



FARM AND DAIRY

& RURAL HOME



We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideas.

The Recognized Exponent of Dairying in Canada

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham

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A Visit With R. and A. H. Baird, New Hamburg, Ont.

A Farm From Which 20,000 lbs. of Dairy Butter is Marketed Annually—F. E. Ellis, B.S.A., Editor Farm and Dairy

YOU should go over to New Hamburg and see Baird Bros., an Oxford County friend advised me some months ago. "They have a big herd and a good herd. They are rood farmers, and I am sure you would enjoy a visit with them." His recommendation was sufficient, and one day this spring I drove from New Hamburg six miles through the pouring rain to Baird Bros' farm. "You can't miss the place," the lively man informed me. "They have more big concrete silos around their barns than any other farmers in Waterloo county." I stopped when I came to the silos.

Prospect Farm, as Baird Bros. have chosen to call their establishment, lies in one of the finest agricultural sections of Old Ontario. For many miles in every direction the country is fairly level and the soil a rich, strong loam. The farms are well worked and the whole country has that prosperous appearance which is always a delight to the true farmer. In the Baird farm, which is one of the best, there are 250 acres of land, all clear and practically all worked. Really, there are two farms with two distinct sets of buildings, but both are worked as one unit. "Yes, we have excellent good soil," said Mr. Robert Baird, and then added, with commendable local pride, "You can't beat the land around here."

The interest of the Bairds centres around Jersey cattle and dairy butter. In an average year they milk about 50 cows, and from a herd of this size, they will market 20,000 lbs. of butter in a year. The butter is manufactured by Mr. Baird himself in a model home dairy plant, and for many years has been sold to the same grocery firm in the city of Hamilton. Such a reputation have they established for butter that last year they averaged seven cents a pound above the highest price paid for creamery butter. In catering to a fancy trade of this kind, the Bairds believe that the Jersey cow has qualifications that are all her own. The average production per cow in the herd, including a goodly number of two and three-year-old heifers, runs around 400 lbs. of butter in a year. This, considering the number kept, is a high average. "Now let us go out to the stable and see them," said the senior partner.

A Result of Breeding.

The Prospect Farm herd of Jerseys is more than a good collection of animals. It is a convincing proof of the possibilities of improving a grade herd by breeding upwards. The cows I found to be of uniform type. There was no sign of any other blood than the Jersey in any of them, and I can honestly say



Two of the Four Silos at Prospect Farm.

The silo in the background is 18 by 26 feet. The other three silos are smaller. Altogether they hold the corn from 60 acres.

that I have never yet seen a pure-bred herd of the same size that could compare with this one for uniformity of type and its general breedy appearance. That they are milkers is well proved by their herd average of 400 lbs. of butter. And yet

the proportion of registered females is small. Practically the whole herd has been built up from a foundation of grade dairy Shorthorns. "That cow, for instance," said Mr. Baird, indicating one of his best, "milked 45 lbs. of milk a day all last winter. She has made as high as 12,000 lbs. of milk in a year. She represents the fifth cross from a Shorthorn grade."

"How long have you been breeding Jerseys?" I asked.

"It is just 27 years," replied Mr. Baird, "since we purchased our first pure-bred Jersey bull, and in that 27 years we have been following up consistently with good pure-bred Jersey sires. Twenty years ago we decided that, in order to improve as fast as we would like, we would have to keep milk records, and we have been weighing and testing the milk now for a score of years. Our herd, such as it is, is the result of breeding to good sires and constant weeding.

A Start With Registered Jerseys.

In recent years a start has been made with registered Jerseys. These, too, must prove their worth according to the evidence of the scale and the Babcock tester. The cows are entered in Record of Performance as they freshen, and they must qualify. Some of the most recent records are as follows: Prospect Farm Ella, two years old, 7,567 lbs. milk, 375 lbs. fat, test 4.95 per cent; Prospect Farm Jean, two years, 5,846 lbs. milk, 344 lbs. fat, and 5.57 per cent; Prospect Farm Pink, three years, 8,290 lbs. milk, 381 lbs. fat, and a test of 4.58; Brampton Wolsley C., four years, 8,064 lbs. of milk, 497 lbs. fat, and 5.4 per cent test; Prospect Farm Margaret, two years, 5,578 lbs. milk, 374 lbs. fat, and testing 6.7 per cent.

These are not all, by any means, of the official records that prove the producing abilities of the registered portion of the Baird herd. The sire that they are using at present is Brampton Dairy Farmer, bred by Jas. Baggs & Sons, of Edgeley. His dam is Primrose of Edgeley, an ex-four-year-old Canadian champion, and his sire is Brampton Pearl Fox, who has several good tested daughters.

The Buildings.

The buildings on the Baird farm were built many years ago, and the stables are not strictly modern in all respects; for instance, the partitions between stalls and the mangers are of wood, where modern construction calls for steel. When they were built, however, these stables must have been among the best in Canada. None of the essentials conducive to the health and comfort of the herd were omitted. A large proportion



The Cow Stable is a Model of Cleanliness.

The cows are clean, the stable is clean, the walls are whitewashed, the windows large and the ventilation as near perfect as is possible. What more is needed for cow comfort?—Photos by an Editor of Farm and Dairy.