

Agricultural.

Pork vs. Beef.

The animal capable of eating the most, provided his digestive organs are equal to the task of assimilation, is the most profitable to the farmer. The pig consumes daily, for every hundred pounds of his live weight, twenty-five to thirty pounds of food, while the ox only consumes twelve to fourteen pounds to each hundred pounds of his live weight; again, careful experimenters assert that the pig stores up in his increase over twenty per cent of his dry food, while the ox stores up only about eight per cent. No live stock is more profitable to the breeder than swine, provided the number kept is in proportion to the resources of the farm, especially since the advances they require, compared with that of other animals, is so trifling, and since the value of the manure produced more than offsets the needed care. The well bred pig has a strong tendency to store up fat, and this feature may be further developed by the conditions of warmth, cleanliness and proper food. In his wild state or in such inferior breeds as many shiftless farmers persistently raise, which run about and with great outlay of labor and their own food in forest or field, this tendency is greatly diminished, and the proportion of lean to fat is much greater. Store oxen, in fair condition, have lean and fat in about equal proportions, while fat oxen or premium steers can only have their fat doubled; on the other hand, the store pig commences his fattening career with fat as much as he has lean, and as a fat pig, ready for the slaughter, he can carry five times as much fat as lean; and, since the pig stores up in his body nearly three times more of his food than the ox, it is plain to be seen that pork is more cheaply grown and fattened than beef. Yet the New England farmer can sell his pork today at twenty-five per cent. more a pound than he can his beef.

Young Folks.

How the Pony was Taken.

One morning, last August, Jimmie Wood was sitting on the gate post making a draw while, when a remarkable wagon, drawn by a lean, gray horse, came up over the hill. The wagon looked like a big black box with a window in it. In front was a man driving, and this man seemed rather peculiar to him. He had a long, pointed mustache and very curly hair. He was not a cigar and candy peddler, nor a patent medicine man, nor a machine agent, for Jim could recognize any of these in a minute. The curly-haired man stopped directly in front of the gate.



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