worry and lose flesh if kept waiting beyond the regular time.

* * *

Fall pigs should be treated for internal and external parasites before they are turned to the fields. These treatments save feed and make the gains faster.

* * *

Build a creep for the lambs and push them for the early high market. Use rye or oats for winter grazing and rape for the spring. Forage crops save feed and make the gains faster.

* * *

Of course the beef cattle will help clean up the corn fields and bean fields, but after that what happens? There is no doubt that beef cattle must be carried through the winter on a cheap ration if they are to be profitable, but there must not be too much loss of weight.

A Key to the Situation

By ANNA R. BURR

(©, 1925, Western Newspaper Union.)

MISS BENT felt herself remarkably lucky that her window overlooked the Jewetts' back garden. When one sits in the same room sewing, day after day, winter and summer, it means much to have something pleasant to gaze upon—something, too, which is shut from the rest of the world by a high wall. The Jewett garden seemed Miss Bent's particular property, the maple trees, the grass plat with the bed of scarlet cannas, the border which saw the seasons through from daffodils to dahlias and the little summer-house. All this was like a stage set for small, pleasant happenings; the coming to and fro of ice man and grocery boy; children at their games; the kitten capering after a bit of paper—a drama (domestic) for an audience of one. Miss Bent's spectacles would stare at it, her tired old face brighten, she fell a stitching harder than ever. It belonged to her; and when a child got its feet wet or the kitten mewed for its forgotten saucer of milk, Miss Bent almost rang the door bell. Once or twice the play had a society scene in it, such as Molly Jewett's garden party, and then the audience was rapt. A striped tent, rugs on the grass, and waiters who ran about with ice cream and strawberries! Molly herself, aged eighteen, wasn't happier than the uninvited guest. Susan Bent came (at noon, with the ice cream freezers) and stayed until dusk hid the last glimpse of departing young people. She was in an ecstasy; although she would have to sit up all night over her neglected work in order to finish it on time.

Her sense of possessing the garden she looked at, had led to an odd incident—odd, because of Susan's nature. She was honest as the day, honester in fact than many April days; but when she picked up a key on the sidewalk, which had plainly fallen out of the garden door, she kept it. She kept that key, though it unquestionably belonged to the Jewetts; and she hung it up on a nail by her lookingglass. Somehow that key confirmed her queer sense of ownership in the garden. In her twilight hour of rest she would sit and twist it between her fingers, to look dreamily out on the maples and the red cannas and sage, and always she dreamed of another party—she longed for it.

This hope grew very high when Molly Jewett began going with the Taylor boy. He was a nice looking boy, Roddy Taylor, if rather thin; he had a turn-up nose and he whistled as he came along about five o'clock. Later on the pair took to going in and out by the garden door. Sometimes they stayed at the gate a long time, and then Miss Bent would rise hurriedly and leave the window. What she saw there once or twice made her feel uncomfortably like an eavesdropper; she realized humbly that it had nothing to do with her.

One afternoon that spring she saw them coming but there was something different somehow. Molly was walking stiffly, very far away from the Taylor boy, and his young face looked proud and angry. When they reached the garden door it was plain that this time Susan Bent need feel no delicacy about staying at the window. So she stayed and stared; she could hear nothing, but she saw very well. She saw Molly's angry toss of the head and that she pushed open the door and ran within, slamming it behind her, and leaving Roddy Taylor on the wrong side. Once alone, the girl turned uncertainly toward the house and then paused and ran instead into the summer house in the corner. The watcher from the window could see the bright head bent on her arms.

"My land!" cried Susan Bent.

The party; the reception with the tent and the guests and the refreshments, which had seemed so certain—was it put in peril? There stood Roddy Taylor, dumb and dazed, outside the shut door in the garden wall. His miserable face looked up and down the street. If he walked away—well, there would be no reception that spring. Susan Bent wasn't sentimental; she didn't care about the silly young creatures, not she! But she did want her bright hour! With an inspiration, up she threw the window and called aloud:

"Roddy Taylor!" "Roddy Taylor!"

Instinctively, the boy looked up and a heavy key clattered on the pavement at his feet. "The summer house!" Miss Bent cried wildly, and under her breath she added: "You gump!"

Then she jammed down the window and turned into the room, covering her eyes. I think probably she prayed.

She heard a rush of quick steps and then silence fell. 'Twas a long time before she went to the window again; it had grown quite dusky. But a bright light from the Jewetts' hall door showed two persons on the path; that is, Miss Bent's recent experiences made her judge them to be two persons. Otherwise she would have thought they were one.

A great sigh of relief came from her as she turned to light the gas.

"After all," she said aloud, "the very nicest weather for a wedding reception is in June!"

Prove It

"You aren't superstitious?"

"No; why?"

"Then lend me thirteen dollars."

ORCHARD GLEANINGS

WOULD STANDARDIZE HAMPERS, BASKETS

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

There is a serious lack of uniformity in the capacity, shape and strength of hampers, round stave baskets and market baskets used in shipping fruits and vegetables in the United States, declares the United States Department of Agriculture, following extensive investigations in all parts of the country.

Almost 30,000,000 hampers are used annually, but because of the different shapes and sizes of these hampers, it is practically impossible for a purchaser to know just how much he is getting when he buys a hamper of produce, the department says. It is estimated, for example, that one-third of the so-called half-bushel hampers manufactured today are short measure.

Twenty different sizes of round stave baskets are in general use, whereas six would be sufficient. Approximately 20,000,000 of these round stave baskets are manufactured annually. A similar situation prevails with regard to so-called market baskets or splint baskets, of which many styles now in use are regarded as unnecessary and deceptive. The peck size has dwindled to one-fifth or one-sixth of a bushel, and a half-bushel to 12 or 14 quarts, the standard sizes seldom appearing on the markets, the investigations showed.

The carriers in the United States report losses of $10,000,000 annually in the handling of perishables. Among the many causes of these losses are rough handling, failure to stow shipments properly in cars, delay in transit, lack of proper refrigeration, and frail containers. To protect himself and his shipments the buyer of baskets should require that the manufacturer furnish a definite statement of the specifications on which the baskets are made, the department says. Many basket manufacturers are striving to put out an article which will stand up under heavy use, but there are also many baskets of poor quality on the market, it is pointed out.

The investigations brought out the fact that 15 styles and sizes of round stave baskets, varying in size from 1 quart to 24 quarts, are in common use; about 40 sizes of cabbage crates, about 20 styles of celery crates, 30 lettuce crates or boxes, and 50 styles and sizes of hampers, although a relatively few standard sizes would satisfy all the demands of the trade.

Federal standards are now in force regarding the sizes of barrels used for fruits and vegetables and for cranberries, and federal standards are fixed for grape baskets, berry boxes and small till baskets. Adoption of federal standards for hampers, round stave baskets and market baskets, which have been prepared by the department, is being urged. The results of the department's investigations and recommendations have been published in Farmers' Bulletin No. 1434, entitled "Standard Baskets for Fruits and Vegetables," copies of which may be obtained free upon request to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington.

Prune, Spray, Fertilize, to Rejuvenate Orchard

Many farmers have had time to turn to their orchards once more this winter, some of them for the first time in many years, and they are asking about what they should do to rejuvenate a rundown orchard, to bring them more fruit without much expense. The first consideration in such cases is pruning to rid the trees of dead and extra growth. The second consideration is to spray at least enough to rid the trees from fungous and other disease, partly to increase yields and partly to give larger and better fruit.

The third consideration, then, is to build up the soil. This can be done in a single year, by the application of certain soil fertilizers not the least of which is manure. But a more economical and much more permanent type of fertile soil can best be secured by starting on a program of building up for several years, by the use of cultivation and legume crops. Of the legumes, alfalfa has given good results but is sometimes hard to start. Clover has also been a good short time builder. But the best of all seems to be sweet clover.

Where a pasture sod has been established in the orchard, it is better to cut the hay and leave it for a mulch. This is hard to do, however, when pasture land gets thin or dry in late summer, and the orchard looks good to the stock. In some cases, also, it is necessary to add lime or some other commercial fertilizer to get a good stand of legumes, but the initial cost is almost immediately realized in the production of fruit.

Pruning Grapes

Severe pruning of grape vines should be done in early spring, before there is any movement of sap. It is best done as soon as the cold weather has passed, say, about the first half of March. Apple and other fruit trees may be trimmed moderately almost any time, but it is best to not trim severely from the time that sap starts in the spring until the trees are in full leaf. March trimming would be a great deal better than later trimming.

POULTRY

FIRST REQUIREMENT FOR SANITARY COOP

The first requirement for a sanitary hen house is a roomy, dry building with plenty of window space and easy means of ventilation.

Dropping boards under the roosts are quite essential for the proper maintenance of cleanliness. They should be made of tongued and grooved flooring well laid, and should be at least three feet above the floor of the house. If nests are under the dropping boards, three feet six inches would be better height. In the case of heavy breeds runways up to the roosting perches should be used, but with leghorns and other light breeds they are not necessary.

Dropping boards should be level, and the perches arranged about six inches above them. The perches should be on a level, also, and of 2 by 2 material. They should be fastened to 2 by 4 supports that are hinged at the back end of the house so that the roosts can be raised out of the way while scraping the dropping boards.

A hoe with 15 or 18-inch blade is very satisfactory for scraping the dropping boards, and if used regularly once or twice a week will assist materially in maintaining the health of the flock. A small box arranged to hang from and slide along the front edge of the dropping board platform, to receive the droppings as they are scraped from the board, will help to preserve the fertilizer for the garden.

One nest should be provided for each five or six birds, and even more if trap nests are used. Twelve by twelve inches is large enough and one-fourth inch mesh hardware cloth is excellent for the bottom. Wall nests are to be preferred to those located under the dropping platform, but the wall nests require a top place at an angle of at least 45 degrees, to prevent the chickens roosting on them. The runways along the front of the nests can also be made to fold up in front of the nest openings, which will keep the young birds from roosting in the nests at night and fouling them.

Dry mash hoppers are essential to the economical feeding of the flock; they should be raised on legs 18 inches to 2 feet from the floor.

Water stands should be raised the same as the mash hoppers, and are best made with a slatted top in the middle of which an opening is left to receive a 12-quart pail. The support for the bucket should be about six inches lower than the top of the platform.

A broody coop where feverish hens can be confined and fed is much to be preferred to ducking them or to starvation.

A catching coop is very desirable and almost necessary where any regular and consistent effort at culling is attempted. A heavy wire with one end bent to form a hook and the other end tied to an old broom handle is useful in catching a bird or two, as occasion may demand.

A bin where two or three hundred pounds of scratch grain may be stored in the chicken house is also a labor saver.

Details as to the construction of different items mentioned above must of course vary with the size of the flock and local conditions.

Difficult to Determine Sex of Goose or Gander

Ganders are usually a little larger and coarser than geese. The head of the gander is apt to be larger and the neck thicker. The cry of the goose is rather harsh, while the gander makes a shrill cry. The only accurate way is examination of the organs, or observation of the flock at mating time.

Laying ability of geese depends on the breed and the individuals. Toulouse geese will usually average about twenty eggs, and some produce thirty to thirty-five. White Chinese geese will lay from fifty to one hundred eggs. The Emdens are not generally quite as good layers as Toulouse, although very similar.

The lameness may be due to rheumatism caused by spending the night in a damp roosting place. Goslings sometimes become lame, due to faulty feeding methods caused by lack of mineral matter or animal feed in the ration.

Early Hatching Favored

Hatching in March and April instead of May and June has several advantages. In the first place, the early hatches do not meet the strenuous competition of chicks that are incubated by hens later in the season. The incubator can be made to yield more profitable returns by running it during the early months when farm work has not become heavy.

Winter Egg Production

Winter egg production does not depend entirely on the number of hens you keep. Regardless of the size of the flock they will all do the same thing without a balanced ration. Nearly everyone knows what is needed to feed hens a balanced ration. The problem is to keep all the different items on hand all the time. It really takes skilful management to do it, as many poultrymen work on limited capital and something is always running short

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