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The Feeding of Beef Cattle as a Guide Post to "\$500 More a Year Farming."

IT IS NOT UNCOMMON to hear from or of some Southern farmer who has figured up the prices of feed stuffs and the money obtained from the selling of beef cattle, compared the two, and come to the conclusion that it does not pay to make beef in the South. Now, it is true that, as a rule, the beef steer will not show the same notable profit, by his production of food, over the cost of the feeds he eats, as will the dairy cow or the hog; but the men who jump to the conclusion that it does not pay to feed beef cattle nearly always forget to consider the very great difference a short term of years will make in the productiveness of their farms under the system of selling off the rough feeds grown on it as compared with feeding them on the farms and thus turning a large per cent of their fertilizing elements back to the soil.

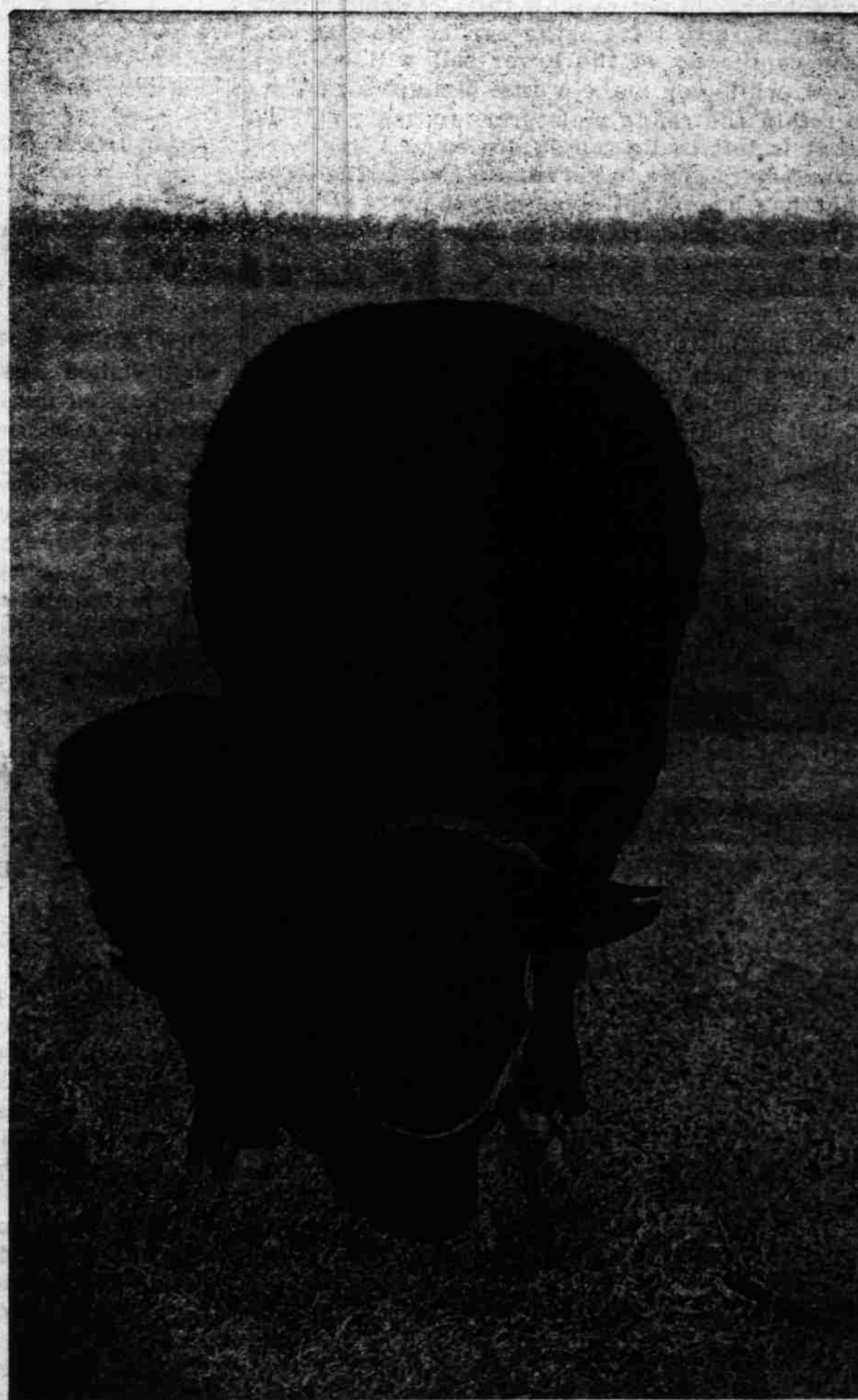
We have mentioned before the old cattleman who, in reply to a similar objection to the feeding of beef steers, said that he had never known a man who fed good cattle year after year to die poor or leave a poor farm. And it is safe to say that if any reader knows of such a case, it was the man who was poor and not the land, and the poverty of the man was in spite of, and not the result of, his feeding operations.

It requires special equipment and specially trained labor to make a success of dairying, and the hog cannot consume all of the cottonseed meal or much of the rough feeds produced on the Southern farms. For this reason the beef steer has a wide field of usefulness in the South, and will handle these rough feeds, with enough concentrates to make a properly balanced ration, so as to give the farmer the greatest obtainable profit from them.

To get this profit, however, the farmer must have good cattle, must use judgement in their feeding, must save the manure they make, and must market them to best advantage.

Steers of the type shown here are selling in Chicago for over 8 cents a pound, and there is money in making beef at such prices as that.

We have the feedstuffs and the climate for profitable beef production; but we need a better grade of cattle, better ideas of feeding, and freedom from the cattle tick so that our cattle can have free access to the great markets. All these things we can have; and all of them we must have before we make our farming the profitable business it should be. "No money in beef cattle," with hundreds of thousands of tons of corn stover going to waste every year, with millions of tons of cottonseed meal used for fertilizer, with a few scrubby cattle roaming over tick-infested fields grown up in weeds and briars and bushes, and with multiplied thousands of acres of land growing poorer every year? Compare that condition with those found in the sections where the farmers raise and feed good beef cattle, and decide which is the more profitable method to adopt.



(Courtesy Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Asso.)

A PRIZE-WINNING POLLED ANGUS STEER.

The Things You Wish to Know.

WE HAVE AGREED to answer all inquiries by personal letter, and we are going to do it because we want the inquiries, and it gives us pleasure and profit to answer them; but we want to ask our readers to help us to prevent the necessity of doing the same thing over and over again. For instance, we are asked questions about crimson clover that have been answered fully in our columns within the last two months. We wish all our readers would file their papers. It is also a good plan to mark such articles as you may probably want to refer to again.

We wish we received more inquiries than we do, for from these we are enabled to learn the needs of our readers, but when it is easy to obtain

the information wanted from a recent issue of the paper, it is to the interest of all concerned that the paper be consulted before going to the trouble of writing us for a personal reply by mail.

We want every farmer in our territory to feel free to write us for information, whether he be a subscriber or not, but we do not want to answer again and again questions that have been already answered in our columns. The reason we do not want to do this is because we want the time to give to answering new questions, better and more fully.

Remember, we are always at your service; but before asking a question you should see if an answer has not already been given in the paper. You do not profit by the paper as you should if you do not study it; and you do not add to its efficiency by requiring us to do unnecessary work.

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