

BEST ALL-YEAR LIVESTOCK FEED

MOLASSINE MEAL

MR. POPE WRITES:
FERNDALS FARM, Ashburton, Man., May 21, 1913
 Molassine Co. Ltd.
 Boston, Mass.
 Gentlemen—I want to tell you that the "MOLASSINE MEAL" that I bought and commenced to feed some two months ago has proved to be the best food I have ever used. It certainly has proved wonderful results in our cows, calves and horses. Each one of our horses has gained more than fifty lbs. and it has given them the sleekest coat they have ever worn. It certainly has put the bloom on the cows and calves. Our cows never kept up so well in their milk supply as they have this spring. "MOLASSINE MEAL" keeps their system in the pink of condition.

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AGRICULTURE

Timothy And Alfalfa

(The Journal of Agriculture and Horticulture.)
 Professor Killick was kind enough lately to conduct a representative of the "Journal of Agriculture" through the series of plots at Macdonald College containing the various strains of Timothy and Alfalfa. Although the weather was extremely hot and the sun's rays were blistering, the reporter was so interested in the results of the experiments that he forgot the intense heat and listened keenly to everything that was said regarding the work.

The experiments were carried on by Mr. Gordon Moe under the Professor's direction, upon whom they reflect great credit.

Timothy.
 The block set apart for Timothy being commercial. The 1400 individual plants are set out in rows, each row containing a strain. Five rows have Minnesota strains grown specially for hay; ten are Swedish strains from Svalof, and observed observations show that there are many strains of timothy; even on a single farm the timothy is commonly a mixture of several strains, some better than others. Moreover, it is generally noted that the timothy grown as hay in this province is not very heavy—not nearly as heavy as that growing in Sweden for example. The plots showed considerable variation in this regard among the strains.

It is believed that by a careful study of the habits of the various strains of timothy it is possible to find strains greatly superior for hay and for pasture to the composite lot generally sown at the present time. It is then with this object in view that the experiments are being carried on at Macdonald College. The investigation demands much painstaking labor, which will have to be carried on for several years before definite conclusions can be reached. First of all individual plants must be studied to determine how far each strain is constant, then the strains must be grown under field conditions to find out their fitness and superiority for Quebec.

So much has been written in recent years about the feeding value and production of alfalfa that every farmer is desirous of growing an acre or two for feed. Professor Killick has had the supervision of several alfalfa fields in Quebec, and many valuable facts have been obtained regarding the best conditions for growth. Aside from a well-prepared seed-bed, the most important factor in the successful cultivation of alfalfa is its hardiness. Many of the early strains put on the market were unable to pass through our winters successfully. It has been given recently to the production of a hardy strain.

In the alfalfa plots at Macdonald College many experiments are under

way for the purpose of gathering information regarding the habits of the plant—the different varieties and strains, their hardiness, their food value for hay or for pasture, the production of seed, etc., etc.

Four varieties or species are grown on the plots, and many strains of these varieties are also grown. The common Sativa variety, the Grimm alfalfa is one of the best varieties and shows itself to be hardy enough for Canadian conditions. It is believed that the variegated forms are crosses between Falcata and Sativa.

Mr. Moe has conducted a large number of experiments to determine the factors governing seed production, for if it were possible to produce our own alfalfa seed the advantage to the farmers of the province would be quite considerable.

That the fertilization of alfalfa blossoms is dependent, entirely or almost so, upon bumble bees is quite apparent from an interesting set of experiments. Whole plants were covered with cheese-cloth to prevent the visits of bees, and in such cases no, or practically no, seed-pods were formed. Where bees were allowed free access seed pods were observed. It appears that the mechanism of the alfalfa flower demands a jar or jarring in order that fertilization may take place, and this jarring can be done by bees.

Mr. Moe states that the variegated varieties trip more readily than Falcata and hence are more likely to produce abundant pods. He could not find much difference as to the ease of tripping between variegated (Media) forms and the common (Sativa) forms. The Ruthenica variety is only valuable for pasture in dry arid soils, and is hardly deserving of consideration.

That much is to be learned about Alfalfa and Timothy is evident; what we do not know about these plants would fill volumes. Slowly but surely, through the efforts of Professor Killick and other experimenters, we are finding out things that will be of great value to the farmers of today and tomorrow.

W. L.

Building Up A Herd

(The Journal of Agriculture and Horticulture.)

First, it is to be remembered that the road to the cow's udder is through her stomach. She cannot deliver from the udder what she has not eaten and digested. The dairyman does not know whether or not he has a good producing cow until he has given her a chance; also that a heifer is not developed until she is five or six years old. Some of the worst mistakes ever made have been in passing opinion on a heifer too soon. I remember once selling a three-year-old heifer, that was well bred and had the dairy form, because her production was not up to my idea of what it should be. I sold her for less than half her value to a plumber, telling him that I did not regard her as one of my best. One night he came to my office and said "I called to see you about that cow you sold me. I want to know what is the matter with her." I told him she was all right and sound so far as I knew. I asked what was the matter. He said "I know no sane man would sell such a cow from his herd for the price I paid unless something was the matter. She is now giving from sixty to sixty-five pounds of milk per day. I know there must be something the matter or you would not have sold her out of your herd. I can't find anything wrong so came to you to find out what it was." I had simply made a mistake, and had one of the largest producing cows in my herd for a nominal price. I had passed judgment too early. I don't do it now.

Second, I never buy a cow or heifer after she has been fresh, unless I am well acquainted with her. If I buy her as a heifer to come in, and know the mother and ancestry of the mother and father, and am a reasonably good judge of the contour of the dairy type, I stand a good chance of getting a cow or heifer that will be the owner, and if a better judge of cattle than he, I have the advantage of him. I have many times bought a heifer on the credit of her form and the record of her mother and ancestors, for less than half of what I would have had to pay if I had bought a heifer on the credit of her own record. I have known her for a season. He then knows her defects and faults, if she has any, as well as her virtues, for which I will have to pay after he finds them out. I have had full blooded heifers that gave 35 lbs. of milk per day, that were well bred, but never exceeded 40 lbs. a day. Others were, as heifers, disappointments, that at four or five years old were fine milkers. I got rid of the one that was best, and gave the other class a fair trial, before condemning them to the shambles.

Finally, in building up a herd, first decide what you wish to do with the herd when developed, then select the breed that in your judgment, will best meet the purpose, use the scales, the Babcock test, the shambles or a shot gun as a skimmer. Breed from the best and to the best, sticking to the

breed you have selected to the end, unless, for some reason, you become sure you have made a mistake, and build up within the lines of the breed you have selected. Mixing breeds undoes the development, and in the end is pretty sure to end in failure. I never knew a good herd obtained by combining of two breeds combined in this manner. No intelligent man would think of trying to breed a speed and draft horse in one animal by combining the thoroughbred and standard bred to a Clydesdale or Percheron, expecting to combine the speed of one with the draft qualities of the other. I knew one horse of this combination breeding that could trot a mile in 2:17, but he was simply a freak not obtained once in a thousand times. It may be put down as a rule that crossing extremes, as the Jersey and Holstein or Durham, will destroy the breed qualities of both, four times out of five. Concentration of the principal quality desired, breeding the best to the best, followed by intelligent development, is the only way by which the great dairy cows of this generation have been produced. It is not likely that haphazard crossing of extremes will improve on this method. Decide first on the system of dairying you propose to follow, whether buttermilk, condensed milk, or cream, and select the breed best adapted to your work and stick to them, seeking to improve in their own line only.

Farm Labor

(The Journal of Agriculture and Horticulture.)

The labor problem is not to be solved by having more laborers or cheap laborers, but by directing labor better than the average farmer directs it.

The individual farmer is always better off in periods when wages are high. At these times the problem of making money out of hired labor is the same as it always is, but much of the farmer's profits are on the labor that he and his family do. When wages are high, the average returns for this family labor are good.

The one way to solve the labor problem is to organize the farm business so well that labor used on the farm is unusually effective. In other words, to so manage the farm work that a given amount of labor accomplishes more than on the average farm.

Using Labor Efficiently.
 The most striking differences in the effective use of labor are due to size of business. Our farms are not yet adjusted to our machinery. The farm that has the proper adjustment has a very great advantage over the farm that is too small. The type of farming also limits the efficiency in use of labor.

on time spent in doing chores in an unhandy barn.

Proper intensity of culture will bring highest returns for labor. Too much or too little work on crops or animals will cause a loss just as surely as too little.

One of the easiest ways to make a profit on hired labor is to have each man drive more horses. Much may be done by hauling large loads in marketable products. Three-horse wagons should come into more general use.

The character of the hired labor should correspond with the work. High-priced labor is cheapest for exacting work, but low-priced labor is cheapest for work that requires little judgment.

For work where intelligence is required, as in handling machinery and horses, it is often easier to make a profit by paying more than the usual wages. One man may be worth twice as much as another, but wages are not so variable. By paying a little more, one can often get very much more work done. But merely paying higher wages does not, by itself, insure that a man will be a good enough judge of men to be sure that he is getting better men when he pays higher wages.

If work is done at the proper time it may result in great saving of labor. This is particularly true in the control of weeds. The chief purpose of cultivation is to control weeds. The time to kill weeds is when they are just sprouting, before they get to a weeder or other tool that will cover a wide area at frequent intervals the weeds may often be controlled at small cost. A proper

crop rotation will go far in reducing the cost of weed control.

Every farmer should carry a memorandum book and keep a list of work to do. Weather and other conditions are so variable that one may need to change work at a moment's notice. No one can keep in mind all the things that need to be done about a farm. A rain may come up and the men stop work. A few days later teams may be kept out of the fields while some inside work is done that might as well have been done during the rain. Extra trips are often made to town to get something that might have been gotten before, had it been thought of. The way to think of it is to always carry a memorandum of work to be done and jot down things whenever they are thought of.

A coconut pudding is a bit troublesome to make, but it is worth the trouble. Grate half a pound of coconut and boil it in a cupful of milk in a double boiler. While this is cooking, beat two ounces of butter and two tablespoonsful of sugar until they are creamy; then add the yolks of six eggs, one at a time, and beat them as they are added. Pour this mixture into the cooked coconut. Add two tablespoonsful of bread crumbs, two teaspoonsful of vanilla, and the whites of three eggs, whipped stiff and light and flavored with a pinch of salt. Pour the pudding into a buttered dish and bake it half an hour. Beat three more eggs whites, add three tablespoonsful of powdered sugar to them, and brown them, as a meringue, on the pudding.

He Thought Quickly.
 She (coolly)—So you've been saying to people that I am fond of my own voice?
 He—Er—well, you have yourself admitted that you like music.

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A coconut sweet that is delicious to serve at dessert utilizes the milk of the coconut. When the milk is to be used, of course, the nut should be unusually fresh, as the slightest staleness gives the milk an unpleasant taste. To make this boscon, grate a coconut nut, and put it, with its own milk, in a saucepan. Add the white of an egg, beaten stiff, and four cupfuls of sugar. Cook the mixture until it begins to sugar. Take it from the fire quickly, and add half a teaspoonful of extract of almond. Beat it until it is creamy, and then drop it, a spoonful at a time, on a sheet of waxed paper. A little of the grated coconut can be reserved in the beginning to sprinkle over the finished candies.

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