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## Three Years of Cow Testing\*

C. E. Moore, Peterboro Co., Ont.

The more our dairymen come to look on the dairy cow as a machine, the more our business will be benefited. Neglect and abuse will lessen very much her usefulness. Care and attention will be repaid in many ways. We all know, that the better the attention, the more oil and such like, applied to any machine, the greater are its lasting possibilities; in like manner is the dairy cow affected by good attention. The better the feed, the kinder the care and attention, the greater by far the results attained. There is no other animal which our farmers possess that will respond to care in extra dollars and cents to as great an extent as will the cow. It is the profits of a business that all are concerned about now-a-days—hence the permanent importance of the cow testing associations which seek to increase the profits of the individual dairy cows.

I wish to emphasize one lesson in particular, learned from cow testing—that of the value of

good feeding. This subject is one that has been handled in every phase and condition by writers, speakers and professors so I will merely mention the personal benefit derived from this part of cow-testing work. Three years ago last winter it was decided at the annual meeting of our cheese factory to form a cow testing association. Mr. G. A. Gillespie, our cheese buyer, assisted materially in its organization. In the three years that the cow testing association has operated in our factory we have never regretted the work that we entered on the work. From being an irksome task as was at

per cow of 8,400 lbs. milk and 280 lbs. butter fat.

Encouraged by these results, in the winter of 1908-09 we fed not much better than the previous winter, except that we gave a little more grain when the cows were dry, but we cleaned them off more, averaging about twice a week all winter, and the summer of 1909 we fed heavier on green feed and corn when the pastures failed; the result was that our third season, when it drew to a close showed us an average of over 9,000 lbs. milk per cow and over 300 lbs. butter fat. In three years we had increased the average return per cow in our herd nearly 2,000 lbs. of milk and over 50 lbs. of butter fat. This record for the third year is all the better when we take into consideration the fact that one-third of the cows in the test were heifers two and three years old.

Besides the increased milk production secured, we had our cows in good, thriving condition and with a period of rest before freshening they were all in good condition for the work of the follow-

## Pointers on Care of Weaning Foals

T. R. James, Middlesex Co., Ont.

It is highly essential that the spring and summer foals at this season of the year be given some special attention. If the mare must be worked we have found it well to wean the foal at four and a half or five months of age rather than to allow it to suckle longer. We take for granted that the foal has been taught to eat grain and coarser fodder along with its dam in the stall, and in that case, provided proper food is given it, the colt will experience little if any setback when it is forced to do without its mother's milk.

It should be remembered that weaning time is a very critical period in the life of a horse. Most farmers who raise colts are cognizant of this fact and accordingly they put themselves out to give some special attention in the way of good feed for the weaning foal. There is little danger of a foal being fed too much either of fodder or of grain provided he cleans all feed up readily at each meal. Young animals are so constituted

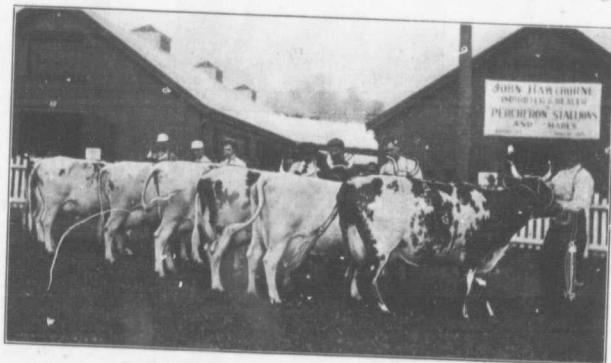
that they can make much better use of their food than can animals of more mature age. As feeders we should recognize this fact and take the greatest advantage of it. Foals are no exception to the rule and they can be induced to put on weight such as will represent growth at a much less cost than is possible when they grow older.

Oats and bran in equal proportions by weight, or two of oats and one of bran, are difficult to surpass as a grain ration for a foal. For rough fodder, well-cured clover hay may be given it in quantities such as it will eat readily at each meal time. Other de-

tails of feed and care are well known to any who have raised horses and hence will not be discussed at greater length in this article. I would like to draw attention, however, to the fact that any extra sweet skim-milk that may be around the place will give good returns when fed to foals or young horses.

During September and the early part of October when the flies are at their worst, it is always well to keep the foals protected in a darkened stable in the day time. They may be allowed the run of pasture at night. Handled in this manner they are much more contented and can be kept and grown at less cost than if pastured constantly day and night.

Where sheep are kept in numbers and allowed on the roads, the freedom from roadside weeds is quite marked.—T. G. Raynor, B.S.A., Seed Branch, Ottawa, Ont.



The Aged Ayrshire Cows at the Canadian National Exhibition This Year  
Ayrshires were much fewer in numbers at the Toronto Exhibition this year. The showing made, however, was a commendable one.—Photo by an editor of Farm and Dairy.

ing season. So in reviewing our experience in the cow testing work for the first three years we are encouraged and if but for the better results we obtained by feeding alone, we consider cow testing a splendid thing for all dairymen.

By removing the knives from the cutting box, it may be made into an excellent bean thrasher.—M. E. Maybee, Hastings Co., Ont.

Of mere man Shakespeare wrote: "The evil that men do lives after them, the good is oft interred with their bones," but fortunately with the mother of agriculture it is not so, the poor cow is forgotten, the good is recorded. Judging by the broad foundations now being laid by our records so recently commenced, one may confidently predict that future students of dairy conditions the world over will be amazed at the excellent attainments of dairy cows in Canada.

first anticipated, cow testing has turned out to be a pleasant one and the monthly return of the sheets from Ottawa are looked for with interest by all. In the first three years, we tested 22 cows on an average each year. At the end of our first season's work our herd had produced an average return of 7,500 lbs. of milk and 250 lbs. of butter fat. We have always fed well since we started dairying, but at the end of the year 1907 we concluded that we could produce better results with a little better feeding, so the winter of 1907-08 we fed better, placed water basins in front of our cows, and cleaned them thoroughly once a week. At the end of the work for the second year or the end of 1908, our returns from the dairy division at Ottawa showed us an average

\*Part of an essay prepared by Mr. Moore, as required of him by the rules of the Dairy Farms Competition, in which competition the farm of J. K. Moore & Son was a successful competitor.