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**HOW THE SOUTH MAY INCREASE THE BEEF SUPPLY**

By Using to the Utmost All Rough Feeds Instead of High-priced Concentrates, and Feeding and Shipping Cooperatively

**W**ILL the cattlemen do their part in increasing the food supply of the nation? If they do it is going to become necessary that more cattle be fed for the market, rather than shipping off grass in summer and fall as was formerly done. To feed these cattle economically will call for saving more feed, especially roughage, such as silage, stover, straw and hay. If all cattle were fed in the South that were good enough to feed it would increase the beef supply of the nation considerably, and at the same time afford a much better quality of beef. It is probable that one-third or more of the cattle sold would justify feeding, and 150 to 200 pounds additional weight put on these cattle would increase the output very materially. At the same time it would be the most profitable procedure for the farmer, because the first shortage in war-time is felt in a deficiency of meat. Cattle increase is necessarily slow, so we should do all that is possible to get as much weight on those on hand that can be put on at a profit.

Will this be profitable with the high price of all feeds? is the first question likely to be asked. It might be answered that feeds have been unusually high for the past season, and still those men that had the nerve or good judgment to feed made almost unheard of profits, ranging from \$15 to \$40 per head; and at the same time leaving the farm in better shape to grow even a larger crop this year. Then by feeding cattle, certain roughage will be converted into a high-priced salable product that otherwise would be wasted. Now is the time to make the maximum amount of beef with the minimum amount of high-priced concentrates, which will necessitate a longer feeding period in order to utilize a maximum amount of roughage.

How can the small farmer that would necessarily have to feed in less than carlots help out? By figuring on the amount of feed necessary to care for the breeding stock, and then feed as many for market as his feed will justify, whether it be one steer or ten. Then get your neighbors interested in the same project, and as soon as 25 or 30 cattle in a community are listed, form a club by calling a meeting of the prospective feeders, discuss the kinds of feeds on hand and date on which it will be best to market. Then call in the county agent or livestock specialist and determine on a ration for each individual farmer to use. The cattle can then be shipped cooperatively, just as hogs are at present, and thus each individual will enjoy the advantage of carlot shipments.

IRA W. CARPENTER.

**Better Markets for Southern Livestock**

**T**HE United States Department of Agriculture has just issued Farmers' Bulletin 809, dealing with better marketing facilities for livestock and meats in the South. Among the most important measures discussed are the organization of cooperative shipping and marketing clubs and of local livestock buying companies, the establishment of local packing houses, the custom of holding livestock sales on advertised dates, and the use of local ice plants in curing farm meat.

Of these, says the bulletin, cooperative shipping is the one that is being most generally adopted in the United States. Associations for this purpose have met with marked success in the Middle West and are equally well adapted to conditions in some parts

of the South. They enable the small producer to ship his animals to centralized livestock markets at no greater cost for transportation than is paid by the dealer who ships in carload lots. In this way the farmer is made independent of local buyers. Another great advantage of such associations is that they are simple in organization and require no capital to do business, because the farmers are not paid for their stock until the returns from the shipment are received.

In one Mississippi city the board of trade has created a somewhat more complex organization in order to provide the farmers of the surrounding country with a good local market for their livestock throughout the year. A "Farmers' Stockyards Company" has been organized with a paid-in capital of \$2,500 provided by local business men in the hope of increasing the production of livestock in the section. No dividends are paid and the operating expenses of the company are reduced to a minimum. On two days of each week throughout the year the company buys livestock for cash in any sized lots, at prices which are the equivalent of those prevailing at the large centralized markets, less the cost of sending the animals to these markets.

Another plan adopted by Clemson College in South Carolina and the United States Department of Agriculture, which has been cooperating with the College in the encouragement of livestock production, is the establishment of set market days at places accessible to the farmers feeding cattle. When this plan was first instituted arrangements were made to bring to the sales buyers from Northern markets. The results have proved very satisfactory, cattle frequently netting from one-half to one cent more per pound than local buyers offer.

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