

**Agricultural Department.**

**Feeding Grain to Stock Profitably.**  
There is a class of farmers, and perhaps some among them read the *American Agriculturist*, who still question whether it will pay to feed animals the grain which they themselves raise. They have not satisfied themselves by their own experience in making beef, mutton, or pork. If grain be properly fed to animals of a good breed, there is no doubt about its being usually a paying operation; but fed out unground and irregularly, if the animals are ever so good, it seldom pays. There is a difference, also, in the manner of computing the gains which usually accrue from the grain consumed by animals. A good portion of the profits of converting grain into meat of any kind, cannot be realized by the sale of the meat; for many times an animal will not sell for as much money as the grain and hay it has consumed while fattening. In view of this fact alone, feeding grain appears to be a poor practice. Nevertheless, multitudes of the best farmers of our country sell but little grain, others sell none at all, while many purchase more than they raise on their own land, and feed it all to stock of some kind, and yet derive a paying profit from the business. Others attempt it and fail because they feed poor stock, not well purchased nor selected, or because they do not feed with proper system, nor preserve with sufficient care the solid and liquid manure of the fattening animals. In fact, it is in the manner alone that the greater part of the profit of fattening beef, sheep and swine consists, to most of the farmers of the United States, and the rest of the civilized world. The more manure, and the better saved, the greater the profit, even in Illinois.

The way to begin is, to get good animals and to put them in fair order on grass. Meat can be made on grass in warm weather more economically than on any other feed. Those persons who attempt to make beef of poor cows and bullocks, or mutton of poor sheep, by feeding hay and grain, without commencing on grass, will never make out well.

When one intends to prepare a lot of bullocks or sheep for marketing in the spring, he should commence feeding a small quantity of grain per head as soon as grass begins to fail, for in passing from grass to hay, they should not be allowed to lose any of the flesh or fat that has accumulated during the grazing season. If by irregularity of feeding, or by exposure to storms, or by short allowances of feed, an animal is required to use up a pound of fat to maintain the heat and to supply the natural wastes of the body, it will take several days to replace the small amount that has been lost by this bad management. Every animal should be fed enough to keep it improving a little every day. Some bullocks require more meat than others, and the same is true of sheep. A dry cow or a bullock three or four years old, designed for beef next May or June, should receive not less than two quarts of Indian corn meal, or its equivalent in some other grain, during the months of December and January. After this, the quantity may be increased as pleasure, and should always be increased from month to month, according to the feeding capacity of the animal, the calculation being to finish off the fattening with ten to twenty days grazing, without reducing the quantity of grain.

In addition to this amount of meal, they should have a foddering of hay, once daily, and one of cornstalks, and a few hours daily in a yard with access to good straw. If a farmer has a power cutter, it is far more economical to chaff the hay, straw and cornstalks, wet it, and mingle the meal with it. Feed prepared in this manner, is better for sheep as well as neat cattle and horses. The use of oil meal for beef animals must be regulated on the same principles, as a substitute for part of the meal. Wetters and dry cows should receive neither or quite one pound of Indian corn or corn meal per head daily, or what is better, half a pound of oil meal and half a pound of corn or of barley meal mixed. It is folly to attempt to make meat in cold weather, without complete protection from cold and wet.—*American Agriculturist.*

**Coating for Iron.**  
I desire to remind my brother farmers, that rust and corrosion are more injurious to iron tools during the period of their idleness or disuse, than the wear of them. To obviate effectually this evil, it is necessary only to cleanse them thoroughly when they are to be laid aside for the season, and apply to them a coat of rosin, one part; beef's tallow, or oil, one part; with a little lampblack; the whole being solved and fused over a slow fire and put on with a common paint brush, while warm. All iron implements, such as plows, harrows, cultivators, as well as wheels and all other tools, composed either wholly or in part of iron, should be frayed with this or some similar unguent, and carefully housed. Treated in this manner a very considerable saving will be effected, and at slight expense. Some prefer the use of paints, formed by the admixture of "inseed

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