

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL
IN THE DOMINION.

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Agents for "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal,"
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1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE is published every Thursday. It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.
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of many of the world's most noted scientists, and yet there is much to learn. The fringes only have been touched. True, farmers do not practice plant-breeding, but a knowledge of the principles is valuable. Every farmer has occasion to become interested in animal breeding, and a knowledge of the different laws governing this would solve many difficulties in the improvement of live stock. Can anyone fairly consider these points, which are only a few of many involved in scientific agriculture, and then say that farming does not require knowledge and a trained mind? Education should not terminate with the public school, but may well be followed up with further special training such as that given in an agricultural college. A good practical farm experience, backed up by a scientific knowledge obtained in a college course, and this latter followed by exercising the powers of observance and investigation, will place the person in a good position to pursue an agricultural calling. Education does not cease when school or college study is over. That is only a start. The process of mind-training must go on during the days and years to come. Stop and think, and you will be convinced that farming is in reality a learned profession, and that no brain can be too alert, and no mind too well stored and trained to make the most out of the business. Let the boys and young men who have allowed themselves to fall into old ruts pull themselves together, and, acquiring a wider knowledge by reading, study and observation, they will be in a position to do most for themselves and for their calling, and become active factors in the progress of the country.

An enterprising local dairy farmer reports, with justifiable satisfaction, that he has this season secured a promising alfalfa catch on a rolling ten-acre field, seeded with oats. His feeding outfit also includes two corn fields and two silos.

Lessons of A Dairy Farm Inquiry.

Elsewhere in this issue appears the first instalment of the results of an inquiry by a member of "The Farmer's Advocate" editorial staff into the production of milk in the vicinity of four representative city and town centers, viz., London, St. Thomas, Tillsonburg, and Brantford, Ont.

Dairy farming is gaining ground in this country. City and town populations have been increasing rapidly during the past few years, and the demand for milk, cream and butter has increased, but the prices have not always advanced proportionately. Producers are now receiving more for their milk than they formerly did, but many still think that the price is too low. Six cents per quart, retail, and from three cents to three and one-half cents per quart wholesale, seems to be the average price obtained for town milk. This seems a fair price, but it must be remembered that good grade milk cows now cost anywhere from sixty to one hundred dollars each. This is quite a difference from the thirty and thirty-five-dollar price of a few years ago. Foods, too, are much more costly than formerly. Another factor which is increasing the cost of producing milk is the scarcity and high price of labor. Almost all dairymen complain of difficulty in procuring suitable labor, and, where skilled labor is employed, wages are high. Cows cannot be successfully handled without involving considerable work, because it is necessary to produce a sanitary article, and to do this requires much care for cows, stables, dairy rooms, and all utensils. Appliances must be kept sweet and clean, and foul odors abolished. To produce a high-class article requires more up-to-date stabling, more scientific feeding, and more expensive appliances, such as steam boilers, special dairy buildings and cooling rooms, disinfectants and deodorizers, etc. In fact, everything must be kept scrupulously clean—a costly process.

Milk producers supplying city trade are now under somewhat rigid municipal supervision, all stables being inspected, and samples of the milk analyzed, so that they can well afford to stand together, rather than endeavor to gain custom by cutting prices. It would be much more to their advantage to work together, as, by so doing they could command a higher price, and the milk could be more economically distributed, because wasteful competition in this business causes much loss of time in delivery, etc. It seems hard to convince all producers that they should co-operate. There is always someone who seeks to gain custom by keeping down the price. A far more satisfactory method to do this would be to improve the quality.

A very noticeable feature on the dairy farms visited was the comparatively heavy stands of grain and corn. This is attributed to the abundance of good manure obtained. Dairy cows are always well fed, nearly all owners feeding grain and either soiling crops or ensilage in the summer, while heavy feeding is also practiced in winter. Manure from good feeding is more valuable than that from scanty rations, and this is borne out by looking over the crops on the dairy farms. Manure is considered by many to be one of the main profits of the business, one dairyman remarking he was growing more feed to keep more stock to make more manure to grow more feed to keep more stock.

About two dozen farms were visited during this inquiry, and without a dissenting voice the owners were pleased with their chosen business, and many stated that they would not think of farming without a herd of dairy cows. Where milk is handled wholesale, the owners expect their cows to make them a gross return of from eighty to one hundred dollars per cow per year; and, where the milk is retailed, up as high as one hundred and fifty dollars per cow was reported. It must be remembered, however, that the man who retails and delivers his own milk is running two separate businesses, and in the end his net returns figure out very little higher than those of the wholesaler. It requires extra labor, wagons, horses and appliances, and, when all is considered, the retailer is deserving of what he gets, and more. For reasons already given, many dairymen are of the opinion that they should receive higher prices.

Retailers almost invariably state that they should have seven cents per quart, instead of six, and that if the price of labor and other commodities connected with the business keeps on advancing, they will be obliged to raise their price to make a living profit.

The drouth and heat of the early summer proved hard on the pastures, which consequently became brown and parched. Dairymen found it difficult to keep up the flow of milk without extra feeding. Very little soiling is done on the particular farms visited, but a large percentage of the cows on these farms are kept milking heavily during the summer by feeding silage and a little grain. The silo is the backbone of the dairy industry, and it is of great value in summer, as well as winter, and on the farms, where alfalfa is being grown in conjunction with the corn, the feed problem is being solved to best advantage. On one farm visited is produced what is known as "certified milk," according to Dominion regulations, the herd being subject to monthly inspection, and cows tuberculin tested twice per year. The bacterial content of the milk must not exceed 10,000 per cubic centimetre in summer, and 5,000 in winter. It is delivered in specially-sealed bottles that have been kept in broken ice.

That care should be taken to keep milk pure and free from germs is well known, and sometimes bad odors arise from very small causes. Hens sitting on bad eggs in the stable, dirty pigpens in or near the dairy barn, manure piled in the yard over summer, stagnant water near the building, and irregular cleaning and care of the stables, are all conditions which should be avoided in sanitary milk production. The extra price (10 cents per quart) received for certified milk makes it profitable to keep everything in a sanitary condition. In all cases, the use of ice or ice-cold water, where milk is kept over night before delivery, is an essential. Dairying is one of the most remunerative branches of agriculture, and the fine homes of the energetic and progressive people who are specializing in this exacting phase of farming testify to the value of the dairy cow.

Where the Weeds Came from.

A Middlesex boy who is interested in nature-study recently located within half a mile of his home over eighty per cent. of the noxious weeds described in the bulletin on the Weeds of Ontario. The farmers of that particular neighborhood considered themselves fairly free from weeds, and, instead of being impressed by the boy's discovery, were inclined to belittle the danger from this source. This attitude is deplorably wrong. Although weeds may be kept in check by thorough cultivation, they need only a favorable opportunity to become a pest. Most of them are so prolific that a few specimens, if neglected, will seed down a whole field, or even a farm. But the most interesting feature of the boy's researches was that the location of the weeds indicated clearly the manner of their distribution. The railroad embankment yielded a number of the worst specimens, and they doubtless came from the cars carrying live stock. The spot where a threshing machine had stood while threshing several stacks in a field was found to be thickly seeded with weeds not found elsewhere in the immediate neighborhood, thus showing that the machine had carried them from a distance. But the greatest number of specimens were found in a field that had been heavily treated with manure hauled from a neighboring town. An investigation brought out the fact that most of the people from whom the manure had been bought kept chickens that had been fed largely with tailings from a flour mill. An examination of a sample of these tailings revealed about as complete a collection of weed seeds as the most enthusiastic botanist could wish for. As the mill gets wheat for flour from the West and various parts of Ontario, it acts as a sort of clearing-house for every available kind of weed. To make its assortment complete, it gets corn from the United States, as well as oats and barley from different points in Canada to grind for chop feed. As the grinding seldom destroys the smaller seeds, they soon find their way into the land, to cause endless trouble for the owners.

It is just about as necessary to have feeding