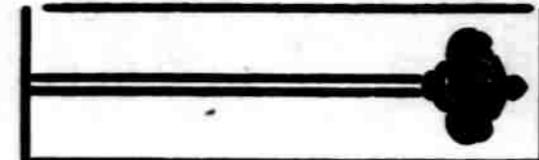
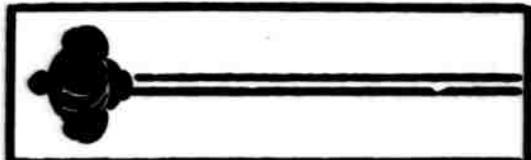


# FARM TALK



## Tankage Vs. Buttermilk For Hogs.

A Minnesota correspondent writes: "Which is cheaper, 60 per cent protein tankage at \$50 per ton or buttermilk at twenty-five cents per fifty-gallon barrel? Will have to haul the buttermilk about two miles."

Buttermilk at twenty-five cents per fifty-gallon barrel or about six cents per hundred, makes, at the present market prices, one of the cheapest and best feeds to give hogs in connection with corn. Even when as high as twenty or twenty-five cents per hundred, buttermilk, provided that it is of good quality and not watered too heavily at the creamery is one of the most economical sources of protein.

According to the chemists' analysis, buttermilk contains in every 100 pounds 3.8 pounds of muscle building material and 6.4 pounds of heat and fat formers while tankage contains 50.1 pounds of muscle building material and 27 pounds of the heat and fat formers. We would figure from this, that if tankage was worth \$50.00 per ton buttermilk should be worth twenty cents a hundred. Actual experiments indicate, however, that buttermilk is worth even more than this in comparison with the tankage. For pig feeding purpose buttermilk has been found to have almost identically the same value as skim milk and in an Indiana experiment with pigs from 100 to 200 pounds in weight fed in a dry lot it was found that with tankage at \$50.00 a ton skim milk had a value of about 28.6 cents a hundred. This is when the tankage is fed in the proportion of one part tankage to fifteen parts corn and the skim milk in the proportion of one and one-half parts to one part.

We are not acquainted with our correspondent's local conditions and do not know just how inconvenient it is for him to make the two mile haul, but judging from the knowledge which the chemists' analysis, feeding experiments and experience give us we would think that he could pay at least seventy-five cents for a fifty-gallon barrel before buying tankage at \$50.00 per ton.

In the foregoing we have considered only the nutritive value of the two foods. There is another phase of the question which must be reckoned with, namely, the danger of introducing tuberculosis through the buttermilk. In sections where tuberculosis is prevalent among cows we would not like to use buttermilk from the creamery except for hogs that are to be marketed within a month or two. *Wallaces' Farmer*.

## Thirty Years Ago—And Now.

The Homestead believes it has no reader so busy but he can afford to take a few minutes' time to consider how the political condition of the farmer has changed within the last three decades. Thirty years ago political power was centered in the county seat. Opinions and votes were manufactured and manipulated there with equal facility. The farmer was not to blame because, as convention time rolled around, he reserved expressions as to his candidates until he could get to the county seat and to see just what the editor or the postmaster thought and wanted. The farmer lived an isolated life. Roads were often impassable half of the year. Rural telephones were unknown. Rural mail delivery was not dreamed of. An automobile would have thrown every horse and chicken and most of the humans into the proverbial conviction fit. Trolley cars had not yet made their appearance in the city, and even the wildest dreamer did not think of them traversing the country. Not one farmer in a hundred received a daily newspaper regularly. And so, when convention time came around, it was only natural that the farmer's mind was not made up as to candidates and issues. He was not aware of what was transpiring at Washington or at the state capital. He had heard but little of who were the candidates. He clambered out of the railway coach or his wagon on the morning of the county convention as he arrived at the county seat, and lost little time in getting around to the candidate factories, which were usually the postoffice, the leading store or the local newspaper office. There was not time to inquire as to the truth of commendation or condemnation. He was obliged to take someone else's word for men and measures. There was hardly a county in all the grain belt in which less than a dozen men at the county seat did not make and unmake public officials and determine just who and what policies the public should vote for.

Today political power is centered in the individual, and the farmer holds the balance of power. He is within speaking distance not only of the county seat, but the state capital. The trolley cars make it easier for him to travel fifty miles than he could have tramped five in the old days. The rural mail carrier makes daily trips past his home, leaving at the farmers gate the printed news of the world. Thousands upon thousands of farmers in every state of the grain belt receive their morning paper fresh from the presses before noon, papers printed possibly 200 miles distant. It is a fact that in many localities one farmer in three now subscribes for a daily paper, and reads it in its entirety—telegraph, local happenings, market reports and editorial comment. Congress passed a measure in the after-

noon, and the next morning hundreds of thousands of farmers, miles from any town, know how their own congressman voted and what the effect will be, not only upon themselves but upon the world at large. As convention time rolls around the farmer does not await the day of the convention and the visit to the county seat. He knows the men and the proposed measures. He discusses them with his neighbors, often leaning over the dividing line fence, and while resting his horses for ten minutes, or when gathered together at the institute or chautauqua, or at the casual meeting on the road to and from town. His opinions are weeks whole months, possibly a year—in formulating, but once formed they are positive convictions; they are no longer the reflected views of some county seat politician, accepted as a drowning man clutches at straws. When the farmer reaches the county seat on convention days now the editor interviews him, the lawyer asks and hears his advice, the postmaster recognizes him as the man upon whom a continuation of his job depends.—The Homesteader.

## Sheep Raising A Nebraska Opportunity Of Today.

Nebraska is destined to become one of the successful and prosperous sheep and wool growing states of the western corn belt country. The soil, climate, drainage and surface water supply are exceptionally well suited to the health of the flock. Few sections of country are so well provided with native pasture and hay grasses that are so admirably suited to the needs of the grazing animal, and no district has so many varieties of high nutritive value for the growing and fattening of stock. Besides these natural advantages, the tame grass pastures and the alfalfa and clover meadows are to be found everywhere, enjoying the most luxuriant and successful growth possible for feed and grazing purposes. It is only a matter of a few more years when there will be thousands of sheep in this state where there are now only hundreds. The farmer, who starts in now with the little purebred flock, and carefully guards its interests in care and breeding, will have reason to rejoice that he entered the lists in the years of the beginning.

Nebraska farmers and feeders have generally been content to enjoy the profits from the feed yard, where hundreds of thousands of the western range sheep are yearly brought to become the medium of profitable marketing large crops of alfalfa and corn. Nebraska was the first state to take

up the sheep feeding industry on a large scale. As early as 1897 the feeding yards of Nebraska in a single season turned out over one million fat sheep for the mutton markets of the country. Its support to this feature of the feeding industry has been variously represented in the years following, depending upon the corn and hay crops and the advantages that the range sheep supply offered in filling up the feed yards.

It has been true of all prairie and treeless districts of the country, in their early history, that the matter of fencing seemed to be the greatest impediment to progress. This was true likewise in Nebraska's beginning years, and the matter of a hog-tight, or sheep-tight, fence was not even thought possible. It is only in recent years that the hog has been taken out of its muddy yard and been given a pasture to roam over. The hog is almost as much of a pioneer as the homesteader who first ventured onto the open prairie, and, of course, was entitled to the best first. The sheep has been waiting for its fenced pasture and on many farms will wait for years to come. However, the woven wire fenced pasture is solving many needs on the farm, and as a result the farm flock is coming quite rapidly, where once introduced.

In considering the introduction of the sheep onto the Nebraska farm there are not many serious questions to be considered. Where there is much wet and low bottom land to be used as pasture it is not advisable to introduce the farm flock. Dry lands, upland, table, hill or valley are utilized by the sheep to excellent advantage. The small farm flock can be used as a sort of a scavenger band, to be turned any place, after the farm is tight fenced. They serve a good purpose as gleaners in the stubble fields; they clean up the weeds and volunteer growth of vegetation of one kind or another about the place; along the fences, in the feed lots, orchard, in fact they are always ready to come from their regular pasture to do any little odd jobs of cropping, trimming and pruning up the undesirable growths about the farm.

The pleasing feature of the whole proposition of the farm flock is that it pays a good profit above the many advantages that it is incidental in covering. The sheep yields two crops per year, a crop of wool and a crop of lambs. A little bunch of eight good young ewes on the farm will cost in pasture, feed, hay, etc., about equal to one cow. This pretty closely represents their consuming capacity. The old sheep men of the eastern states put the estimate a little higher than

this. Ten sheep equal to one cow, was the usual figuring. However, the basis of this estimate was always figured on the little Merino, or fine-wooled sheep a somewhat smaller consumer than the present day western sheep, or of any mutton breeds or their crosses.

The range sheep of the western country, the sheep of which we usually refer in speaking of sheep, unless special designation is made, is mainly made up of the French Merino, or Rambouillet Merino, a large, hardy fine-wooled sheep, often crossed by introducing some mutton breeds, by coarse-wooled rams. These Merino sheep have proven very hardy, and stand crowding into large flocks, both for grazing and for feed yard purposes.

These sheep are bred for both wool and mutton. They will produce, when given good farm care, 8 to 10 pounds of wool per head, of good quality, and should sell on an average of past wool conditions, at 20 cents per pound, which means approximately \$2 per head for the fleece. A fair estimate is 100 per cent of lambs per year, with farm care; these lambs are capable of almost any estimate when raised for the early mutton lamb market.

It is only in recent years that the mutton lamb has been estimated at \$3 to \$4 per head to be sold at five months old at weaning time in the autumn season, September or October.

The sheep while a dependent animal, is easily handled so as to require little attention. Every thing in the way of farm stock is an enemy to the sheep. The cattle will gore them and trample on them; the colts and horses will kick, run over them and otherwise inflict injury; the hogs will readily become destroyers of the lambs and develop a taste for mutton that necessitates separate enclosures. The dog and the wolf are the natural enemies of the flock and demand close watching at all times in order that damage from these sources are not experienced. An observance of all these liabilities is necessary by the sheep owner in order to get the best results.

Outside of these precautions, which we regard as necessities, there is no class or kind of farm animal so easily handled, so easily provided for in feed and attention. The sheep, for guidance and direction about the farm, relies almost entirely upon its shepherd. No animal is so gentle or so confiding in the attendant.

In breed there is practically no best kind of sheep. There are many breeds representing the standard sorts that are bred by the leading sheep men of the country. The fancy is humored by a little different type of animal, but all produce wool and mutton. What are the standard breeds? Practically all the breeds that are to be seen at our fairs. This is a good place to go to make a choice of the breed of sheep you are to take up in the establishing of the farm flock.

At most of our fairs especially state fairs, Shropshires, Hampsires, Oxfords, South Downs, Cottswolds, Lincolns, Leicesters, Dorsets, and three types of Merinos, Rambouillet, Dalesines and Americans will be represented.

There is believed to be little difference in these various breeds in their qualities of mutton. This might possibly be readily established, yet there would be quite a difference of opinion, if it were attempted to place one ahead of the other. In the wool quality there would be less disposition to contend that one is as good as the other. It is largely a matter of fancy which breed is preferable, and wholly so when it comes to deciding which one you want to risk your efforts with.

Study the history and description of the various breeds. Go to the fairs, see the sheep, compare them as to wool and mutton and make up your mind.

When you have embarked in the sheep business, then set your stakes to improve on your original purchase. This you can do by the purchase of a better ram every year, or at least every two years. Remember the general rule in stock raising, that "care and feed is half the breed." Keep the farm flock in thrifty condition and there will be improvement each year.—G. W. Hervey in Nebraska Farm Journal.

## The Farmers' Free List Bill.

Our readers have heard a good deal of late about the farmers' free list, or the list of articles which can be brought into the United States free. They may be interested in the text of the bill as amended, which has been passed by the senate and referred to the house. If the house does not agree to the amendments, it is sent to a conference committee of members of both house and senate. If this committee agrees on the bill as it is, or with such amendments as they may suggest, it is then referred to both houses; and if the report of the conference committee is adopted, it will then be sent to the president for his signature. Whether the president signs it or not, our readers may be interested in the bill, which is as follows:

"Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, that on and after the day following the passage of this act the following articles shall be exempt from duty when imported into the United States:

Plows, tooth and disk harrows, hedges, harvesters and binders, reapers, agricultural drills and planters, mowers, horse rakes, cultivators, threshing machines and cotton gins, farm wagons and farm carts, and all other agricultural implements of any kind and description, whether specifically mentioned herein or not, whether in whole or in parts including repair parts.

Bagging for cotton, gunny cloth and all similar fabrics, materials or coverings suitable for covering and bailing cotton composed in whole or in part of jute, jute butts, hemp, flax, sisal, Russian sisal, New Zealand tow, Norwegian tow, aloe, mill waste, cotton tares or any materials or fabrics suitable for covering cotton; and bags or sacks composed wholly or in part of jute or burlap or other material suitable for bagging or sacking agricultural products.

Hoop or band iron or hoop or band

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in making loans must know to a certainty that his applicants or sureties are responsible and worthy of credit.

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ebony, box, grandella, mahogany, rosewood, satinwood and all other cabinet woods.

Sewing machines and all parts thereof.

Salt, whether in bulk or in bags, sacks, barrels or other packages.

Roman, portland and other hydraulic cement or lime."

The amendments adopted by the senate are in eliminating meats and milling products to any country which shall have entered into a reciprocal trade agreement with the United States admitting the articles mentioned free. It now therefore practically limits the provisions about meats and milling products to Canada, the only country with which we have reciprocal agreements. In other words all the other articles mentioned in this bill will be free from any country, but meats and milling products will be free only from Canada and from such other countries as the United States may in the future enter into reciprocal treaties or trade agreements with.

Wallaces' Farmer has been opposed to this bill as passed by the house, for the reason that it would admit meats and grains from the Argentine. The amendment by the senate removes this objection. What the effect of it will be can only be determined only after a year or two of trial.—Wallaces' Farmer.

## Loss of Time Means Loss of Pay.

Kidney trouble and the ills it breeds means lost time and loss pay to many a working man. M. Balent, 1214 Little Penna. St., Streator, Illinois, was so bad from kidney and bladder trouble that he could not work, but he says "I took Foley Kidney Pills for only a short time and got entirely well and was soon able to go back to work, and am feeling well and healthier than before." Foley Kidney Pills are tonic in action, quick in results—a good friend to the man or woman who suffers from kidney ills. For sale by all druggists.

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