

BULLETIN 104.

RATIONS FOR DAIRY COWS

AND

OTHER MATTERS OF INTEREST TO DAIRYMEN.

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At the annual meeting of the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union, held in December, 1895, a committee was appointed to collect information of interest to the stock breeders of the Province. The committee decided to make an attempt to collect information of interest to dairymen, and the method employed was as follows: Reply post cards were sent to the proprietors and managers of cheese factories and creameries in Ontario, and to secretaries of Farmer's Institutes, asking for the names of the most successful dairymen in their districts. In this manner a large number of names were obtained, and a circular letter, accompanied by a form containing a number of questions, was sent to each of the gentlemen whose names had been procured. Altogether, 363 forms were sent out, of which 170 were returned with the questions more or less fully answered. Replies were received from thirty-six counties, extending from Essex in the west, to Glengarry in the east, so that the different districts of the Province are well represented.

As director of the Committee, I have taken the liberty of arranging the results of inquiries in bulletin form, together with matter, compiled from various sources relating to the principles of feeding, composition of fodders, etc. This bulletin is not designed for scientific readers, but every effort has been made to simplify the subject of scientific feeding, and many details which might tend to confuse the average reader have been purposely omitted.

The thanks of the committee and of the Experimental Union are due to those gentlemen who so courteously responded to the request for information, the nature of which will be obtained from a perusal of this bulletin.

Length of Time Cows Remain Dry. A wide variation existed in this particular, the shortest time reported being 10 days, while the average for all replies was 57 days. By far the largest number lay between 6 and 12 weeks, and 8 weeks occurred in the reports more than twice as often as any other one time.