

### Skill Required for Fattening

Breeder Must Now Give More Attention to Feeding Light Animals.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)  
Because of the higher price of beef, smaller families, and a smaller proportion of the population doing heavy manual labor in recent years as compared with former years, the consumer is demanding lighterweight cuts of beef. Cattle breeders and feeders have been gradually adjusting their operations to meet this change.

Instead of feeding the heavier type of beef commonly marketed 40 years ago at four or five years of age, they are now feeding calves and yearlings and marketing them when they weigh from 700 to 1,200 pounds.

#### Grow Rather Than Fatten.

On account of the tendency of calves to grow rather than to fatten, more skill is required to fatten them within a reasonable time than is necessary in the case of older cattle. The several phases of the fattening of calves for market are discussed in Farmers' Bulletin No. 1416-F, "Fattening Beef Calves," just issued by the United States Department of Agriculture.

In comparing the fattening of calves and older cattle the bulletin lists several advantages in favor of calves:

The quantity of feed required to make a pound of gain increases as the animal grows older. Calves make from 33 to 55 per cent more gain than mature cattle on the same quantity of feed.

Fat, open heifers, weighing from 700 to 800 pounds, sell nearly as well as steers. Heavier heifers are discriminated against because they have more internal fat and are not so well covered as steers, and because, being older, the possibility of their being pregnant is greater.

Calves can be carried longer than mature steers when unexpected circumstances arise, such as bad markets, a strike, or an embargo, as they will retain their "bloom" longer after they are ready to market.

#### Why Not to Fatten.

On the other hand, it is not always advisable to fatten calves, says the bulletin, for the following reasons:

Fattening calves require more attention and skill on the part of the man feeding them than is the case with older cattle.

Calves of slow-maturing type will not fatten rapidly enough to make desirable carcasses as yearlings. Such calves should generally be carried about two years as stockers before they are fattened.

The total feed required to produce a fat three-year-old steer may be made up of a much larger proportion of roughages than that required to produce a fat yearling. Mature cattle can eat coarser roughages and broken ear corn much better than young cattle.

Mature cattle may be fattened in a much shorter time than calves, as they have only to fatten, while calves grow as well as fatten.

A copy of the bulletin may be obtained by writing to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

### Difference in Alfalfa

Seed Due to Qualities

One cannot study the behavior of alfalfa in different fields without coming to the conclusion that there is a great difference in the ability of various lots of seed to maintain a stand and to resist killing out. Examples can be found of wide differences where two lots of seed were sown in the same field. One lot may show much killing out and disease while the other holds its stand in fine shape. That the difference is in heredity due to the inherent qualities carried in the seed can be the only conclusion.

### Around the Farm

It pays to treat seed grain for smut.

If you have idle land on your farm it will pay you in the long run to start some trees on it.

Good forestry practice is as much a part of good farming, as is good cropping practice.

Leafy, small-stemmed hay, cut before it is too mature and properly cured without being rained on is best.

The larger potatoes especially for cattle should always be sliced to prevent choking on the part of the animals.

Don't forget that the early thinning of vegetables to a stand means increased production and earlier maturity.

As feed crop on the farm, barley is commonly considered at least 90 per cent as good as corn, pound for pound, as a feed for live stock.

Beets serve the same purpose as do pasture crops like oats, wheat and sudan for hogs. They are not nearly so valuable as alfalfa or sweet clover.

One of the most valuable items of farm equipment, from the standpoint of the cash return on the investment, is a good fanning mill or reclaimer.

### Unthrifty Seed Is Never Recommended

Money and Labor Is Wasted Without Proper Start.

Poor seed will not produce a good crop of potatoes no matter how much labor and money are expended on fertilizer, spraying and cultivation, according to K. H. Fernow of the New York State College of Agriculture. Good seed must be relatively free from virus diseases, true to variety and in good condition.

An inspection of seed shows whether it is badly sprouted, shriveled, or affected with black heart or freezing injury but only by examination of the growing plants can freedom from virus diseases be determined. To obtain healthy seed maintain a seed plot in which control methods against virus diseases are used, or else purchase seed from some one who uses control methods.

Some growers buy enough good seed each year to plant an increase plot from which they obtain seed for their main planting the following year. Such a practice is satisfactory only if the good seed purchased is planted at a distance from potatoes which have a relatively large amount of degeneration diseases and if conditions are not too favorable for the spread of virus diseases within the plot.

At present there is no way to know absolutely whether seed is free from virus diseases but the use of certified seed usually results in healthier stock. The fields from which such seed comes have been inspected by the state college and have been found to contain only a small amount of virus diseases.

### Vegetative Propagation Used for New Varieties

New commercial varieties of fruits may be obtained by the vegetative propagation of what is known as bud sports. As applied to fruit trees this term refers to branches which for no apparent reason bear fruit different in size, shape or color, or are different in some other respect from the rest of the tree.

Such bud sports are fairly common and when propagated by top grafting remain true to type according to horticultural experts at the Michigan experimental station. Over 100 of these variations have been under observation for several years by members of the horticultural staff of that station and are being put to tests to see whether they will transmit their characteristics when propagated vegetatively.

Although sufficient time has not elapsed to prove that all of the sports under test will "breed" true to type, some at least are known to have this characteristic.

Most of the bud sports which appear on the fruit trees are inferior to the parent tree, but some few are superior and it is to these that we may look as a source of new commercial varieties.

### Wheat Makes Best Feed for Growing Turkeys

Wheat makes one of the best feeds for growing turkeys after the first six weeks' feeding of clabber cheese, and dry bread or rice soaked in sweet milk. Onion tops should be cut up into the cheese and soaked bread feed to give the much-needed green stuff. A good sprinkling of black pepper should be given on these feeds. As they get older, switch over to the grain diet very gradually so there will be no stomach derangement. Middlings with about one-fourth the amount of corn meal added, then moistened with skim milk, make a good morning feed right along, with wheat or other grain for the evening meal.

### Pigs Follow Steers

Pigs should be put in the feed lot with steers being fattened for market, for they will gather all grain dropped by the steers and clean up the grain scattered around the feed bunk. The pork produced from this feed, otherwise wasted, will add materially to the profits from steers. Pigs weighing from 100 to 150 pounds are the best size. Smaller pigs are not so well able to look after themselves running among the steers. As soon as the pigs are fat enough for market they should be sold and replaced by thin pigs.

### Feed for Chicks

Feeding the chicks begins when they are from thirty-six to forty-two hours old. Well-baked corn bread crumbled with hard-boiled eggs and a little coarse sand is fed very sparingly. Over-feeding is a prolific source of bowel trouble and should be carefully avoided. What they will pick up clean in three or four minutes is enough. Clean water, finely crushed oyster shell, a dry mash of bran and a little beef scrap should be kept constantly before them.

### Plenty of Sunshine

The successful hog raiser has come to appreciate sunshine more and more. Modern hog house plans provide for admission of plenty of sunlight to the pens. Hogs require an abundance of fresh, pure air, which should be furnished without subjecting them to injurious drafts. They suffer much in a close, confining, poorly ventilated place. Sunlight should sweep all parts of the floor each day, to destroy disease breeding organisms.



You might call this "putting the car over the bumps." Drawing made from a photograph of a car driven over a road scientifically made bad at the Proving Ground.

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### Ginkgo Tree Only One That Has No Enemies

Only one species of plant life now growing in the United States is without an enemy trying to take its life. Dr. William A. Taylor, chief of the bureau of plant industry, reported to the house appropriations committee during hearings in Washington.

"This unmolested tree is the Japanese ginkgo tree," Doctor Taylor stated. "So far as we know this tree has no insect or fungus enemy at the present time."

On a driveway leading to the United States Department of Agriculture buildings the street is lined on both sides with the ginkgo trees. In the fall they present a striking appearance, for as the yellow leaves fall they heap up on the sidewalks like piles of gold.

The ginkgo tree has a fruit, but one which the white man scorns. The nut inside is rather tasty, but as Doctor Taylor said, "it is surrounded by a most abominable smelling and tasting pulp. It smells more like salt-rising bread in the process of fermentation than any other thing. Chinese laundries pick up the fruits, take them home, clean them and eat the kernels."—Kansas City Star's Science Service.

### Thinks He Has Special Reason for Complaint

The driver of a small car, parked in a crowded downtown section, stopped short and stared at the apparent nakedness of the machine. The spare tire was missing.

With a nonchalant shrug, he muttered something about "thieves will be thieves" and began to climb into the machine. But he stopped short again and stooped to pick up a wrench from the running board. His face grew crimson, and the things he said were terms not generally employed by frequenters of social teas.

"What's the trouble?" asked the Stroller.

"A lot!" he snapped. "I don't mind these crooks stealing my tire, but when they open my car and take my tools to do it with, that's too much!" —Philadelphia Public Ledger.

### Oddest Radio Station in Virginia Graveyard

There are many strange radio stations in the world, but one of the strangest, perhaps, is the station that is located in a graveyard. The redeeming feature of the whole thing is the fact that it is not a human but a ship graveyard.

Anchored in the James river near Fort Eustis, Va., are some 200 ships of the Emergency Fleet corporation. Built for use in the time of the war and now of no use to the government, they are tied up awaiting sale, or death by decay. Tied up in 10 units of 20 ships each, they spread out over this historic river for some five miles.

When the high winds blow down the river the boats occasionally break away from their moorings and go drifting down the river, a menace to navigation. Also, when the high winds blow, the little land phone line that runs to Yorktown is carried away. It is in times like this that the radio station, which is located on the flagship of the fleet, comes into operation. A call is sent to the navy yard at Newport News and tugs are dispatched to return the refractory boat to the fold.

Even in calm weather the transmitter gets an occasional workout by transmitting messages received by phone from the Yorktown mine depot to the navy yard. Fort Eustis, near which this peculiar little station is located, is also the home base of the only railway artillery unit in the United States army.

### Gems His Playthings

Many, varied, and strange are the belongings kept in safe deposits. During the recent visit to England of the ruler of a semi-independent Indian state a score or more of gorgeously appraised retainers visited the premises of one company every day to collect three heavy chests filled with cut and uncut precious stones. These were taken away for the dusky potentate to play with, and returned to the vaults when he tired of his daily amusement. The jewels were said to be worth over £10,000,000 and were probably the most valuable collection ever stored at one time.

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