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Gt. Brit. Ministry
of Agriculture, Fish-
eries and Food

Queries relating
to live stock

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Q U E R I E S

RELATING TO

L I V E S T O C K.

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SIR JOHN SINCLAIR begs leave to inclose, by desire of the BOARD of AGRICULTURE, a copy of some printed Queries respecting Live Stock. It would be extremely obliging in you, to answer as many of them, as your own experience, and the observations you have made in your neighbourhood, will permit: also to inform the Board, what are the most likely means, of procuring Drawings, of the best Specimens of the different Breeds. Answers to the following Queries, respecting the state of this year's Crop, as soon as it is gathered in, would also be extremely acceptable.

*Board of Agriculture,
Whitehall,
30th May, 1796.*

QUERIES RESPECTING THE STATE OF CROP 1796.

1. Has there been a greater or a less quantity of wheat, barley, oats, rye, and potatoes, sown, or planted, in your neighbourhood, or, so far as you can judge, in the county in general, this year, compared to last year, or the general average of former years?
2. What is the average produce in your neighbourhood, (per statute acre) of wheat, barley, oats, rye, and potatoes?
3. When the crops are gathered in, have the goodness to communicate to the BOARD of AGRICULTURE, the result of any authentic information you can obtain, respecting the state of this year's crop; what the produce is of the different articles, and whether it is supposed to be under or above the common average?

S H E E P.

B R E E D S.

1. WHAT are the breeds in your neighbourhood; and the names by which they are distinguished?
2. What are the crosses that have been tried; and with what success?
3. What comparisons have been made between different breeds?
4. Describe the respective breeds, in respect to
 - Form,
 - Colour,
 - Flesh,
 - Tallow,
 - Pelt,
 - Number kept per acre,
 - Fold,
 - Weight of the different quarters,
 - Wool,
 - Price,
 - Horn,
 - Time of lambing.
5. Describe through what extent of country the best breed of your neighbourhood is found; and who are the most celebrated breeders?

6. What instances of extraordinary individuals have occurred?
7. What are the reasons that occur to you, for or against crossing?
8. Do breeds degenerate if not crossed?
9. What are the best methods of encouraging particular breeds?
10. Describe in what manner sheep are fed through the year:

SUMMER.

Sheep walks,
Pastures inclosed,
Clover,
White clover,
Trefoil,
Tares,
Rape,
Chicory.

WINTER.

Cabbages,
Turnips,
Carrots,
Potatoes,
Hay,
Kept grass,
Kept ling, furz, or other spontaneous growth.

11. Proportion of each sort of food necessary for the winter support of a given number of sheep?

SPRING

Cabbage,
Stubble turnips,
Turnip cabbage,
Winter tares,
Burnet,
Rape,
Ray grass,
Kept grass.

12. Are ponds made for sheep to drink at? and in what manner?
13. Are sheep ever soiled or stall-fed? on what food, in what sheds or yards, and with what success?
14. What soils are found to be the most peculiarly beneficial or mischievous to sheep?
15. When sheep are kept in inclosures, how many per acre will the land carry?
16. Are wethers fattened upon oil cake? How much eaten—expence—profit?
17. What are found to be the best sized inclosures for fattening or keeping sheep without folding?
18. What is the sort of stock kept?

Breeding stock,
Lean wethers,
Fattening wethers,
Suckling house lamb ?

19. To what age does a ram retain his vigour ?
20. What are the hiring prices of rams ?
21. At what age castrated, and how ?
22. What is the quantity of pitch used in marking ?
23. Are any compositions discovered for marking, not injurious to the wool ?
24. Is it found right or wrong, and for what reason, to cut off the lambs tails ?
25. At what age are they put to fattening ?
26. At what age killed ?
27. What is the proportion between the weight alive and the dead profitable weight ?
28. What are the wages of the shepherd, and how paid ?

29. What attempts have been made to cure the rot, and with what success ?

The red water ?

Foot rot ?

Scab ?

Dunt, or gid ?

Rickets ?

—— to what owing ?

The fly ?

Flux ?

Hoving ?

The blood ?

30. Slipping lambs owing to any particular food ?

31. The gall ?

32. Is salt ever given ?

33. State the annual expences on a flock of a given number of sheep ?

34. State in like manner the produce or returns in

Lamb,

Wool,

Old ewes,

Fold, &c.

35. What is the space folded in a night by a given number ?

36. What is the price and value of folding per acre, and also per head, per annum ?

37. Sort of stock folded, and which best?
38. What is the loss in hurt to the stock, by folding, reckoned per head per annum, of the ewes and also of the lambs?
39. What is the difference in the product and value of pasturage from which sheep have and have not been folded?
40. Is housing, or coting, or covered, or standing folds used? How littered, and the result?
41. Are plantations formed for the sake of shelter; in what form, and the effect?
42. How are sheep washed previous to shearing?
43. Have any trials been made in cloathing?
44. Sheared once or twice a year; any trials; and the result?
45. Number sheared in a day by a man, and the expence?
46. Weight of fleece, and value per pound?

47. Wool, how best kept ?
48. How long will it keep ?
49. Gain or loss by keeping, in weight ?
50. How sold ?
51. Any fairs ?
52. In what fabrick manufactured ?
53. Earnings in spinning, and how paid ?
54. Earnings in combing and in carding ?
55. Ditto in weaving ?
56. Expences of working up a pack of wool ?
57. Value of the labour paid in ditto ?
58. What is supposed to be the number of sheep kept in the district of country in which you reside ?
59. What encouragements have been given by societies or individuals, by premiums or otherwise, to improve the breed of sheep ?
60. Have any experiments been made, or are there in common practice,

any instances of sheep being kept
the whole year without assistance
from arable land?

61. If there are mountains or moors
in the neighbourhood, what is the
management on them, and how are
sheep supported in storms of snow,
&c?

62. Smearing; composition; expence;
effect?

63. What in arable farms is the effect
of laying down to grass, and feed-
ing heavily with sheep for some
years?

64. What is the weight of mutton
that will be added to lean sheep of
a given age, by an acre of grass, of
clover, or of turnips, &c.?

CATTLE.

1. WHAT are the breeds of cattle in your neighbourhood, and the names by which they are distinguished? and which are preferred for the various objects of dairy, work, and fatting?

2. What are the crosses that have been tried, and with what success?

3. What comparisons have been made between different breeds?

4. Describe the breeds you know, in respect of

Form,
Colour,
Horn,
Flesh,
Tallow,
Hide,
Weight,
Price,
Milk,
Working,
Time of birth.

5. What instances of extraordinary individuals have occurred?
6. What are the reasons that offer to you, for or against crossing?
7. Do breeds degenerate if not crossed, either in respect of milk, working or fattening?
8. Describe through what extent of country the best breed of your neighbourhood is found, and who are the most celebrated breeders?
9. What are the best methods of encouraging particular breeds?
10. Describe in what manner cattle (distinguishing dairy cows, working oxen, young cattle, and fattening beasts), are fed through the year.

SUMMER.

Meadows,
Upland pastures,
Clover,
Tares,
Lucerne,
Sainfoin,
Chicory.

WINTER.

Hay,
Straw,
Cut chaff,

Corn,
Oil cakes,
Cabbages,
Turnips,
Carrots,
Potatoes,
Kept grass,
Lintseed,
Corn.

11. Proportion of each sort of food necessary for wintering a beast of a given weight ?

SPRING.

Cabbages,
Winter tares,
Rape,
Ray grass,
Kept grass.

12. Describe in what manner, and with what effect, the sort of food is given that has been tried.
13. In what yards, sheds, or houses are cattle fed, and what contrivances to save labour, and keep them clean, and to preserve the urine ?
14. Are fattening beasts kept cool or hot, and the effect ?
15. Have weighing machines been used, for ascertaining how much beasts gain or lose on certain sorts of food ?

16. What is the weight of beef that will be added to a lean ox, by an acre of grass, of turnips, &c. or by a ton of oil cake ?
17. What are found to be the best sized inclosures for feeding cows, and fattening cattle ?
18. At what age are heifers sent to the bull ? or steers begun to be fattened ?
19. How long do cows continue profitable milkers ?
20. How long does it take to fatten an ox of a given weight ?
21. What is the proportion between the weight alive and the dead profitable weight ?
22. What is the weight and value of a hide ?
23. At what age are steers put to work ?
24. Are they worked in harness or in yokes ?
25. How long worked ?
26. How many in a plough, and how much ploughed in a day ?
27. State the comparative advantages and disadvantages of using horses or oxen.

28. Are oxen shod? cast? or in a machine? price of shoeing?

29. To what age does a bull retain his vigour? and if, as in common, they are killed young, state the reasons, and why not worked?

30. What are the distempers, of cattle?

Surfeit,
Fever,
Hoving,
Choaking,
Lameness from work,
Garget,
Flux.

31. State the annual expenses of a dairy of a given number of cows.

32. Quantity of milk per cow?

33. Quality of milk?

34. How much milk to a pound of butter? and to a pound of cheese?

35. Describe the operation of making Cheese:

—the heat of setting the milk,
—the rennet,
—scalding the curd,
—breaking,
—pressing,
—keeping, &c.

36. Quantity of butter and cheese per cow?
37. Price of both?
38. How far does the quality of the cheese depend on the nature of the pasture?
39. Have any observations been made on the plants and grasses most favourable to the production of good cheese?
40. Have any improvements been made in the structure of churns or cheese presses?
41. Are there any particular modes of preparing milk, in your neighbourhood? and for what purpose?
42. At what age are calves weaned?
43. On what food?
44. What trials have been made to do it without milk?
45. Is land laid to grass to stock with cattle, or is grass which supported cattle, ploughed up?

H O R S E S.

1. WHAT is the breed in your neighbourhood most adapted to?

2. Is the supply bred at home, or purchased?

3. At what age?

4. Price?

5. Describe the food and management of colts?

6. Number of horses to 100 acres of arable?

7. What difference in that number, if mares are kept for breeding?

8. What is the annual expence of keeping a farm horse in

Oats,

Hay,

Straw,

Summer food,

Farrier,

Shoeing?

9. Decline of value ?

10. How many acres are necessary
to the consumption of

A cart horse ?

A coach horse ?

A post horse ?

A hunter ?

11. Describe the food, and method of
feeding in the several seasons of the
year,

12. Are oats and beans given whole,
or bruised, or malted ?

13. What experiments have been
made, to lessen the expence of
feeding ?

14. Have trials been made on

Potatoes,

Carrots,

Rutabaga,

Turnips,

Bruised whyns or furze ?

15. What are the most common dis-
tempers ; and what the modes of
cure ?

16. How long does a cart horse last,
on an average ?

17. Have any trials been made on keeping them in a yard, the year round?

18. Is soiling practised, and on what food?

Tares,
Clover,
Chicory,
Sainfoin,
Grass,
Lucerne?

19. What is the annual value of the manure made by a horse?

17. Have any trials been made of
loading them in a yard, the door
closed?

18. Is either of them, and on what
to it?

There
Gives
Gives
Gives
Gives
Gives

19. What is the annual value of the
house made by a horse?

H O G S.

1. WHAT is the breed of hogs in your neighbourhood?

2. What are the names by which they are distinguished; and the advantages and disadvantages of each?

3. What crosses have been introduced, and with what success?

4. How far does the number kept, depend on the number of cows!

5. Does any person raise crops of any sort, expressly for the use of hogs?

6. At what age do the young sows produce pigs for the first time?

7. What is the average litter?

8. In how many months will they bring three litters?

9. What is the food given at every season?

SUMMER.

Clover,
Grass,
Lucerne,
Chicory,
Parsley,
Milk, whey.

2 5 0 H

WINTER.

Corn, { pease, maiz, beans, buck-
wheat, barley.
Cabbage,
Turnips,
Potatoes,
Carrots,
Rutabaga,
Milk, whey, kept till sour.

10. How many hogs will an acre of clover carry?
11. Have any trials been made on soiling hogs?
12. How long fattening?
13. What quantity of food to fatten a hog of a given weight?
14. Is any difference observed in fattening, from the quality of the straw given for litter?
15. What weight of pork is gained in fattening, by giving a quarter of pease or beans, twenty bushels of potatoes, &c., &c.?

16. Is the winter wash heated, to give to hogs ;
17. Have any trials been made on keeping their food purposely till sour ?
18. How are brewers grains preserved for use ?
19. What are the most approved conveniences for keeping hogs ; respecting sties, separate yards, cisterns, boiling-house ?
20. What is the annual product and profit of a sow ?
21. What quantity, and value of manure, will a sow make in a year ?
22. What instances have occurred, of extraordinary individuals ?
23. What stock of pigs will one flail feed, by the corn that is turned out of the barn in the straw, and other waste ?
24. What are the distempers of hogs ; and how cured ?
25. What is the proportion between the live and dead weight of fat hogs of different sizes ?

26. Have any trials been made in tanning and using their hides?

27. Have any trials been made, in folding hogs in the manner of sheep folding?

18. How are hogs raised?

19. What are the most approved conveniences for keeping hogs; feeding, sties, separate yards, etc.

20. What is the annual product and profit of a sow?

21. What quantity and value of manure, will a sow make in a year?

22. What instances have occurred, of extraordinary individuals?

23. What stock of pigs will one fill, by the count that is turned out of the pen in the straw, and other waste?

24. What are the distempers of hogs; and how cured?

25. What is the proportion between the live and dead weight of fat hogs of different sizes?

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Board of Agriculture, London
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