

Timely Farm Suggestions

BY TAIT BUTLER

Not Advisable to Sell Cotton in the Seed

A READER writes: "It is the custom in this section to sell cotton in the seed. Would it pay me to have mine baled and exchange the seed for cottonseed meal?"

We think that, as a general practice, it is best to have the cotton ginned and sell the lint and seed separately. Of course, this depends on the price paid for seed cotton, but as the buyer of seed cotton must estimate the proportions of seed and lint, he is pretty certain to do this in a manner that will make the purchase safe for him. In other words, we find he usually pays less than the lint and seed will bring, after paying the usual price for ginning. At present prices of cotton seed and cotton oil, it will not be found economical to feed cotton seed. They should, therefore, be exchanged for cottonseed meal, or sold and cottonseed meal purchased. Owing to the extremely high price of oil at this time, a ton of cotton seed is worth considerably more than a ton of cottonseed meal; whereas for feeding purposes a ton of seed is only worth about 1,350 pounds of meal, and for fertilizer a ton of seed is worth no more than 1,000 pounds of meal.

What Is a Registered Animal?

A READER writes: "What constitutes a registered animal? I have a Jersey heifer, her mother is three-fourths Jersey and her father a full blood; what will I have to do to get this heifer or her calf registered?"

Neither this heifer nor any of her calves can be registered under the rules of the American Jersey Cattle Club. No registry association of any breed now registers grades, and no matter how long the female progeny of this heifer may be bred to pure-bred males, the calves will still be "grades." No animal can be registered until both its sire and dam are registered. In this case, the dam is not registered nor is she eligible to registration.

Throughout the South it is quite generally believed, by those unfamiliar with such matters, that high grades may be registered, but it is an error. Of course, in starting registration of any breed, unregistered animals or foundation stock must be accepted, but no registry of a well established breed now accepts grades for registration. In other words, only pure-bred animals whose sires and dams are registered are accepted for registration. On page 28, of our Reference Special, February 12, 1917, information is given regarding the registration of animals.

Feed for Young Pigs

A READER has three litters of young pigs and asks: "Will these pigs make satisfactory and economical growth if allowed to run on green pasture of sorghum and cowpeas and are fed nothing except corn and tankage? In what proportions should they be fed together or separately?"

These pigs should make very satisfactory growth on this pasture and 1 part of tankage to 6 or 7 parts of corn. Of course, there is nothing quite equal to milk for growing young pigs, but corn and tankage are good. As to whether the growth will be made economically will depend on

the cost of the corn and tankage. Corn is high-priced, but if cheaper feeds, like soy beans, peanuts, velvet beans, etc., will be available for grazing later, the feeding may be made profitable, for hogs are also high-priced at this time.

As the pigs get older the proportion of corn may be increased and 1 part of tankage to 8 or 9 parts of corn used. Later, when the cowpeas have matured, or if they have the other legumes mentioned to graze, no tankage will be required and not over a fourth of a full feed of corn need be used.

If shelled or ear corn is used, the corn should be fed separately. The tankage may be fed dry, or in slops, if any are used. If ground corn is used the corn and tankage may be mixed. As a general rule, however, there is no advantage in grinding corn for young pigs, although there may be some slight benefit from soaking.

Share Farming: What Is a Fair Basis of Operation?

WE ARE frequently asked to suggest or pass on the terms suitable for operating farms on shares. Most frequently these refer to some form of livestock farming or to some other line out of the ordinary in the South.

It is rare that sufficient detailed or definite information is given to enable any one to suggest an equitable basis for dividing the products or profits of the farm. In fact, it is rarely possible to set down within the scope of a letter, or to put down on paper at all, the numerous factors which go to determine this question. Moreover, each case must usually be solved almost entirely with reference to its own peculiar conditions. Only a few general principles or basic rules may be laid down.

It is customary when a farm is operated on shares for the labor to be regarded as entitled to one-third the products of the farm. The same share belongs to the owner of the land according to an almost universal custom. This leaves only the other one-third as a matter of question. This third is divided as the expense of equipment—implements, livestock, seed, fertilizers, etc.—are borne. When crops are grown requiring an especially large amount of labor this may also entitle the operator to a larger share of the products. When one or the other of the parties to the share farming furnishes all of these the division is not difficult, but when the expense of furnishing these and other necessities of the farming operations is divided, the products of the farming must be divided accordingly. There is really no way to divide this third share of such farming except to make a fair appraisal of the value of what each party to the contract furnishes and divide the products accordingly. But this is not always an easy matter. Conditions such as repairs, replacement of breeding animals lost or becoming useless, crops to be grown, fertilizers to be used, feedstuffs to be sold or fed on the farm or to be bought or raised for feeding on the farm may any or all of them very greatly complicate matters.

In short, the conditions vary so greatly that each case must usually be determined by its own peculiar conditions, so that no rule beyond that of the principle of thirds stated can be laid down. At least, there

have not been enough cases studied, having similar conditions, to result in the forming of any rule of practice which will apply to the majority of cases arising.

There is one point in such share farming, however, which tends to effect fair divisions, or to correct any mistake along this line, if such should at first be made. If the arrangement does not give the operator of the farm, or the man doing the work, a living, it cannot be permanent or continue long, for usually the living of the operator must come from the proceeds of the farm, which is not so generally the case with the landowner.

Timothy and Alfalfa Hay for Horses Being Fed Cottonseed Meal and Oats

A READER who is feeding his horses one part of cottonseed meal to ten parts of oats wishes to know "which is the better hay, timothy or alfalfa?"

If these same grains or concentrates must be used in the same proportions, then the timothy hay will come nearer furnishing a balanced ration, according to the generally accepted standard.

We are not told the amounts of these feeds used, but we will assume a definite ration, or the usual amounts given a 1,000-pound horse doing moderately hard work, calculate the digestible nutrients in the two rations and compare them with the "standard."

RATIONS FOR A 1,000-POUND HORSE DOING MODERATELY HARD WORK

Ration	Digestible Nutrients			Nutritive Ratio
	Protein	Carbo-hydrates	Fat	
15 lbs. oats	1.45 lbs.	7.86 lbs.	.57 lbs.	
1.5 lbs. cottonseed meal	.50 lbs.	.37 lbs.	.10 lbs.	
10 lbs. timothy hay	.30 lbs.	4.28 lbs.	.12 lbs.	
Totals	2.25 lbs.	12.51 lbs.	.79 lbs.	1 to 6.25
15 lbs. oats	1.45 lbs.	7.86 lbs.	.57 lbs.	
1.5 lbs. cottonseed meal	.50 lbs.	.37 lbs.	.10 lbs.	
10 lbs. alfalfa hay	1.06 lbs.	3.90 lbs.	.09 lbs.	
Totals	3.01 lbs.	12.13 lbs.	.76 lbs.	1 to 4.6
"Standard"	2.50 lbs.	13.30 lbs.	.80 lbs.	1 to 6

In the amounts which we have assumed there is furnished by the timothy hay ration a little less of each digestible nutrient than is called for by the "standard," but it is, perhaps, near enough for all practical purposes. If the animals do not keep up on it, we suggest adding another half pound of cottonseed meal a day. The alfalfa ration, while furnishing a half pound too much digestible protein, lacks 1.17 pounds of digestible carbohydrates. Both rations have about all the digestible fat required. The timothy hay ration, while a little short in nutrients, is balanced pretty well, (1 to 6.25), compared with the standard (1 to 6), but the alfalfa hay ration contains one pound of digestible protein to 4.6 pounds of digestible fats and carbohydrates, whereas the standard only calls for one to six.

In other words, the alfalfa ration would be improved by leaving out the cottonseed meal and increasing the oats. Or, better still, by leaving out the cottonseed meal and a part of the oats and substituting therefor some feed rich in carbohydrates, like corn.

To repeat, if 1 part of cottonseed meal to 10 parts of oats must be used, the timothy hay is better, but that is not saying that timothy is generally a better hay than alfalfa for hard working farm horses. It simply illustrates the importance of considering the other feeds used in the ration when considering the value of any one particular feed, or in comparing two feeds either of which is to form only a part of the ration. As a general rule, a

legume hay, like alfalfa, should be combined with a feed like corn, and timothy hay with one like cottonseed meal, velvet bean meal or oats, although oats are not especially high in protein and some may be used with legume hay, provided there is also used a feed rich in carbohydrates.

PASTURE PROBLEMS

A Discussion of the Essential Factors in Getting and Keeping Good Pastures

THE fall cereals or grains sowed for pasturing during the late fall and winter should generally, in these times of large food demands, be harvested for seed the next summer. There is no doubt but wheat is one of our best fall and winter grazing plants, when the land remains dry enough or is of a nature to permit grazing during the winter. But in those sections where wheat is quite generally grown the danger of damage by the Hessian fly is a serious obstacle to the early seeding, necessary for affording the best pasturage. Where wheat has not been generally grown in the past, the fly is not likely to be numerous enough to do much damage, and in these sections the early seeding necessary for the best pasturage may be made with comparative safety. It should also be remembered that when the wheat is pastured sufficiently to prevent it making a large growth the damage from the fly is reduced greatly although the wheat be sowed early. The date of seeding will of course also vary with the location. October 1 in the northern third of the Cotton Belt is no earlier than November 1 in the southern third. If good grazing is expected wheat should not be sowed later than October 1 to 15 in the northern half of the Cotton Belt. Wheat also requires a richer soil than oats or rye. The character of the soil is also of more importance than with oats. Wheat will not generally do as well on sandy soils as will oats, but for its best growth requires a clay or clay loam soil of better than average fertility.

When sowed for seed probably the best yields of wheat are generally obtained from around 1 1/4 bushels of seed per acre, but in the South, except on the best lands, probably 1 1/2 bushels of seed per acre is better. For grazing alone we think not less than 2 or 2 1/2 bushels of seed per acre should be sowed not later than October 1 to 15. In fact, in the northern part of the Cotton Belt September 15 to 30 is probably a better date if much fall and winter grazing is expected.

Wheat especially requires a firm or compact soil. That does not mean that it does best on a hard soil or one which has not been well prepared. It simply means that while wheat does best on a good mellow clay loam soil, it requires when sowed in the fall that this be settled and compact enough to hold the required moisture. Probably the best preparation is to break six weeks before seeding, and then by the use of disk and section harrows and the corrugated roller to so firm the soil and keep the surface stirred that it will not only hold what moisture falls, but undue loss by evaporation will also be prevented. If early breaking is not possible, then a thorough use of the disk harrow may prove better than breaking with the plow.

The aversion to taxation is due to ignorance of the fact that taxation is simply an exchange of a little money for something better—civilized government. The savage alone is exempt from taxation.—Dr. Charles D. McIver.