

# SELECTING STOCK BEEF FOR PROFITABLE RETURNS

Points to Consider in Choosing Steers for Fattening—Type and Size Are Essential—By Prof. Thomas I. Mairs.

In choosing steers for fattening, one of the most important things is to select those that give indications of making good gains. The steers must have a good, large frame, with capacity for consuming a good quantity of feed. This capacity must not be such as to tend too much toward paunchiness. The large framework gives a foundation on which to build. While the compact pony built animals are ready for market earlier and look better with a small amount of flesh on them, yet the gains made by steers of this form are usually made less than those made by more rangy animals, writes Prof. Thomas I. Mairs of Pennsylvania, in American Agriculturist.

In large markets with discriminating trade, the hind quarters and back are decidedly the more valuable parts of the animal. This is also true, but to a less extent in the local markets. The kind of market, then, to which the steers are to be sold should be considered in selecting them. Beef from the show animals at the International would find slow sale in most of our local eastern markets. This shows that the eastern feeder has this advantage over the western feeder, that his markets are not so discriminating and a poorer class of animals may be sold and even sold to better advantage than would be possible in the large packing centers. While the type of steer, so far as carcass is concerned, is less important in the east than in the west, it does not follow that the dairybred



Two Magnificent Herefords.

more compact pony type if the greatest gains are to be made and the steers fattened for market within a reasonable time. While the brisket is one of the least valuable parts of the animal, so far as the carcass is concerned, yet a wide breast and a low, rather prominent brisket are indications of strength and vigor of constitution. These, together with a large heart girth, indicate good lung capacity and ability to assimilate food to advantage. Steers which are narrow just back of the shoulders should be avoided as lacking in lung capacity and constitution. In fattening for the larger markets particularly the proportion of higher-priced meats should be taken into consideration; that is, select steers which will turn out the largest percentage of high-priced cuts. When fattening for local markets, especially for many in the east, with a foreign trade, this is not so important, as the discrimination between the high and low-priced cuts is less sharp.

steer is as satisfactory as the beef animal. It is true, however, that steers from good, large cows of the dairy type which are inclined to be fleshy and bulls of a blocky beef type can be used to advantage. The more dairy blood there is in a steer, as a general thing, the longer it will take to get him ready for market. It is said that animals of the dairy breeds lay on their fat internally, while those of the beef breeds mix it with the muscular tissues and place it on the outside of the body. The first fat deposited is probably in the interior of the animal, the next is a layer beneath the skin, which fills out the animal and gives plumpness to the carcass. The last fat deposited is probably that between the muscles and among the muscular fibers themselves, which give quality. Among dairy breeds, these later stages of fattening are seldom reached, and although the animal may continue to gain, it does not produce an attractive carcass.

## LOSS OF SOIL BY EROSION

Where Surface Washes Away, Well to Plant Pasture or Some Root Crop—Rye is Good.

On many farms where the land is hilly or only slightly rolling there is often a great annual loss of good soil through erosion. There are several ways of preventing this waste.

Where the general surface soil of land washes away it is well to keep the land in pasture, meadow or some crop the roots of which will bind the surface soil together. If the field is cultivated in summer, a crop of rye sown early in the fall will afford winter protection. This rye crop may be turned under in early summer for green manuring and the formation of soil humus, which to a certain extent will prevent erosion.

Where a crop of corn is grown on a washy land, it is best to cut none of it for fodder, but to leave all of the stalks on the ground. If there are no facilities for pasturing the stalks when the corn is gathered, then the stalks should be dragged down as early in the winter as it is possible to do the work. If the stalks are pastured, they should be dragged down just as soon as the stock have cleaned the best from them. Corn stalks flat on the ground during the winter and spring months catch and hold the soil from washing, they catch and hold water from sinking into the soil where needed, and in this position they quickly soften and decay.

Prevent washy land from remaining bare at any season, and especially during the winter and spring seasons. Keep the banks of the creeks and ditches sloping and in good, tough sod. A steep ditch bank cannot easily be sodded, hence it remains bare and is susceptible to washing. Grassy banks and low grassy places not only prevent local soil from washing away, but catch sediment washed down upon them from higher places. It is often a good plan to keep narrow "draws" permanently in grass. In this way the draw gradually becomes filled the soil becomes more level and the grass bottom becomes more fertile each year. Made soil is always rich soil.

and grass sod is an efficient factor in making it.

**Heavy Hogs Under Cloud.**  
Heavy hogs, recently enjoying a substantial premium, are under a seasonable cloud, says Live Stock Journal. Packers and shippers are both discriminating against them, and for the first time this season the light hog is on a parity with the fat-back, threatening to take possession of the premium within a few days. "No body with a little bit of sense would put away heavy product for 7 3/4 c. hogs," said a representative of the National Packing Company. "Hams cut now will not be out of cure until October, when hogs ought to be worth considerably less money. The result is that killers are scrambling for something that can be used up quickly. The easiest hogs to sell now are in the 180 to 220 pound class, and this will be the case for two months to come."

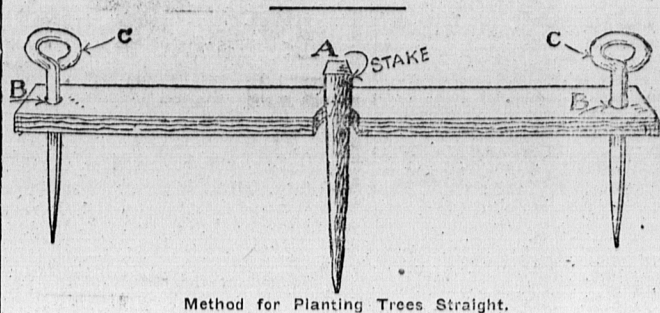
**Feed the Colt.**  
The colt must not be neglected at this season of the year. It must be kept growing and developing. Though it may be sucking the dam and eating what grass there is in the pasture, it should now be getting oats besides. A little bran mixed in the oats will make the ration all the better. Remember that the colt is growing—or at least should be—every day, and therefore needs increased rations in proportion to the growth and development it is capable of making. Now, as the pastures are short and dry, and the dam is giving less milk, it requires special feeding, as it cannot any longer get all that is necessary to make proper growth from these sources.

**Quickly Made Crates.**  
Shoe boxes are the right shape and size for crates just as they come out of the shoe stores. Cut out two strips on each side and put a cross partition in the middle and the crate is complete. This will prove very useful in handling the fruit crop or for potatoes, etc. A short strip of wood put in the under surface cut out for the fingers nailed to each end will be convenient when handling the crates.

**Dairy Knowledge.**  
There are several little details that are not generally known, but which are ready to be pointed out, even if you are not very likely to forget. One of these is that the milk of a cow that has been milked for some time is not so rich as the milk of a cow that has just been milked. This is because the milk of a cow that has been milked for some time has had time to settle and the cream has risen to the top. This is why the milk of a cow that has just been milked is so rich.

# PRACTICAL METHOD FOR PLANTING TREES STRAIGHT

Piece of Timber with Notch in Middle is Handy—How to Prune for Best Results—By E. R. Myers.



Method for Planting Trees Straight.

An excellent method for planting trees straight is as follows: First stake off the ground, then take a piece of inch lumber 1x2 of sufficient length to reach across the hole or excavation; bore a 1/2-inch hole in each end, cut a notch in the middle to accommodate the tree trunk, A. Make or have the blacksmith make two 3/4-inch iron pins one foot long with ring in one end, C. To use, place the board into a notch A, shove your pins well down in soil through holes B, B. Withdraw one and swing the stick around like a gate, replace the pin in the ground to mark the place, then dig the hole to accommodate tree, swing the stick back in place, replace pin in hole through the stick and into the hole in the ground put the stock of tree into notch A, and fill in the dirt and it will set straight with the other stakes.

laid until just after their flowering season, Deutzia, spirea, forsythia and many other popular shrubs are of this character. Soon after their flowering season is over they begin to develop buds for the next year. Shrubs needing heavy trimming should be pruned in early winter. This will result in larger blooms on the remaining buds. Such plants as the hydrangea and the clematis which make their flowering buds on shoots grown the same year, should be pruned heavily while dormant, as this will give a greater profusion of shoots on which to develop new buds. When pruning hardy deciduous flowering shrubs all deadwood should be cut out, straggling branches either shortened or removed and all suckers arising from the roots should be destroyed. Where shrubs are planted in clumps branches should be cut out. It is a good idea to cover the wounds with white lead or grafting wax, as if a stub is left uncovered the healing of the wound will be left until the stub is rooted out and the rotting stub will be a lodging place for bacteria and fungus. Cut the branch off clean and close to the main stem, avoiding any stub, and cover the wound with grafting wax melted and applied hot.

## SINGLE CROP FARMING BAD

Specialization is Profitable in Favorable Seasons, But Often There is Failure.

One-crop farming is in vogue in many agricultural districts. If a manufacturer employs an operator he furnishes him with steady employment at all seasons of the year. The profit of labor is the manufacturer's reward. If only one commercial article is produced the quantity is increased to give the operator constant employment. The farmer is a producer of agricultural necessities which enter into daily consumption and to concentrate all his energies and capital to produce a single crop leaves him part of the season without employment. The farmer is his own employer and does not have to divide the profits of his products, and therefore should arrange his system of husbandry to insure steady production of some agricultural output that enters into daily consumption.

Unquestionably specialization farming is profitable in favorable seasons, but occasionally there is a partial or total failure of the crop and the farmer wants some reserve product to tide him over a disastrous season of special crop exploitation. In some localities the soil is admirably adapted to potato culture. In another section to onions, and still another to horticulture. When any of these lines of husbandry are followed they pay large profits in favorable seasons. Another class of farmers are interested in wheat or corn production, both of which are profitable branches of agriculture.

The farmer engaged in specialization crops finds himself unemployed a part of the year. If his labors are reasonably rewarded for time devoted to raising and marketing a crop of wheat, corn, potatoes or fruit, it should be his ambition to add to his agricultural operations the production of other things that will pay a profit the balance of the year. To obtain the largest possible recompense from agriculture the farmer should arrange for steady employment the year around. Special crops can be exploited in conjunction with live stock husbandry. If the farmer raises a crop of clover it leaves the soil in elegant condition for a crop of potatoes, while the clover will make excellent feed for live stock. A crop of potatoes leaves the ground in prime condition for wheat seeded down to clover. Live stock industry in conjunction with special crop production will not only give the farmer remunerative employment at all seasons, but the rotation of crops and feeding live stock will keep up the fertility of the land.

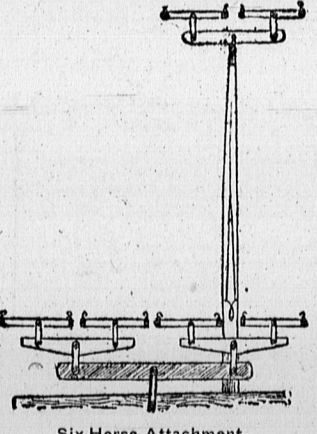
**Hog House Floor.**  
The hog house floor may be cement one part with six to eight parts gravel for a foundation and covered with one inch of a thin mixture containing one part cement with two of clean, sharp sand. Roughen the surface; otherwise it will be slippery.

**Value of Ewe.**  
If a ewe dies her fleece will pay her funeral expenses; if she lives, her spring wool and fall lambs pay double revenue.

## GANG PLOW HORSE EVENER

Method of Attaching Six Horses to Farm Implement with Satisfaction—By George Hanne.

Here is a sketch of a six-horse evener for gang plow. As shown, two horses are placed ahead and four abreast. The device is made of a piece of oak plank and a common four-horse evener set on top of it and fastened with strap iron as on a wagon tongue. The holes in the evener are bored at the rate of two to one; two inches to the two horses to one inch to four. The evener is made of sufficient length so that the hole for the



Six-Horse Attachment.

two horses comes under the tongue. Then it is connected with a chain to the front evener. This evener can also be used as a five-horse evener by changing the holes in the planks and using three horses instead of four.

**Unique Relationship of Potato.**  
An authority tells us that the potato has a large and unique relationship. Tobacco, tomatoes, eggplant and peppers belong to the family. Probably that is why the potato bug is so often destructive to these crops. It is asked: How can a potato grow other potato vines from the eyes, since it is not a root, fruit or seed? That is answered by way of illustration: A stem of almost any plant will produce another plant from the place where the leaves come out on it. If one will break off a piece of rose bush and plant it in a favorable place it will produce another rose bush, just as a potato will produce another vine.

**Water Shade Trees.**  
How many people neglect to water their shade trees and flower beds? The editor of this department knows a Texas man who is still gathering fresh roses from his bushes, when all his neighbors, in fact, most of the residents of his town, can only point to their withered, parched bushes and trees. This man, on the hottest day of the year, had his home grown flowers on the table, and they were almost as fresh as flowers would look in early summer. He simply waters his trees and flowers; waters them right, and they return him, for his service, beauty of bloom.



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