

On the Land

GENERAL.

The Queensland Department of Agriculture gives a simple method for trapping fruit flies, the bane of every orchardist. Get a number of pieces of board or tin, and paint them with a luminous paint; then hang them in the fruit trees and cover them with some sticky matter such as honey or treacle. The flies, moths, etc., will be attracted and will stick on the boards. When pretty well covered with insects they can be washed and used again.

Experiments extending over several years indicate a probable profit from the application of a moderate top dressing of a nitrogenous fertiliser immediately after the removal of the first crop. This should, of course, be made only on lands where the product is almost exclusively grasses. Top dressings with nitrate of soda for clover would be a mistake, as this, as is well known, should get its nitrogen from the air. The quantity of fertiliser likely to prove useful will usually vary between about 150 to 200lbs per acre.

Burnside Stock Report:—Fat Cattle.—150 yarded, the majority of which were of good quality. Competition was fairly keen at previous week's rates. Best bullocks, to £23 17s 6d; medium do, £16 to £17; inferior do, £13 to £14 10s; cows and heifers, medium, £11 to £12 10s; inferior do, £9 to £10 10s. Fat Sheep.—A medium yarding, 2072 being penned. The quality was fairly good, a few pens of extra prime being forward. Competition was keen throughout the sale, and a number of pens were secured by graziers. Extra prime wethers, 48s 6d to 52s; good wethers, 36s to 39s; medium do, 33s to 34s; inferior do, 30s to 31s; prime ewes, to 40s 3d; medium do, 30s to 33s; inferior do, 24s to 26s. Fat Lambs.—Sixty-four penned, the quality being good. Prices, on account of the large yarding at this season of the year, were much easier. Best lambs, 26s; medium do, 19s to 22s; inferior do, 17s to 19s. Pigs.—A small yarding of fat pigs came to hand, and for these late high rates were well maintained. Prime baconers, to £5 5s; good, to £4 15s; medium, to £4 5s; best porkers, to £3 7s 6d; medium, to £2 15s. There was a full yarding of stores, but the keen competition kept values equal to those ruling at previous sale.

At the Addington stock market last week there were average yardings of stock. Fat cattle sold at late rates. Store sheep were in keen demand at high prices. Fat lambs sold well, although the entry was the largest this season; and fat sheep sold at about previous week's rates. Fat pigs again sold well, porkers being very scarce, but small stores were rather easier. Fat Lambs.—Best, 27s to 31s; others, 21s 6d to 26s 6d. Fat Sheep.—Prime woolly wethers, 31s to 44s 6d; woolly merino wethers, 20s 9d to 26s 6d; woolly hoggets, 29s 9d to 44s 3d; extra prime shorn wethers, 43s; prime shorn wethers, 28s to 32s 6d; others, 22s 6d to 27s 6d; shorn merino wethers, 19s 6d to 22s; prime woolly ewes, 31s to 39s; others, 28s to 30s; prime shorn ewes, 27s 3d to 40s 6d; others, 19s 6d to 26s 6d. Fat Cattle.—Extra prime steers, £23 5s to £25; prime steers, £15 to £22 10s; ordinary steers, £9 15s to £14 10s; prime heifers, £11 to £14 15s; ordinary heifers, £8 5s to £10 15s; prime cows, £11 to £15; ordinary cows, £9 2s 6d to £10. Pigs.—Choppers, £4 10s to £6; extra heavy baconers, to £5 5s; heavy baconers, £4 15s to £5 4s; others, £3 15s to £4 10s—price per lb, 7d to 7½d; heavy porkers, 58s to 64s; light porkers, 46s to 54s—price per lb, 9d to 9½d; large stores, 52s 6d; medium, 40s to 70s; smaller, 28s to 36s; weaners, 18s to 27s.

FEEDING FARM HORSES.

Experiments have been carried out in America with the object of ascertaining the relative value of various rations for farm work horses in respect of the following points:—1. Maintenance of weight; 2. Health, spirit, and ability of horses to endure hard work. The economy of each ration was also considered. The following were some of the conclusions reached:—

1. Clover hay is quite as efficient as, if not a little superior to, timothy hay for horses at hard work, when a mixed ration of maize, oats, oil meal, and bran is fed.

2. Both kinds of hay had a similar effect on the spirit of the horses. Those receiving clover, however, had a glossier coat.

3. When clover is used as a horse food the quality should be good, and a limited quantity should be fed.

4. Where lucerne hay is the fodder supplied to farm horses at hard work, less grain is necessary to prevent them from losing weight than when timothy hay is fed.

5. A saving of about 10 per cent. may be made by grinding the grain of farm horses when at hard work.

6. Farm horses at hard work should receive 1 and 1-5th to 1 and 1-3rd lb of grain, and from 1 to 1½ lb of hay per 100lb of live weight per day in order that their weight may be maintained.

LAMBING EWES.

When you see your ewes heavy in lamb, fat, but not too fat, stand about alone, appear stiff, lose the use of the hind legs, get down, and eventually die, you can take it for granted that they have succumbed to the disease known as Sarcosporidiosis. This trouble is due to a microscopic parasite in the blood cells, which exist, apart from sheep, on the lower leaves of herbage, such as grass or dandelion, in damp condition. It affects animals that are beginning to thrive as described above, and the preventive is constantly to change pasturage every few days, keeping them off any one for a week, if possible. Bleeding at the eye vein is useful, and, if they are being fed, half an ounce of sulphur a sheep in the feed will do good. For those affected try 10 drops of nux vomica three times a day. Ewes carrying twin lambs are very frequently affected.

LUCERNE FOR HORSES.

According to information gained by the Kansas Agricultural College, and detailed in a bulletin on the subject, there seems to be an almost universal opinion among horsemen, and especially among those who are raising heavy horses, that no grass or combination of grasses equals, or even approaches, the value of lucerne, alfalfa as it is called, as a pasture for horses. It is maintained that from an economical point of view it has no equal, as it will furnish so much more feed per acre than any other grass. It will not only pasture more horses, but it will produce horses of greater weight, larger bones, and stronger muscles. A horse that has been reared in an alfalfa pasture and fed a light ration of alfalfa pasture all the winter (says the bulletin), makes one of the finest horses to be found in any market to-day. To produce a horse of the highest type, with the cleanest bone, the best-developed muscle, the best temperament, and the greatest action and finish, nitrogenous feed must be used, and in no other feed can this most essential element be found more cheaply than in lucerne.

INTERCULTIVATION.

In all districts subject to dry summers the question of putting at least a portion of the arable land under intercultivated crops should receive attention (says a writer in the *Journal of Agriculture*). By shallow surface cultivation a mulch is kept upon the surface, and soils thus treated part with their moisture far less rapidly than where intercultivation is neglected. One repeatedly sees abundant crops of kale, maize, etc., so treated standing alongside crops of the same kind grown in the same paddock but not intercultivated, and which in consequence had withered and died. A few acres so grown will often decide as to whether the stock can be kept going till rains come, or must be sold at whatever they fetch. The cost of a little additional cultivation becomes a matter of very small import if it is the means of saving a loss of perhaps over 50 per cent. in the value of the stock.

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