

### Cost of Keeping a Cow a Year

How much does it cost to keep a cow for one year? In nine cases out of 10 the estimate that the dairy farmer will hand out of his cow cost per year is an estimate of feed. If it costs him \$80 a year to feed his cows and his returns are \$80, he will tell you that he has \$30 net profit each year.

In considering the cost of milk production, however, the cost of feed is only one factor. In fact, it is frequently less than one-half the expense of keeping a cow. More accurate and authentic calculations have recently been made on the cost of keeping a cow for one year by Mr. Fred Rasmussen of New Hampshire. For figures Mr. Rasmussen had at his command statistics concerning 203 cows in the Lyndeboro Cow Test Association of that state. In this estimate the price of cotton seed meal varies from \$32 to \$35, bran \$27 to \$30, gluten \$27 to \$35, corn meal \$22 to \$33, and mixed feed \$30 to \$32. Hay is charged at \$15 to \$20 a ton, and corn silage at \$3 a ton. It will be seen that these figures are in some

These experiments were with horses doing very little work and being fitted for sale. Horses on hard work should not be fed onilage at all. A horse's stomach is small and it requires more concentrated food. Even the idle horse should only be fed onilage in small quantities, and the limit to a meal is probably about the limit for satisfactory results.

### Dual Purpose Cattle at Fairs

What is a dual purpose cow? Would it be right to have a class in a prize list of a small agricultural fair for dual purpose cattle instead of grades for beef purpose?—W. G. W. Parry 8 and, Ont. The dual purpose, general purpose, means the cow or class of cow that, in addition to yielding a fairly profitable flow of milk, carries a large grade of beef carcass. In spite of the claims of advocates of specialization, those who hold that animals should be selected for one special purpose—the demand for dual purpose cattle is extremely widespread in this country. Many farmers prefer a type of cow that will produce a fair quality

of milk, that will fatten easily, and will produce offspring that can be fed on good veal or steers. This class of cow is no doubt peculiarly adapted for such sections as afford more or less extensive areas of rough land suitable for grazing.

The encouragement of the keeping of such cows by farmers so situated as to make it necessary for them to send their milk to creameries or to cheese factories rather than ship it to a city or some condensing plant—is a most open and a much disputed question among farmers and professional dairymen to-day. There is no doubt, however, in my mind that cattle of this description would be the most profitable on many Ontario farms and on farms in many other parts of the Dominion as well.

The establishing of classes for cattle of this description at our fair fairs would, I believe, be a good idea, especially in such districts as are not recognized as being peculiarly adapted to dairying or where the farmers are not entirely taken up with this industry. It would, of course, be necessary to give prizes for steers as well as for the dual purpose cow and it is probable that crosses between some of the milking breeds and Shorthorns. Herefords or Angus would make up a very large proportion of the competing animals.

H. Grislaile.

### Remedy for Self-Sucking Cow

The heifer that milks herself has always been one of the troubles of the dairy farmer. Devices innumerable have been suggested for overcoming this habit. The following is a method described in a recent issue of "The Farmer." The originator of this idea says that he has tried all of the old devices, but unsuccessfully. Here is the new one:

"Get a good copper bull ring and two two-inch and one two and one-

half inch iron harness rings. Then pierce the animal's nose the same as you would ring a bull. Slip in the ring; then slip on to the bull ring one of the two-inch rings, next the two and one-half ring, and last the other two-inch ring. Close the bull ring and put the screw in tight. Now let her go. She will try and suck but the extra rings will get mixed up with her tongue and she will soon give it up. The rings will not bother the animal in eating or drinking, nor will they prevent her from chasing the flies."

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ON THURSDAY, MARCH 12th, 1914

The sale comprises:—15 Registered Holsteins, Four due to freshen about time of sale. 2 Registered Bulls, one yearling and one two-year-old. 10 Grade Holstein Cows, Springers, Five Fresh Milk Cows. 12 Durham Cows, 5 Jersey Cows, due to calf March and April. 10 two-year-old steers and Heifers, 10 yearlings, Grade Durhams, 20 Grade Shorthorns, 20 Long Wool Sheep, All Brood Ewes, 6 Oxford Lambs, 22 Leicester Ewes registered. 3 York, Sows, registered. 3 Brood Sows (in pig.) 5 Young Boars, fit for service (Registered); 5 foal; 2 two-year-old Clydes; 1 three-year-old Clyde Colt; 3 Yearling Clyde Colts, Registered Yearling Clyde; 5 yearling Yearling, weight 1400 lbs.; 6 Percheron mares in foal, 5, 6 and 8-year-old; 3 Dark Greys; 3 German, five-year-old; 1 Hackney Gelding, sired by Brigham Radiant, five-years-old, broke single and double, with style; 2 Hackney Yearlings, 2 general purpose yearlings. 6 Pure Bred Bronze Hen Turkeys and two Goshawks. 25 Fowls.

### Also the Farm, Consisting of 100 Acres

on Talbot Road, four miles west of St. Thomas. All level land under good state of cultivation. Walnut loam. One and a half story frame house, one barn 34 by 70, stables underneath. One barn 30 by 50. Drive barn done on the farm. A good orchard and plenty of water. Fall wheat in, and plowing

Sale will be held on this farm, and will commence at 1:30 p.m.

### USUAL TERMS

Locke & McLaughlin, Auctioneers.

A. Watson & Sons, C. F. Jackson, Proprietors, St. Thomas, Ont.

Trains met on date of sale at St. Thomas.

Lunch Provided

Long distance phone Fingal, via St. Thomas

### A Jersey Champion of Producing and Breeding Ability

Sophia 19th of Hood Farm, owned at Lowell, Mass., is now credited with the high average yield of butter for five years of any cow in the world. This butter during her first five lactation periods. She has produced an average of nearly 1300 lbs. of butter, 65 per cent fat, for three different years. These records indicate that this cow is not only a capable producer, but is also a regular breeder, which is an important factor in considering what constitutes a good dairy cow.

cases higher than prevailing quotations in Canada and in some cases lower. The average would be somewhat higher. Here is Mr. Rasmussen's estimate of the average cost of keeping a cow:

### SUMMARY OF COST

Debits	
Cost of feed	\$73.03
Labor	32.33
Delivery	7.18
Housing	9.46
Depreciation on cow	8.83
Breeding	2.72
Bull	3.79
Taxes and interest	4.45
Ice, coal and wood for heating	2.72
Veterinary service and medicine	87
Tools, utensils, etc.	53
Cow Test Association expenses per cow per year	1.40
Credit	
Manure	\$15.00
Calf	\$30.00
	\$45.00
	\$129.73

In other words, a cow must produce milk, cream or butter fat to the value of \$29.37 before she can be considered profitable. A significant point is that the cost of the feed, usually the only cost considered, is less than half of the total. With milk at an average price of \$1 a cwt., a cow would need to produce almost 13,000 lbs. of milk in the year to clear herself, or the value of the by-product considered, 10,000 lbs.

Is this estimate too high?