

## On the Land

### GENERAL.

Quite a record in the matter of apple cultivation has been put up by Mr. E. R. Goulter, of Clive Grange (says the *Hawke's Bay Herald*). Early in the season he gathered from one tree a bushel and a-half of Irish Peach apples, while a second crop was gathered later, making two full crops for the season.

At Addington last week the entries of fat sheep, and lambs, were much smaller than late yardings, but the other departments were up to the average. There was a good attendance. Store sheep sold well, and fat lambs were equal to late rates. Fat sheep showed an advance in consequence of a short supply, but store cattle were dull of sale. Dairy cows were in demand, but bacon pigs were easier. Fat Lambs.—924 penned. Extra prime, to 26s; prime, 21s to 25s; others, 15s 9d to 20s 6d. Fat Sheep.—Extra prime wethers, to 38s 9d; prime, 25s to 29s 6d; others, 21s 6d to 24s 6d; merino wethers, 14s 3d to 22s 8d; extra prime ewes, to 30s 9d; prime, 24s to 28s; medium, 19s to 23s 6d; others, 14s to 18s 6d. Fat Cattle.—Extra prime steers, to £18; ordinary, £9 to £13; extra prime cows, to £16 5s; ordinary, £6 5s to £14 10s. Pigs.—Choppers, 50s to 92s; extra heavy baconers, to 100s; heavy baconers, 75s to 90s; light baconers, 55s to 70s—price per lb, 6d to 6½d; heavy porkers, 44s to 48s; light porkers, 36s to 42s—price per lb, 7d to 7½d; medium stores, 28s to 33s; smaller, 16s to 25s; weaners, 7s 6d to 13s.

There were average entries of all classes at Burnside last week, but prices all round showed a decline compared with previous sale. Fat Cattle.—One hundred and seventy-eight head came forward. Owing to the near approach of the Easter holidays butchers did not require their usual number, consequently prices showed a decline on previous week's rates of from 10s to 20s per head. Quotations: Prime bullocks, £14 10s to £18 5s; medium, £11 10s to £13 10s; light, £8 10s to £10; prime cows and heifers, £12 10s to £14; medium, £9 to £11. Fat Sheep.—1600 were penned, consisting principally of medium ewes and wethers, with a few pens of prime sheep. Owing to the near approach of the holidays, butchers did not require their usual number, consequently prices showed a decline of about 1s to 1s 6d per head on previous week's rates. Prime wethers, 27s to 29s; extra, 33s; medium, 23s 6d to 26s; inferior and unfinished, 18s to 21s; prime ewes, 23s to 26s; medium, 18s 6d to 22s. Fat Lambs.—A small yarding of 700 came forward. Freezing buyers were not operating freely owing to the near approach of the Easter holidays, and the difficulty experienced in obtaining space for killing before then. Prime lambs, 18s to 23s 6d; medium do, 16s to 17s 6d; inferior do, 10s to 14s.

Maize and barley meal are of just about the same value for fattening pigs. Neither of these foods (says a Home exchange, in replying to the query of a correspondent) is really suitable for feeding alone, as they both contain an excess of starchy matter, and the ration should therefore be balanced by some food containing a fair proportion of albuminoids or flesh-formers. Sharps do not contain sufficient of this constituent for young animals, but you could provide a good daily ration for pigs by using maize meal and separated milk or buttermilk. As regards the quantity of food, this should be regulated according to the appetites of the pigs, feeding as much at each meal as they can conveniently clear up, seeing that no stale food is left over in the trough. About 3lb to 4lb of dry food per head per day will now be required, and must be fed in gradually increasing quantities as the pigs gain in weight. Young fattening pigs ought to have a ration fortified by some good quality meal, and home-grown pea or bean meal would be excellent for this purpose. After they are about five months old, however, they will be better able to deal with a ration containing an excess of starch, and you may then feed

them with anything up to 5lb to 6lb per head per day of maize meal and sharps in equal quantities.

### CHEESE OR BUTTER? WHICH IS MORE PROFITABLE?

A special leaflet, recently issued by the British Board of Agriculture, recommends an increase in the production of cheese, both because of the present high price, and also as a contribution to the national food supply.

It is pointed out in the leaflet that the conversion of milk into cheese is considerably more profitable than the making of butter, though the figures quoted in the leaflet in proof of this have been considerably modified by the recent rise in the price of butter (says a British exchange).

It is, however, still true that when the milk cannot be sold in its fresh condition the making of cheese is more likely to leave a profit for the farmer than the making of butter.

Of course, when economically used the by-products from the making of butter are used on the farm for the feeding of calves and pigs, and thus become human foods indirectly, but there is little doubt that the protein of the milk, being preserved in the cheese along with the milk, makes the cheese an exceedingly valuable food for human beings, and of considerable importance in the economy of the nation.

### UTILISING BUTTERMILK.

What is the best food (by analysis) to mix with buttermilk from the factory to feed pigs, in order to form a well-balanced ration? The question came from the Nimbin branch of the New South Wales Agricultural Bureau, and mention was made of linseed meal with oil extracted, Sunlight oilcake and pollard, as those on which information was particularly desired.

The principal of Hawkesbury Agricultural College furnished a reply, in which it was pointed out that buttermilk was composed of water 90.2 per cent., protein 4 per cent., carbohydrates 4 per cent., fat 1.1 per cent., and a small quantity of mineral ash.

Where buttermilk is pure and undiluted it is considered equal in feeding value to skim-milk. Much, however, depends upon the source and treatment afforded the buttermilk at the churn and vat, the method of churning, the washing of the butter, the inclusion of slops, washings, and other forms of dilution by drainage. Sometimes salt, soda, lime, and other doubtful substances, in solution, are carelessly allowed to flow with the buttermilk into vats at butter factories. Caution should be observed in securing a supply of pure and healthy buttermilk for pigs.

The approximate analyses of pollard, copra cake, and linseed meal showed that protein is most abundant in the linseed meal, carbohydrates most abundant in the pollard, and fat in the copra cake. At current market rates, the approximate unit costs of nutritive constituents were given by the principal as 1/1½ a feeding unit in pollard, 2/1½ in copra cake, and 1/4½ in linseed meal. Under these conditions the use of pollard with the buttermilk was advised.

### PILES

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