

Cost of Milk and Butter Production

T. Porter, York Co., Ont.

Milk records to be of most use to the dairy farmer should always give the amount of food consumed by the cow. There is a wonderful difference in the amount of food required by different cows to produce the same amount of milk or butter. I found this out a number of years ago when I went into the business of dairying for the production of high class cream and butter from better and higher testing milk cows.

I believed then, as I do now, that the time will come when the consumer will find out and appreciate the richer quality and flavor of the Jersey cow's high-testing milk and will insist on having it. The cheese and butter makers of our country will be forced to recognize these qualities or be driven to the side in the British market for cheese and butter due to a lack of that quality that the high-testing cow alone can supply.

When first I started in dairying I had high bred grade and pure bred Durham cows. I found that they did not pay, so I sold them out. I then tried cows of dairy type. I bought six dual purpose and Holstein cows of beautiful dairy type, fresh calved, with great milking capacity, and four grade Jerseys.

I had always kept a strict account of the cost of the feed the Durhams consumed. I did the same with my new herd. I soon found that my four Jerseys would produce as much cream as the six big cows, and with decidedly less food. I then bought more with the same result; soon after I sold the six big cows and gathered a herd of twenty Jerseys, mostly pure bred. I bought my foundation stock from the late A. Ralph, of Markham, and Mr. R. Bailey, of Chatham. These cows were of the St. Lambert family.

TOO MUCH EMPHASIS ON LARGE PRODUCTION

There is far too much emphasis placed on big milk flow without taking into account the food consumed. Such a policy encourages the gourmand cow with her poor milk thus helping to destroy the quality of our cheese and butter. I have a few reports showing what some of the breeders and dairymen are feeding and producing, and also some figures of what some of the experimental farms are feeding and producing. From the big amounts of food given I find there are more hungry cows than the six I sold.

A LARGE NET PROFIT

The ration I have been feeding my herd is five or six lbs. of mixed meal per cow at 1 1/4-c a lb, 8 lbs. of alfalfa hay, 5c; 25 lbs. of ensilage and cut straw, 6c; 15 lbs. mangels (while they last) 3c; 2 lbs. oil cake and bran, these take the place of roots; total cost, 21 1/2c. The average production is 50 c. a day. During winter months with fresh milkers giving 40 lbs. of milk testing six per cent. butter fat the total value is 70c; less 21 1/2c food cost; 48 1/2c profit.

The young two-year-old heifer, "Lady George" of the Bull Bros.' herd that has lately passed the Record of Merit with such a large margin to spare was fed a ration much the same as I feed, except a trifle more meal, with a profit of 20c a day to her credit over her winter food cost. This is very good for a heifer and I take it that the Bulls will not complain of my saying that she shows her St. Lambert breeding in this respect.

A DAILY PROFIT OF 57c

Mr. N. C. Bechtel, of Berlin, whose herd of rich milkers was so favorably reported to the last annual meeting of the Jersey Cattle Club fed very lightly. His cows and heifers were fed for 18c a head per day for the winter months and some of them gave from 42 lbs. milk to over 50 lbs. a day, testing as high as six per cent. The cow giving 42 lbs. of milk making a profit of 57c a day.

In figuring the profits of cows of other breeds I have three reports from professors at college farms and a ration recommended by Mr. George

Rice, of Tillsonburg, as a reasonable one to feed to a cow giving 50 lbs. of milk.

BIG PRODUCTION—MODERATE PROFIT

One professor reports feeding a cow giving 60 lbs. of milk (he does not say how much her milk tested but I suppose four per cent. was her limit) 13 lbs. of meal at 1 1/4-c a lb., 16 1/4-c; 2 lbs. of oil cake, 3 3/4-c; total 20c for grain; 40 lbs. of ensilage, 84.00 a ton, 8c; 70 lbs. mangels, 10c a bus., 12c; 10 lbs. of hay at \$12 a ton, 6c; total cost, 46c; value of milk, 70c; profit, 24c a day.

Another of the professors feeds even more; his ration is 15 to 18 lbs. of meal to heifers and 20 to 24 lbs. to cows, an increase of 9 lb. which would leave a very small profit indeed and nothing counted for labor.

Mr. G. Rice's feeding is very similar to that of prof. No. 1., in fact there seems to be a general rule among many dairymen to feed as high as one lb. of meal to three lbs. of milk and not less than one of grain to four lbs. of milk be it thick or thin, rich or poor, in butter fat.

In my computing I have allowed 25c a lb. for butter and for the cost of food I charge what feeds cost me here. I have taken butter as the product to figure on because butter and cheese are our great dairy staples. I have quoted a good price because I believe butter will continue to rise high in price while cream and skim milk by-products and the whole milk trade to cities and



A Preliminary Stage in the Construction of a Cement Block Silo

The cement block silo has an advantage over the monolithic structure in that it can be made a block at a time as time allows. Mr. John McKenzie, of York Co., Ont., on whose farm this illustration was taken is a believer in the large use of cement on the farm. Read in an adjoining article of his experiences with cement.

towns is limited and only a few of us can take advantage of it.

My first point is that we must count the cost of production of milk and butter fat; second we must take account of richness and quality, and to do so butter fat must be the rule of payment at our cheese factories and creameries. I am glad to see that Farm and Dairy advocates payment by proper butter fat tests and I hope the test will soon come into general use. The adoption of the test at cheese factories will lead to the great goal where the quality, color, texture and flavour contained in the high testing milk of the Jersey cow will be recognized and paid for as well as the butter fat.

Under our present tariff, the manufacturers are able to take \$3 out of our farmers for every \$1 that the Government gets.—E. C. Drury, Crown Hill, Ont.

Rhubarb has been the standby for the western farmers' table; but it is being supplemented by many of the small fruits that respond to fair treatment in the western climate, such as currants, gooseberries, strawberries and raspberries.—B. Fulton, Winnipeg, Man.

Corn-Clover Success

W. A. Foster, Prince Edward Co., Ont.

Success in dairying, and in fact in most lines of general farming, lies in producing large crops of corn and clover, to be used as the main feed of the year round. Well eared ensilage corn and first-class clover go hand in hand in carrying the dairyman to success in cheap milk production, and improving the fertility of the soil. The eradication of weeds, and general economy in farm management are induced by practicing short rotations with corn and clover. Ensilage and clover also prove a disastrous combination against the veterinarian's income.

Give the dairy herd what they want of the foregoing ration 365 days in the year, with very little use of concentrated grain feed, if you wish, and I'll venture to say there will be many more 10,000 lb. cows doing business on our farms to day, to say nothing about more of the top neuters that are constantly coming to the front.

A Farmer's Experience with Cement

J. McKenzie, York Co., Ont.

We could be very well do without cement on our farm. About five years ago I built the milk house shown to the left of the illustration herewith. It is 21x12 ft. built of cement imbedded with stone, as many as we could get in, keeping

the stones about two inches away from the outside. One half of the house is taken up by a water tank to supply the stable. There is a 10-inch wall on the outside of the building with a wall through the centre.

BUTTER

Half an hour after colt fully two ounces with no salt in it.

push the first piece do not need to put

foal will hold up it as a child does with chemicals and on a

passes right through secretion that kills by being retained

hours. This ready cure, navel rupture, purge the colt in a

testines as it passes. There are times

black balls of dung finger, well rubbed ter keeps away all

year of a foal where it being a valuable ball that blocked the

tum. The veterinarian, to not to pur As a last resort after of half a lb. castile

ter in hot water, return. It worked alive and well to-day

ANOTHER

Then there is the have never seen this a tablespoonful of

salpêtre in a little will soon act. Repeat or twice in two hours

Navel ill is unknown where I put the mud well bedded and stirred good sprinkling of microbes.

Cleanliness is one of the work in caring to assist a mare to get smear with coal oil might happen to be when cutting the f

with a knife. I always seizors. In hot wet iodine.

Some farmers make lot of trouble. It is in in the regular ro mare and colt are not worth the rearing

all the above simple Poising as I c ago annually, I