

\$500 More a Year Farming: How to Get It.

XL.—By Feeding Beef Cattle and Saving the Manure.

By Dr. Tait Butler.

BEFORE THE feeding of beef cattle is likely to be regarded by our farmers as generally profitable, they must revise their views and ideas as to the true aim and purpose of this phase of live stock husbandry.

The beef steer is not an economical producer of human food, but he will eat grass and other coarse farm products, which some other animals will not consume, and convert them into human food. A part, or the full value, of many of these products are now wasted by us, and if the beef steer can be made to consume them and pay us something more for them than we are now getting, he may still be made of use in our agriculture.

The time has passed when the beef steer can be expected to pay more for the feeds he consumes than they will bring on the open market. Indeed, it must be admitted that he will frequently not even pay their ruling market price, by the pounds of growth which he makes, unless handled according to the best business and feeding methods.

The purpose of the beef steer on the farm is simply to convert cheap coarse farm products into another product—beef—and while paying a fair price for these feed stuffs leave on the farm a large part of the plant foods taken from the soil in their production.

The Two Values of Feed Products.

THE FEED products of the farm have a double value and no farmer can afford to ignore either of these values. The feed value is no more important and sometimes no greater than the fertilizer value; and in considering whether it will pay to feed a farm product, or sell it off the farm, the intelligent farmer will be guided by a comparison of the market price with the feeding value plus the fertilizer value. In other words, it will not pay to sell feed stuffs from the farm unless the market price is equal to the combined feeding and fertilizer values of the feed stuffs; and frequently not then, unless the fertility of the farm is such that it is already producing maximum crops. For instance, if the plant foods in a ton of peavine hay are worth \$12, the careful feeder will save \$9 worth of plant foods in the manure. If the feed value of this hay be \$9, then no farmer can profitably sell peavine hay off his farm for less than \$18 per ton, unless his farm is already producing maximum crops without the use of purchased commercial fertilizers containing nitrogen.

When we come to look upon the feeding of live stock, from this standpoint—and it is unquestionably the correct one,—then we shall revise our ideas as to whether it pays to feed beef cattle.

The feeding of beef cattle may be

This series of articles, will run throughout the year, the next four articles in the series being as follows:

- Oct. 14.—By Buying to Best Advantage.
- Oct. 21.—By Better Handling of the Timber Crop.
- Oct. 28.—By Getting Better Results Next Year from Tenants and Farm Labor.
- Nov. 4.—By Making the Most Out of the Boys and Girls.

made to pay on a large number of Southern farms, but cheap home-grown feeds must be used and the fertilizer value of the feeds consumed be given its full weight in determining the results.

The Kind of Cattle to Feed.

GOOD CATTLE for feeding are scarce throughout our territory and not really available in many cases. Much of our territory could obtain feeders from western Virginia and eastern Tennessee, but the high freight rates, which prevail throughout the South, prohibit the shipment of cattle long distances for short feeding periods.

The common practice is to pick up the native cattle available. With these, satisfactory results are ob-

quantity to supply the local demand. This condition always means high-priced feed stuffs, for the cost of transporting bulky commodities like feeding stuffs is always high in proportion to their value.

The basis of the concentrates in the ration must be cottonseed meal, for at ruling market prices it is the cheapest feeding stuff in America. It is unusually rich in protein, but since this can largely take the place of carbohydrates in a ration, is usually in other sections the most costly nutrient, and yields a manure much richer in nitrogen, the advantage which this excellent but cheap feeding stuff gives Southern cattle feeders can scarcely be overestimated.

Cottonseed, when less than 25 cents a bushel, may be used in small quantities not exceeding from 3 to 5 pounds a day. Corn and the other

Twelve Things to Do in October.

SOW ALL WINTER OATS as soon as possible, and keep working the wheat land so as to have it ready to sow after the first frost.

2. Sow rye and crimson clover, rye and vetch, or rye alone on all lands still without a winter cover. A good field of crimson clover will almost double your corn yield next year.

3. Start the fattening hogs on corn, balancing their ration with shipstuff, or tankage, or middlings, and all the succulent green feeds they will eat. Corn alone doesn't pay.

4. While picking cotton, select the best stalks,—vigorous, short-jointed, prolific, early-maturing, and with large bolls—and save the seed from them for planting next year, having it ginned separately so as to prevent mixing with other seed.

5. Keep up the selection of seed corn from the very best individual stalks in your field until you have three or four times enough to plant your next year's crop.

6. Save all the cowpeas and grass possible for hay, and get this hay and the corn stover under shelter or in the stack.

7. Start a pig and a calf and rush them until fat enough to kill for early home use.

8. Fix up root-house, cellars, etc., for keeping potatoes, apples, etc.

9. Give the dairy cows some extra green feed to supplement the pastures, and increase their grain ration.

10. Sow a turnip patch for use next spring, also some turnips, rape, crimson clover or rye for the poultry to eat this winter.

11. Set out some bulbs, some vines and some perennial flowers about the house.

12. Get ready to drain any wet lands you may have.

tained in two ways. One is to buy anything offered for less than it is really worth, as is very frequently done by good buyers; and the other plan is to pick out the best of the native steers at about their real value, and feed only for short periods. To insure satisfactory returns when feeding from 100 to 120 days the purchase price of the feeders should be from 1c. to 1 1/4 c. a pound less than the selling price of the finished cattle. For a longer feeding period, say 120 to 150 days, a margin of from 1 1/4 cts. to 1 1/2 cts. per pound may be required. "Any article well bought is half sold;" therefore, the cattle for feeding must be bought right if the final results of the operations are to be right.

The Feeds for the Southern Beef Maker.

WHILE THE SOUTH has a great variety of feeding stuffs there are few sections where any of them, except cottonseed and cottonseed meal, is produced in sufficient

high-priced concentrates can seldom be profitably used. To the extent which they may be used in balancing the ration, cottonseed meal at \$25 a ton of cottonseed meal, 22 cents a bushel of cottonseed, \$5 a ton are of about equal value.

The rough forage must consist of crops grown on the farm. The legume hays, the cheaper grades of grass hays, corn stover and corn silage, are those which seem most readily available. Some of these are now largely wasted, while the others could and should be produced in larger quantities.

The cheapest rough feeds, in our experience, are shredded corn stover and corn silage, but when the machinery to handle these is not available or the cost of shredder, silage cutter, silo, etc., is too great for the number of cattle fed, the cheaper grades of grass hays, the legumes and corn stalks, may be used.

The better grades of high-priced grass hays should not be used for feeding beef cattle, for neither their feeding nor their fertilizer value justifies the high price which they com-

mand in our markets. Their high price is due to their scarcity and their special suitability for horse feeding.

During several years the writer has made beef cattle pay \$27.50 a ton for cotton-seed meal, 22 cents a bushel of cotton seed, \$5 a ton for shredded corn stover and \$3 a ton for corn silage, leaving the stable manure as a handsome profit on the labor of feeding. The old ration of cottonseed hulls and meal may yet be made profitable for short feeding periods, under especially favorable conditions, and when meal does not sell for more than \$25 a ton and hulls for more than \$5 a ton; but most men who find profit in this sort of feeding do so through the excellent quality of stable manure produced and through the purchase of feeders for less than their real value.

In this as in all other lines of human effort the man is after all the most important factor in determining results. The ability to buy good feeders and put them in the feed lot at the least cost; the growing and furnishing of suitable cheap feeds;

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