Nuggets of Dairy Wisdom

The following words of admonition are taken from an address by N. P. Hull, of Michigan, president of the American Dairy Farmers' Association, as delivered at the last convention at Stratford of the Ontario Dairymen's Association.

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I ask you to ask yourself if you are chained to a poor cow or not.

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If a dairy farmer has a herd that is not paying him he has it within his power to make his herd yield him a profit.

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I do not see how a dairy farmer whose cows are not paying him a profit can have the courage to look his wife and family in the face or see the collection plate coming around on Sunday.

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The hen pays you once a day and she is a good one if she keeps it up. The dairy cow pays you twice a day.

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When I started dairying I was up-to-the-ears in debt and I didn't have to lie awake at nights wondering if the interest would come due or if the hired man would be around on time for his pay.

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There are a lot of dairy farmers who should go on strike because their cows are not paying them as much for their labor and feed as they should. The first thing they should strike on is their own methods of caring for those cows.

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If the fertility of the farms of Ontario is to be maintained for the next 20 years it will be necessary for the farmers of Ontario to take up some line of live stock feeding. Dairying is the most profitable.

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Beef sells for five cents to not over 10 cents a pound by the side. If the feed fed to produce that beef were fed to a dairy cow, she would produce the equivalent of two pounds of cheese or a pound of butter worth from 20 to 30 cents a pound.

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Some years hogs and sheep pay and some years they do not. My dairy cows have never yet failed to pay their way each year and they pay cash.

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You can never tell when you start to feed a steer calf whether or not you will get a profit when you turn off your finished product. Twenty minutes after you feed the dairy cow you can walk around to her business end and draw your pay.

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A lot of cows have been condemned for being poor who never had a chance to be good because they were never fed as they should have been.

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This matter of a balanced ration simply means a common sense ration.

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There are two farmers in my state, living one mile apart and sending their milk to the same factory. The cows of one of these men yielded him 3,332 lbs. milk each at an average cost of $42.83. He sold his milk for $38.20. This man paid $463 for the privilege of taking care of his cows 365 days in the year. The cows of his neighbor produced 6,292 lbs. milk each at a cost of $35.81 which sold for $89.48, yielding him an average profit per cow of $53.67. The trouble with the cows of the first man was that they came too near being steers to be profitable dairy cows.

One dairy cow will not infrequently produce 10 times as much profit in a year as a cow beside it in the stable. A man with a herd of cows of the latter type will have to feed and care for his cows for 10 years to make the same amount of profit as another man with cows of the first type.

Common Mistakes in Corn Growing

J. H. Grisdale, Director Dom. Exp. Farms

The most common mistake of all in corn growing is the sowing of wrong varieties. A great many farmers are growing large varieties, and we do not want large varieties in this part of the country (Eastern Ontario). We want medium sized varieties. The largest variety we can stand here is the Leaming, and that is the variety likely to give the best results and give a large crop and good quality. The White Cap Yellow Dent and the Longfellow and Angel of Midnight are also splendid varieties. I do not know of anything that will beat the White Cap Yellow Dent as a corn crop to be grown by the average farmer.

Another mistake is attempting to grow the rows of corn closely together. The average farmer thinks when he sows his corn that if he puts three and a half or four feet between the rows, that there is a lot of land wasted, but that is one of the greatest mistakes; that four feet between the rows, or three and a half feet at the very least, is the land that will give him the best results in the later days of the crop. The food in that part of the field is not utilized at once by the crop, but while the corn is utilizing the food contained in the soil immediately adjoining the row, the soil out from the corn plant is fallowing and the plant food in that soil is kept ready and by the time the small roots project from the corn and get over to the middle, the food in the soil is ready for the roots. You will never see the closely planted corn field grow as rapidly in August as you will the widely sown corn field, because the land between the rows, where it is sown wide apart, is ready for the plant in August and when the grain is beginning to form is the time when the plant needs nourishment the most, and I want to emphasize the importance of giving the plant lots of room.

Another important point is that you must keep the land clean. There is no cause for a man not keeping his corn crop clean. If the field is dirty, the corn should be sown in hills and if it is a fairly clean field, sow it in rows because it is less trouble. Take five or six spouts out of the grain drill and have your rows 42 or 49 inches apart. I would suggest sowing 49 inches between the rows, because you will get better results than you will from 35 to 42 and infinitely better than if only 28 inches apart. From the time you sow until you pick up the sheaf to put on the wagon to haul into the silo, you will not require to touch it with the hand, everything can be done by horse power.

REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL PARTS

"A feature of Farm and Dairy that I much appreciate is that in it all parts of the country are represented. Farm and Dairy is of general interest."—B. A. Reddick, Northumberland Co., Ont.

Mr. Reddick has placed his comment on one of the leading features of Farm and Dairy. In our Special Farm Improvement Number last week were illustrations reproduced from photos taken in eight different counties of Ontario by the editors of Farm and Dairy—Stormont, Peterboro, Wentworth, Brant, York, Prince Edward and Carleton. Articles from four counties of Ontario additional to those mentioned and from four provinces other than Ontario, appeared in the same issue.

Alfalfa Seed Growing in Ontario

Prof. C. A. Zavitz, O.A.C., Guelph

We have, during the last few months, made a somewhat extensive inquiry into alfalfa seed growing in Ontario and find that in some parts of the Province the production of alfalfa seed is becoming quite an industry. As both a crop of hay and a crop of seed can be produced in the same season many of the alfalfa growers find seed production quite profitable. Alfalfa seed production is quite important, not only to those who produce the seed, but also to the farmers who are thus enabled to secure seed which has been produced in a climate similar to that under which the crop is to be grown.

I received replies from 81 Ontario farmers who have grown alfalfa seed on their own farms from one year to 15, 20, or even 30 years. The 43 farmers who reported that they have grown seed for five years or more reside in the south-western part of Ontario and more than half of them are located in the counties of Haldimand and Lambton. The counties of Welland, Brant and Lincoln are also well represented and the counties of Kent and Wentworth are included in the list. The 38 farmers who reported as having grown alfalfa seed for less than five years reside in the seven counties already referred to and also in the counties of Elgin, Oxford, Waterloo, Huron, York, and Durham. It will, therefore, be seen that we have reports from 13 counties in Ontario in which alfalfa seed has been grown as a farm crop.

Every one of the 43 farmers stated that he had used the second crop for seed production. The average yield per acre obtained by all of these 43 farmers for all of the years in which seed has been grown is 2.07 bushels. The quantity of seed per acre seems to be influenced to a marked degree by the conditions of the season and by the quality of the soil. The prices realized for the seed have varied from $4 to $13 a bushel. The average price of all of the seed grown by the 43 farmers in the different years has been about $8.90 a bushel. Thirty-seven farmers stated that seed production did not injure the plants. One grower mentioned that he thought it did a little, and another that it might if the crop were cut for seed too often.

The majority of the farmers who have had the greatest experience in the production of alfalfa seed in Ontario consider that the growing of alfalfa is almost sure to be increased for the production of seed and hay. Thirty-six out of the 43 were quite decided on this point. The information gleaned from these practical farmers, who have in most cases made a marked success of alfalfa seed production, should be of great value to other farmers in the Province. When we realize that the first cutting of alfalfa will produce a good crop of hay, and that the second crop will produce in the same year fully two bushels of seed an acre, which will sell on an average of nearly $9 a bushel, or a total of from $17 to $18 an acre, and that the alfalfa will remain in the land for a number of years without re-seeding, it shows not only the possibilities but what is actually being done in a somewhat extensive way by a number of our Ontario farmers. It is my intention to make a further inquiry into alfalfa seed production in the different parts of the Province, believing that in a very short time the alfalfa seed production in this Province will be quite ample for the home supply and with a possible surplus for export.

It goes without saying, at least to those who have tried it, that it pays to spray potatoes in spite of the known benefits of spraying and the facilities that are at hand for applying the Bordeaux mixture, many continue year after year to allow the blight to claim a large percentage of their crop.—S. A. Northcott, Ontario Co., Ont.