

### AGRICULTURAL NOTES.

**THE BEST MILK CATTLE?**—Mr. P. G. Rogers, of Marshfield county, Louisiana, asks us to "give the name of the best milk cattle and the address of their owners."

There is no single breed or race of cattle which is entitled to the distinction of "best" for milk.

For quality of milk and without reference to the quantity or to the amount of food consumed, the small Jersey, Alderney and Brittany cattle of Western Europe are probably better than any other of those breeds regarded as pure.

For quantity of milk in proportion to amount of food consumed and regardless of the quality of the product, the Ayrshires are generally regarded as the best pure breeds.

For general dairy purposes in which the quantity and quality of the milk as well as the quantity and cost of food are taken into the account, we know of none better than a mixture of characteristics, furnished by the Short-horn cross upon "common stock" so-called, which often includes a sprinkle of blood from all the bovine domesticated races.

If the inquirer has some cows of fair quality though of common stock, a good Shorthorn bull will be likely to give him some calves from them which at proper age and with reasonably good attention and skillful handling may be developed into first rate milk cows. And this will serve his purpose as well as possible, unless he desires a pure breed from which to propagate for sale as breeding animals. If the latter is aimed at, we know of no race more likely to give satisfaction than the Jersey.

It is not improbable that the polled Scotch Galloways, and perhaps the Dutch, will, on full trial in this country, prove to be valuable acquisitions. Should they become favorites as milkers, in comparison with the Ayrshires and Jerseys, their better size and their superior beef-producing qualities will tell greatly in their favor.—*Prairie Farmer.*

**IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF GRAIN.**—We commend to the attention of our millers and grain dealers the advice to impress upon farmers the advantage of improving the quality of their wheat. Too many farmers plant and sow "as it comes," year after year. Corn is an exception, but why? Because it is handy to select. But why select at all? Because it is understood to be good. Experiments have demonstrated and analogy has shown that the finest and best samples of seed, selected each year, will improve the quality and quantity of the product. The stock-raiser always takes the best animals for breeders—never the dwarfs and culls—hence his stock improves each year. The same rule applies to the vegetable kingdom. Analogically, then, it is wise to select the best wheat, oats, or barley each year for seed. This is not very easily done, therefore it is neglected. With a little trouble on the part of the farmer, the finest and ripest heads could be selected, sufficient to sow half an acre. From the product of this select the best the following year, and so on. This continued three or four years would work a decided difference. In this way wheat or any other grain can be improved and the yield enlarged. There would then be earlier maturity, larger grains and better growth.—*Baltimore American.*

**KILLING LICE ON CATTLE.**—A correspondent of the *Maine Farmer* says, in reference to advice that had previously been given, not to apply kerosene oil to cattle for the purpose of killing lice; I avoided the use of kerosene for this purpose for several years, fearing it might be injurious, but for the last three years I have used nothing else with our large stock of cattle, and should be very unwilling to give it up. As often as the stock is known to be troubled with lice, each creature is carded all over quite thoroughly, frequently dipping the teeth of the card in the oil. Two or three applications are sufficient. No remedy that I have tried is so convenient, and none more harmless or effectual.

**FARMERS SELLING AIR.**—When pure butter is burnt in a lamp or elsewhere, not a particle of ashes remains, so that all butter, like pure oil, burns into gas, and escapes into the atmosphere. When a farmer sells 100 pounds of butter for

\$25 or \$30 (more or less) nothing leaves his farm but air in the shape of oil and a little common salt used in the butter. By keeping cows and selling no milk nor cheese, but butter, a farmer can easily enrich his land; for nothing that will form bone, brain or muscle is parted with. Chicago is now sending from fifty to seventy tons of butter daily to New York and Boston markets, to the great advantage of the farming interest. Raising corn is the poorest business done in all the West. Twenty thousand dollars a day is paid to farmers in Chicago for their butter. Railway freight on tub butter to New York is \$1.25 per 100 pounds and \$1.35 to Boston. As this is less than a cent and a half a pound, farmers should not complain for quick transportation for nearly a thousand miles. We should be glad to see the farmers of Tennessee give more attention to the dairy business. A great deal of the butter sold in this city shows great room for improvement and a lack of just appreciation of the importance of dairy husbandry. By keeping a farm mainly in grass for dairy purposes it is not liable to wash, and is not impoverished by too much plowing. Sell air at four pounds for a dollar, and save the virgin soil.—*Nashville Union.*

An English gentleman who recently visited the conquered French provinces states that the hatred of the Germans is growing stronger every day. Even those who can speak the German language fluently never use it, but speak French in the loudest tones.

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