

TIMELY TOPICS FOR STOCKMEN.

IN WARM WEATHER, when the hogs are getting dry feed, they may drink more water than is conducive to the largest gains, just as in cold weather they may not drink as much as would be best for them. This may be regulated by feeding wet feeds, but if error is to occur, probably it is advisable that they be allowed a full supply of clean water.

Halter break the colt while it is sucking its mother. If you started haltering it as soon as born it never needed any breaking. If left until several months old before being haltered, it will resent the confinement but put on a strong halter it can not break and tie it where it cannot hurt itself. If left tied up this way for a short time, it will usually lead when released.

There is no pasture plant that can be used in the South that has the large and general value of Bermuda grass and yet it has its limitations. It is good for hogs, as compared with a dry lot or a lot where everything else grows, except pasture plants; but no grass pasture is satisfactory for hogs. It will lessen the feed necessary to carry them along and may even sustain them without other feed, but it will not give satisfactory results as a hog pasture. It supplies succulence, a necessary constituent of any ration for any of our farm animals, but richer plants will give better results.

DAIRYING ON A SMALL FARM.

I have been following a three-year rotation with peas planted after the corn and oats, but my cotton dies with the wilt. What change would you advise me to make? About one-third of my land (30 acres) is partly taken with Bermuda grass. I have been thinking of fencing this field and stocking with cattle.

G. E. K.

(Answer by Prof. W. F. Massey.)

On so small a place I do not think that you can afford to depend on pasture. Grazing belongs to large areas. But you can make a small place profitable by running a dairy and having at all time plenty of green forage to cut and feed to cows in the stable, and can in this way make a great deal of manure and improve your farm rapidly. I would suppose that you would have a good market for good butter as there is always a scarcity of good butter in the Southern towns. Your climate will give you a great advantage for this sort of work.

As cotton wilts on your land, there is no money for you in cotton, and I would devote the place to the production of forage and green feed. You can grow some corn, of course, and that I would put in the silo, planting the corn a little closer than you usually do for grain. That is, plant it in rows 4 feet apart and 10 inches in the row. Then, having a small silo, you can put the corn into the silo when it is beginning to glaze. Then the peas in the corn can be cut as wanted daily and fed to cows in the stable, and you can sow oats and crimson clover on this land in September, using one bushel of oats, and 15 pounds of clover seed sown on after the oats are sown and harrowed in. This will make you a fine crop of hay, and you can follow the oats and clover with peas, and cut them, too, green for feeding and what are not used in this way you can make into hay. Then follow these peas with crimson clover alone, to be cut and fed green in spring and turned for corn. The silage and

So long as a ton of silage, or of corn stover, can be obtained for a cost equal to or less than that paid for cottonseed hulls it is poor economy for any farmer to buy hulls. Hulls sell for from \$5 to \$10 a ton and silage may be had at from \$2 to \$3 a ton and corn stover at not more than \$3 a ton, when the cost of harvesting the crop by pulling the ears is deducted.

There is no longer any question about it being cheaper to let the hogs gather their feed crops than to harvest these crops for them. But it must be remembered that there are differences in crops. The pasture will furnish the cheapest feed if it be the right sort of a pasture. It is not enough that there be pasture plants in abundance. The stomach of the hog is small and he needs plants that are rich in feed nutrients. Peanuts, soy beans and cowpeas stand first, then come the clovers and other legumes used for pastures.

In our territory no heed need be given to keeping sheep or other live stock warm, with the possible exception of the time the young are produced, but sheep and possibly all other animals are benefitted by quarters where they can keep dry. It is protection from rain and wind rather than from cold that our live stock need. Perhaps a dry place to lie down is all that is required in the way of shelter for our live stock.

hay will give you an abundance of feed and you can soon be able to carry a large number of cows with only a small lot of Bermuda to turn them on for exercise more than anything else. Feeding them in summer the green stuff, either in this feed lot or in stalls, and getting a large lot of manure, you can grow more and more feed. Mr. Dietrich, in Pennsylvania years ago, did this on a 15-acre farm till he finally kept 30 cows on the 15 acres and had more long feed than they could consume. In a few years you should be able to feed fully 30 cows, and having this short rotation and a great deal of manure, you could make all the feed they need, and if you study modern dairy methods and put up a first-class article of butter you should be able to make money on a small place. These forage crops of peas, oats and clover with corn silage will be far better for you than grasses.



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