

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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Better Stock as a Guide Post to "\$500 More a Year."

THE DIFFERENCE between good stock and scrub stock is the difference between the animal which is adapted to a particular purpose and the one which is not. This is why the pure bred animal is ordinarily so much superior to the mongrel. The one has inherited tendencies, the result of generations of selected ancestry, to develop a certain form or certain qualities; the other has inherited, in varying degrees, so many conflicting lines of blood that there is no special fitness for any particular purpose.

These two pictures, for example, show the widely different forms and characteristics of the dairy-bred and the beef-bred cow. Each is the result of years of careful selection toward a particular type and for an especial purpose; and the qualities of the two are absolutely incompatible. A cross between a Shorthorn and a Jersey would likely be deficient in both beef- and milk-producing qualities, even though each parent was an individual of the highest quality. It is so with all kinds of stock. Our nondescript hogs, unprofitable cattle and sorry, make-shift horses are, for the most part, the result of haphazard and indiscriminate breeding.

This is why we believe in pure bred stock, and why we urge you to decide just what you wish your stock to be, and do and then to be-



[Courtesy Ohio Experiment Station.]



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gin breeding them toward that particular type and for that end. There will now and then be found mongrel animals that are good animals, and pure breeds that are scrubs; but these are the exceptions and not the rule, and we must be guided by rules rather than by exceptions.

The dairy-bred steer will not make as much beef or beef of as good quality as will the beef-bred steer; the beef-bred cow can not compete with the dairy-bred cow in milk or butter production; the half-wild hog of the woods will not lay on flesh as cheaply as the hog that is bred to make meat; you can not expect speed from a Percheron, or size and strength from a light-weight trotter.

How foolish it is then to keep on trying to make beef from steers with strong strains of dairy blood in their veins, or to produce milk with cows that have as much beef blood as dairy blood! And can we expect to make cheap pork from a hog whose inheritance is speed rather than the ability to take on fat, or to get horses big enough to handle improved farm machinery by breeding to little stallions of no particular type?

Scrub stock means scrub farming, and because we have had scrub stock is one reason why the profits from our farming have been so small. Is it not time to change?

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Three Features of This Issue.

DOES STOCK-RAISING pay in the South? Well, that depends more than anything else, we imagine, on the man who is raising the stock. A man who has good stock and knows how to handle them, has in the South the finest field open anywhere. Such a man is our Mr. A. L. French; and to those who still cling to the idea that they can afford to raise cotton with which to buy their mules and their meat, his fine letter this week is a fearless challenge. "I can show you," says Mr. French, "that there is money in stock raising in the South, and can name a hundred men who can do the same thing." Such a positive statement is worth whole volumes of doubts or objections or theories.

Our special message this week, however, is the difference between good stock and poor—the difference in type, the difference in productive capacity, the difference in the profits that will come to you from the feed they eat and the care you devote to them. While the prosperous agricul-

tural sections are the stock-raising sections, the most prosperous agricultural sections are those that have the best grade of stock. Those striking examples of actual differences on the next page should set you to thinking seriously along this line.

To have good stock we must have good crops, for the two go together. So don't fail to study Professor Massey's "Farm Work for May," and his comments on the demonstration work. This is the season when cultivation is the pressing business on the farm, and you cannot afford to miss reading—and then putting into practice—that little article by Mr. C. T. Ames on page 12. Always and everywhere it is better to kill the grass before it comes up, and in practically every case the place for the turning plow after the crop has been planted is under the tool shed.

That there is need for putting still greater energy into our educational crusade in the South is abundantly indicated by a school census just taken in Georgia. This shows that there are 84,380 illiterate children over ten years of age in the State, and that the decrease in illiteracy for the past five years has been only 1.6 per cent.