

How to Grow Live Stock in the South.

I--The Natural Adaptability of the South to Stock Raising

By Tait Butler.

THE SOUTH certainly has natural advantages for the growing of domestic animals. Why are the wild animals largest and most numerous in the tropics? Because weather conditions present less severe hardships to be overcome than in the colder regions. Moreover, the absence of cold weather, or rather the warm, moist climate of the tropics, insures a more constant, abundant and uniform food supply.

These, and these only, are our natural advantages for growing live stock. We have less severe winters which mean less hardships for our live stock, and shorter winters with a longer growing season which mean that a more abundant and varied food supply may be produced.

In other words, we require less expensive stables and can feed more cheaply. Truly these are essential advantages in the growing of live stock, but these are merely natural advantages, and the growing of farm live stock cannot be left to nature. In fact, the modern domestic animal is a very artificial product. By intelligent breeding and selection, by protecting from hardships and by supplying with an abundance of rich food, man has developed races of domestic animals which are highly artificial, but which serve most admirably the needs of man in the lines for which they have been developed.

Why Natural Advantages Are Not Enough.

To develop and maintain such races of domestic animals has required the highest type of agricultural knowledge and the most thorough-going and painstaking care. We cannot grow live stock as we have grown cotton. More knowledge, more sacrifices; more thought, more labor, will be necessary. The highest type of farmer found in the world to-day is the farmer who gives special attention to the growing of high grade domestic animals. As a class, the stock breeders of the world are the equal in intelligence of any class of men, not even excepting the so-called learned professions. They are not such, however, because they breed live stock, but they are able to breed live stock because they are intelligent. If, therefore, our natural advantages consist only in a milder winter climate and a longer growing season for the production of feeds for live stock, it must be apparent that these so-called natural advantages are not of themselves sufficient to insure success in the growing of live stock. This has been our chief mistake in the past, that our mild climate and the fact that some feed grew during the entire year, made live stock growing easy. It is such an artificial business, requiring such a high degree of intelligence and close application of energy, that no natural advantages which we possess, even though these be of essential value, will compensate for the lack of preparation, study and care in our past efforts to produce a better class of live stock for the South.

Some Disadvantages of Our Climate.

In the past these natural advantages have probably been an injury rather than a help to us in the growing of live stock. We have over-estimated their importance and under-estimated the part which artificial conditions and man must play

in the successful growing of modern domestic animals.

First, let us more carefully consider the question and ascertain, if we may, whether our mild climate is a real advantage in the growing of farm live stock. If farm animals were to run out at all times and receive no attention from man, then unquestionably our mild climate would be an advantage, but we may well stop to consider if the sheltering of the live stock for several months of the year, which is necessary in the North, is not more easily accomplished than protecting them from some of the conditions which our mild climate brings about.

When we consider the greater numbers of parasitic enemies which prey on Southern live stock because of the milder climate, and the fact that an animal is more easily protected from extremes of cold than from extremes of heat, is very doubtful if we have any direct natural advantages in climate for the growing of live stock. In the opinion of the writer the advantages are counter-balanced by the disadvantages.

Our One Great Natural Advantage.

The other natural advantages mentioned, longer growing seasons, which enable us to produce a greater variety of feed crops at less cost, are the true conditions which may be turned to an immense advantage in the growing of live stock. The growing of farm animals is so very largely a question of feeding farm animals, that the importance of the fact that we can grow two and three feed crops on a given piece of land each year, cannot be over-estimated.

It must not be forgotten, however, that this natural advantage which we possess in the producing of feed crops, will avail us nothing unless we actually grow the crops and feed them to live stock. It will avail us nothing, though the climate and land may be able to produce two or three feed crops each year, if we only make it grow one, or do not feed these crops to the right sort of animals in the right way after they are produced.

The fact that our lands are now less productive per crop and per acre is only a temporary disadvantage at most, for by the growing of two and three of the best feed crops each year, and the feeding of these to live stock, our soils will, in a short time, be made as productive as those of any section.

In conclusion, let me state as positively as I may, the opinion, that our sole natural advantage for the production of live stock lies in our facilities for cheap feed production, and that I am further of the opinion that this advantage far outweighs any natural disadvantage, but it does not, and never can, take the place of that intelligent care and untiring energy and attention necessary on the part of the farmer to make live stock husbandry successful.

Many farmers imagine they are too poor to set aside one-third of their acreage for legumes and get the cheapest known form of nitrogen. They would rather dig it out of the three-thirds in cotton acreage and pay the fertilizer man full price than let nature restore unto them their own.—H. Eugene Fant.

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GOLD MEDAL (Highest Award) on Separators at the **Intermountain Four State Fair, Ogden, Utah**, awarded the U. S.

Butter made from U. S. Cream by Jas. H. Toomer, Morgan, Utah, also won **First Prize and Gold Medal** at this Fair.

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FIRST PRIZE (Highest Award) on Separators at the **Texas State Fair, Dallas**, awarded the U. S. Separator.

FIRST PRIZE (Highest Award) on Separators at the **State Fair, Birmingham, Alabama**, awarded the U. S.

FIRST PRIZE also **STANDARD SILVER CUP** (valued at \$200.00) was won by Mrs. Alex. Simpson, of Atwood, Ontario, at the **Windspey Industrial Exposition**. Mrs. Simpson has used a U. S. Separator for years and has always been a prize winner on butter.

FIRST PRIZES (Highest Awards) at the **great New England Fair, Worcester, Mass.**, were awarded to Harry O. Shepard, of Sturbridge, Mass., on Dairy Butter and Gloverdale Creamery, Tunbridge, Vt., on Creamery Butter. Both U. S. users.

THE GOLD MEDAL (Highest Award) at the **NATIONAL DAIRY SHOW** recently held at **Menasha, Wis.**, was awarded to J. Gilbert Hickcox, of Whitefish Bay, Wis., on Market Cream obtained by the U. S.

FIRST PRIZE (Highest Award) at the **Illinois State Fair, Springfield**, on Dairy Print Butter, was won by Robert Moren, Morrison, Ill., a user of the U. S.

FIRST PRIZE (Highest Award) at the **Vermont State Fair, White River Junction**, was awarded L. R. Dana, Pomfret, Vt., on Dairy Butter. Mr. Dana also uses a U. S. Separator.

FIRST PRIZE (Highest Award) at the **Maine State Fair on Dairy Tub Butter** was won by Mrs. L. S. Brimmer, of Tilden, Me., user of a U. S. Separator.

FIRST PRIZE (Highest Award) **South Dakota State Fair**, on Dairy Butter won by Mrs. M. F. Andrews, of Huron, a U. S. user.

FIRST PRIZE (Highest Award) on Home Dairy Butter, **Western Fair, London, Ontario**, awarded Mrs. Alex. Simpson, Atwood, Ont., a U. S. user.

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