

These figures were deduced from the New York dairy regions, and the common average is placed higher, it will be perceived, than the figures that I have previously given.

The simple deduction from this statement that I wish to make is that the value of breed in this case is some 700 quarts of milk yearly: one advantage for the thoroughbred.

Now why will not farmers know just what their breeds are doing? If my statements are true, by introducing Ayrshire animals into this herd, the dairy farmer is largely increasing his profits, yet it would not be wise for any farmer to immediately change his stock for this would not be the reasonable of doing business. It is in the power of any farmer, however, by the purchase of an Ayrshire bull, and grading up his stock toward the thoroughbred to test the results, at a small expense, and thus by feeling his way, can, in a few years, test for himself, and to his profit, these statements of mine, which I know to be correct and true; or, by the purchase of a pair of Ayrshire animals, can convince himself of these same facts in a shorter time, provided he uses the same judgment in purchasing a milking stock of Ayrshires, as he does in his natives.

If I felt that it was desirable to publish accounts of yield of individual cows, I would do so; but it is detrimental to all parties interested, in my opinion, to publish exceptional yields, which cannot be averaged for whole herds, and even by a few animals of a breed. Whenever a purchaser is led to invest by such exceptional statements, disappointment in not equalling such statements of yields is apt to make the owner feel as if he had been deceived; but by guiding one's judgment therefrom always, disappointment is hardly possible. Moreover, when an animal is forced to an excessive yield during one year, through a providence of nature, the next year's yield is far inferior to the preceding one. This could be illustrated by numerous instances, but it is so far within the experience of all who are minutely familiar with dairy cattle, that it is useless to dwell on this point, and my communication has already occupied as much space as should be given to one contributor.

AMERICAN CROPS, 1876.

BUCKWHEAT.

The buckwheat crop is reported as full average or above in Rhode Island, Virginia, Arkansas, Kentucky, Ohio, Wisconsin, and California; in the other States, it is below average, the minimum, 50, being in Delaware. From other lo-

calities in Maine and Vermont come reports of serious injuries by blight. From some parts of the Middle States, complaints of excessive heat and drought, while in others, excessive rains at the ripening season, greatly injured the crop. In Kent, Delaware, it was prostrated by a storm, September 17. The yield was remarkably fine at several points in Virginia, Carroll County, in that State, and Haywood, North Carolina, reporting the best crop for many years. No returns of the growth of this crop have been received from the Gulf States, but the small crop of Arkansas was quite satisfactory. In Tennessee and West Virginia, the grain was injured by drought. North of the Ohio River it had a varied fortune, enjoying good conditions of growth in some of the more southern counties, while from Michigan come reports of blasting heat drying up the crop. West of the Mississippi it was greatly depleted by the ravages of the grasshoppers, which were reported as especially voracious in several counties of Dakota; in Yankton "not a kernel was left."

CORN.

The condition of the corn crop on the 1st of October, on the whole, was nearly average. The Middle States, except Delaware, report a depressed condition. Drought during the growing season shortened the yield, while in many counties the grain standing in the shock was seriously injured by heavy rains, especially where the crop was not well ripened. In New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania heavy storms prevailing about the middle of September prostrated many fields. Grub worms are reported in a few cases as somewhat troublesome. This section, as a whole, is about 8 per cent. below average. The South Atlantic States, especially in counties near the coast, suffered serious injury to this crop from the September storms above noted, which prostrated fields left uncut, while the heavy rains that followed spoiled a large amount of both grain and fodder. Freshets swept the crops stacked upon the river bottoms, and frosts damaged late crops in one or two counties of North Carolina. Some complaint of damage to upland crops from drought have been received from South Carolina. Maryland and South Carolina are full average, and Georgia largely above, but the deficiencies of Virginia and North Carolina cut down the general condition of this section to 2 per cent. below average. The crop in the Gulf States, on the whole is about average, Texas reporting an especially fine condition. Conech, Alabama, reports the crop as selling at 50 cents per bushel, which is lower than at any time during the past ten years. Local prices show a considerable

reduction in this State. Reports of injuries from drought and storms have been received from Mississippi and Louisiana, but the tone of reports from Texas indicates a very superior yield and quality; in some counties prices have fallen to 25 cents per bushel. The southern inland States are all above average, and the promise of large yields had already depressed local prices, especially in districts remote from market. Giles, Tennessee, reports corn selling at 12 or 15 cents per bushel. Kentucky, especially, promises a large crop and a consequent depression of prices, though some counties complain of light crops, the result of drought.

North of the Ohio River there is a deficiency on the whole, the low condition in Illinois and Michigan overbalancing the extra promise in the other States. Ohio reports a superior crop, generally of good quality, though drought in some localities, and excessive rains in others, reduced local averages. Prices in some of the rural districts have fallen to 25 cents per bushel. In Michigan, crops on low, wet lands are reported very poor, and in some cases not worth gathering, indicating injuries from excessive rains, but no reports of injurious frost have been received. Illinois is 6 per cent. below average, though several counties report the finest crop for years. September storms were destructive at a few points. The superiority of upland crops indicates an overplus of rain. Several reporters in Wisconsin mention, with satisfaction, that the crop was too far advanced to be much injured by either frosts or grasshoppers. West of the Mississippi the small deficiency in Missouri is more than repaired by the fine condition reported in all the other States. In Iowa crops were poor in low, wet lands, and the condition in several counties reduced greatly by grasshoppers. In Missouri local damage by storms is reported, but low prices indicate an abundant yield in the larger portion of the State. Kansas is full average, in spite of the grasshoppers and chinchies, and Nebraska is considerably above. Insect ravages were quite severe in several counties of Colorado and Dakota, while frosts were destructive in Utah. The later part of the season, in several trans-Mississippi districts, was quite favorable, repairing to a considerable extent the disasters that had preceded. The crop on the Pacific coast is somewhat below average, the superior condition of Oregon not being sufficient to meet the depression in California.

POTATOES.

Returns from Maine indicate a fair crop in yield and quality, with the prospect of very remunerative prices. In the other Eastern, and in the Middle States, the condition was largely reduced by a