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PREPARATIONS FOR SUMMER DAIRYING

J. H. Grisdale, Agriculturist, C.E.F., Ottawa

Cows are frequently badly fed, hence they prove unprofitable. Provide supplementary feed for the days that will surely come when pastures are not as good as under June conditions.
Suggestions on suitable soiling Crops.

THE great majority of our Canadian Dairy Farmers are interested in Summer Dairying, and in Summer Dairying alone to the exclusion of that other brand of the industry commonly called Winter Dairying, and mistakenly considered well nigh impossible, or at least quite impracticable in most parts of Eastern Canada. The season for Summer Dairying, however is rather short. It starts out with a month or so of uncertain feeding in the spring. It ends up too often with eight or ten weeks of bare cold pastures, odds and ends of roughage, scant care and rapidly drying off cows, so that December usually sees the final dying effort of even the most truly altruistic cow.

This too often neglected treatment of the dairy cow is due most commonly to the rather poor returns the average dairy cow makes to her owner for the food he does manage to give her. The poor returns from the average dairy cow in Canada are in almost every case due to the too often meagre supply of rather inferior food that falls to her lot. So there you are. Cows are unprofitable, hence badly fed; cows are badly fed, hence unprofitable.

TIME FOR A CHANGE.

It is time for a change in this matter. Surely we "the intelligent animals" should be willing to do our part. Our part is, give our cows lots of suitable feed when needed. Such feed is needed throughout the lactation period. We may not be ready to start right now this spring and make a revolution or a marked improvement in our feeding methods, but there is absolutely no reason why we cannot, every one of us, make a radical and most profitable change in our Summer Feeding this year.

SUPPLEMENT THE PASTURES.

After the cows are on grass there is usually no scarcity of forage for a month or six weeks. This shows itself in the groaning docile cow and the liberal milk flow. Shortly after Dominion Day, however, a change may be noted. The milk goes into smaller space and the docile cow becomes uneasy and a roamer. Even before the first hint of such a change is the time to begin to prevent it. An abundance of good succulent and nutritious forage is the thing to ward it off. Supplement the pasture even while yet it seems ample. It is surprising how much forage a good dairy cow will consume in addition to what looks like a plentiful grass supply. Every pound she eats under such conditions is clear profit to the farmer. The final part is the profit yielding part of the ration. The Dairyman's every look and touch and act should say to the cow in full flow of milk, "Just a little more won't you?" It's "just a little more" that makes the money. Let us all get busy and be ready to say even to the worst old cow in the herd next July, "Just a

little more won't you?" We'll all be astonished at what she will do, but we'll more than be astonished at the way the good ones will respond.

There's always lots of feed on the farm in July. The trouble is one hates to enter a field of rolling clover, growing grain or waving corn and cut therefrom a section to save the daily needs of the dairy cow. It very seldom has been done and is little likely to become a practice widely spread. It is folly to count on such action on one's own part. May resolutions are very certain to succumb to fears for February forage when the hot July sun wilts things down. Yes, to depend upon utilizing a part of the regular crops to supplement failing pastures would be a most mistaken policy, although it is quite certainly the policy, which not a few well meaning dairymen attempt to follow and fail to carry out.

A SPECIAL CROP SECTION.

The proper policy, the right thing to do is, set aside a portion of the farm whereon crops shall

Words of Congratulation

I must congratulate you upon the constant improvement of Farm and Dairy. It should be read by all who have the industry at heart and wish to make a profit out of it.—H. Bollert, Oxford Co., Ont.

be especially grown for supplementary summer feeding or soiling purposes. This area should include about one acre for each three dairy cows in the herd, that is for a herd of 15 cows in milk, there should be five or six acres devoted to soiling crops. The area selected should, generally speaking, be located near the buildings. It should be divided into three or four nearly equal parts. A regular rotation should be followed.

SOME REQUIREMENTS OF SOILING CROPS.

In deciding upon the crops to grow some essential points or requirements of successful feeding must be kept in mind (1) An abundance of forage, (2) Quality should be such as to insure milk production, (3) It should be ready at the time needed, and (4) there should be such crops as will allow of a rotation in order to permit of the same land being used continually.

SOME SUITABLE SOILING CROPS.

As crops capable of filling these requirements one might name Red Western Clover, Mammoth Clover, Peas and Oats mixture, Corn, Millet, Vetches, Alfalfa, Sugar Cane and Fall Rye. Red Western Clover is peculiarly well suited for Eastern parts of Ontario, Quebec and Maritime provinces. It gives a very early cut, and if desired will give a second crop or furnish good aftermath.

Mammoth Clover gives a later and possibly

somewhat heavier crop and is probably somewhat better suited for Western Ontario where climatic conditions do not often favor a second crop of clover.

Peas and Oats Mixture. These two mixed in equal parts by weight and sown at the rate of 3½ bushels an acre usually prove very satisfactory both as to quality and quantity of feed produced. By exercising a little care at cutting time it is possible to leave a good stand of clover if the right amount of that kind of seed has been sown along with the grain. This mixture should be cut as soon as it falls and whenever it falls in order to give the clover a chance. If it should stand till the oats are in the milk stage, it should then be cut in any case since leaving it stand after that date means loss of feeding value and palatability. The addition of wheat or barley or both these cereals in moderate quantities to the seed mixture will improve the feed. This is more likely to be true if the soil is rich and strong. The substitution of vetches for peas would prove quite satisfactory.

Corn. to prove of material value as a soiling crop should be sown early and in such a way as to assure ears developing. Sowing broadcast or in rows close together will, of course, produce considerable forage that will be eaten up well by cows. This feed will, however, have very little milk producing value. Better to select an early variety such as Longfellow or Angel of Midnight and sow in rows about three feet apart. This will insure a good supply of valuable forage for the latter part of August and early September.

Millets are rather uncertain in Canada, but where it is desired to sow some land as late as early July then Hungarian Grass will quite possibly prove successful. It should be sown on warm, well prepared land at the rate of 40 lbs. per acre.

Sugar Cane if sown late in June on warm dry soil that has been well fertilized is likely to be ready to use in August and will prove a palatable and valuable feed. It may be sown in rows about 30 inches apart at the rate of six or eight lbs. seed an acre.

Fall Rye. Where one fails to get a catch of clover the land may be broken up early in September and sown to Fall Rye at the rate of 1½ bushel an acre. This will be cut in June and might be followed by millet or white turnips or sugar cane for September feed.

Vetches of various kinds are usually satisfactory whether sown alone or mixed with some cereal. If sown fairly quickly, they have the happy peculiarity of growing up again after they have once been cut. The hairy vetch is probably the best variety but the cost of the seed is prohibitive.

Alfalfa. Where it can be successfully grown, no crop is likely to prove more satisfactory as a soiling crop than lucern or alfalfa. A suitable field seeded to this crop is certain to give excellent returns in the way of forage and the forage will be of a character to insure a most liberal milk flow if fed at all freely. Alfalfa requires a good rich, well drained soil and a field that never for