

Winter vs. Summer Dairying

J. Earle Ness, Chateaugay Co., Que.

We very much prefer winter dairying to summer dairying, and for various reasons, of which not the least important is the solving of the hired help problem. Through winter



J. Earle Ness

dairying we are able to give steady employment at good wages, enabling us in this way to keep good men always on hand; in fact, we have never experienced any trouble in securing good help, while those of our neighbors who do not practice winter dairying are quite often unable to secure help when needed. In speaking of winter dairying we do not mean milking cows for the winter months only. We try to have our cows milking for about 10 months in the year as nearly as possible. Our practice is to have our cows freshen in September and the first of October and dry them about the first of July. In following this practice we have found that where city milk shipping is practiced, the returns of a cow for one year will make at least one-third more profit as compared with spring freshening. Our cows are then dry, making less work through the busy months of July and August. This allows all hands a freedom to spend more time on curing and harvesting the crops for winter feeding.

We have found that even with the supplying of green feed and under the best possible care it is impossible to make a cow do good work in July and August, while a good cow freshening in September will milk steadily for seven or eight months, then when put on grass in May she will freshen up again and do almost as well as a spring freshening cow for six weeks or two months.

We have also found in the raising of our calves that calves born in the fall are getting a start during the winter, develop much better than spring born calves. They are ready to turn to grass in the spring, and when fall comes there is little difference to be seen between the spring and fall calves.

Note.—Earle is a son of R. R. Ness, one of Canada's greatest Ayr-hire breeders; a regular "chip off the old block."—Editor.

From 130 Lbs. to 325 Lbs. of Butter

R. M. Holliday, Camox Dist., B.C.

Most writers on the subject of cow testing tell how testing the cows tends to show the farmer which is the profitable cow and which is the "boarder." Of course this is the main idea in cow testing—to help the dairyman to know that he is raising calves from only the best cows.

But we have found that setting down the weights of milk morning and night, enables us to feed more profitably as well. For instance, if we find that one cow is shrinking in her flow of milk, while all the others are doing as usual, we can at once investigate, and try to remedy the cause. On the other hand, if all are shrinking, there must be something wrong with the feeding.

Testing has shown us that anything that alarms

a cow causes a shrinkage in milk; that a warm summer rain increases the flow; that it is not possible to tell the most profitable cows by outward appearance.

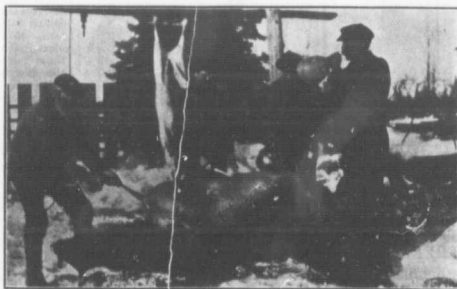
But one may ask, "Has testing actually increased your production?" Our answer is: Eight years ago our average butter production was 130 lbs. of butter a cow per year. Last year our cows averaged 325 lbs. Results speak for themselves.

How I Feed My Land

T. L. Parker, Huron Co., Ont.

The maintenance of soil fertility is my first care as a farmer. I see much in Farm and Dairy about feeding cows. That is all very well. We cannot give our bossies too much attention. But there is a more important problem still. We must feed our land also.

The waste of fertility that is going on every year on even what we consider well managed farms is something tremendous. We hear much of the crops that are reaped by the settlers of New Ontario from the new land of that country. It is not so many years since we were reaping equally good crops from the new lands of old



Work is Play When Neighbors Meet Together

This scene, not now a common one in rural Ontario, depicts one of the ways in which neighbors may come together and enjoy each other's society as well as work on the cooperative plan. In the illustration Mr. R. Barrens may be seen adjusting the hog to its proper position. Mr. J. A. Barrens holds the knife and Mr. Barrens is applying the water. Mr. J. A. Barrens is amusing himself in lung testing. All are readers of Farm and Dairy and live in Peterboro Co., Ont.

—Photo by Jas. White.

Ontario. Our carelessness in conserving soil fertility accounts to a large extent for our decreased yields in rural Ontario.

How are we to feed the land? On our farm we endeavor to keep up the fertility of our farm by growing the proper kind of crops, practicing a short rotation, feeding all the feed produced on the farm to dairy cattle, handling the manure in the best way we know how, and by good cultivation of the soil.

FREE NITROGEN FROM CLOVERS

Of course clovers take a prominent part in our rotation. We aim to grow clover once in four years at least on every field on the farm, hence we get our nitrogen for nothing. All the manure is applied to the hood crops. We believe that a ton of manure applied to the hood crops will do as much as a ton and a half or two tons as a top dressing on meadows. We also find that a light dressing of manure once in four years will give better results than dressing twice as heavy every eight years.

An advantage that we see in dairy farming is that dairy cows will return a profit on bought feeds—barley, oil meal, cotton seed, etc. These feeds contain much of the fertilizing ingredients. We get two profits on these feeds, first from the cows and then from the land.

Feeding the land is of first importance, for the land feeds us.

Important Points in Wintering Ewes

Abram Russell, Waterloo Co., Ont.

The winter season, particularly the latter part, is the most critical time in the sheep's life. The ewes fare very well while there is plenty of grass for them, even in cold or wet weather. When the snow comes other means must be adopted for their welfare.

Although they are not hard to provide for when one knows how, great care must be taken in their management in order that we may come out in the spring with a healthy flock, a large crop of young lambs and retain all or nearly all the ewes.

The ewes are very liable to injury while carrying the young. This to my mind is the one thing that robs many farmers of success with their flocks. It does not pay to keep a ewe over winter and lose her with her lambs in the spring. Many farmers lose altogether too large a percentage, more from injury than any other cause.

CROWDING MAY MEAN INJURY

It is not wise to have a flock crowding to obtain feed, salt, water or anything else. Where they are permitted to crush together, even three or four ewes when thirsty will make such desperate efforts to get to a pail of water that they will injure each other. A good idea is to have water so plentiful that they can go to it one at a time. The feeding racks should be longer than required, so all may have room and to spare. If a small rupture takes place anywhere about the foetus, inflammation sets in, the lamb dies, and before the proper time of delivery comes we have a hopeless case on our hands.

We aim to get near to nature's way of handling sheep. I find that in cold weather a good plan is to spread straw, preferably pea straw, in the yard with alfalfa or other clover hay on it, so the sheep can rustle through it as they do on a pasture field. Any kind of straw, if alfalfa or clover hay is thrown on top, is good. In the early part of the winter breeding ewes will do well with four or five pounds of turnips a day per head when they have access to the hay. A liberal supply of salt must always be on hand.

PREPARE FOR LAMBDING

A little grain added to the ration as lambing time approaches, so that there will be a good flow of milk for the young. There will then be no difficulty in the ewes owning their young. Once a lamb has taken nourishment it will need very little more help if these precautions are taken. The so-called abortions among ewes that we hear so much about, under the management I have recommended will be scarce indeed.

Now comes the time to feed more liberally on roots and other good feed until the sheep go to grass. Ewes that have early lambs may have their wool taken off in 10 or 12 days after lambing if they are put in a comfortable place for a week or two after shearing.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS ON FEEDING

Too many turnips fed to ewes in lamb will have the effect of bringing large, soft lambs that are often affected with goitre—large lumps around the throat. A little oil cake fed to ewes through the winter will help to keep them in better health on account of the soothing effect it has on the digestive organs.

Exercise should be given if possible, as ewes will be inclined to lie about too much. But the exercise should not be too violent. A sudden rush of a dog into the yard or any sudden fright should be avoided up to the lambing season.

I keep my sheep in a frame shed open to the south and they seem to be very comfortable. Sheep handled in this manner will not be costly to winter and should bring good profits in return for cost of feed and labor.