

A Veteran Breeder's Method With Springers

Wm. Stewart, Hastings Co., Ont.

In getting the cows and heifers of our pure bred Yorkshire herd to do a maximum amount of work at the pail, we fit them for it even as a machinist would fit his machine. To do a year's work, a machine would need to be put into the best possible order. That's what we do with our dairy herd. We prepare each cow for her work before-hand.

Ground flax seed takes a prominent part in our ration for the cows before freshening. This we grow and grind ourselves. We put the flax meal in a bucket, stir with boiling water, and cover the mixture with a little bran to hold the steam. We let it steam for one half hour.

FEEDING THE FLAX SEED

As soon as we notice a heifer starting to spring we start to feed a small quantity of this flax seed meal in addition to its other grain ration and increase the quantity gradually to what the heifer will stand. We must use our commonsense in determining the amount. For instance, if the animal is too loose we would reduce the ration. Looseness may also be caused by starting feed too abruptly. In connection with the flax seed we feed other foods in sufficient amounts to keep up the body and develop the milking powers of the animal.

We cannot lay down any hard and fast rule as to the amount of feed that we would give to a pregnant cow. We usually feed her the regular ration of ensilage, 30 to 40 pounds, and alfalfa hay. If we have to feed clover hay, we would feed enough bran to make the protein equivalent of the alfalfa. By the time the cow freshens we plan to have her almost on full feed.

A HEALTHY CALF THE RESULT

Fed in this manner the bowels will be laxative, but not too much so, and the cow will be in a position to drop a strong, vigorous calf. Nothing will develop a calf to her full capacity as will flax seed, but again I would warn dairymen against feeding too much. We would scrimp the feed a little directly after calving until the danger of milk fever is over.

Dancer is practically past from milk fever after the third day if the cow has been carefully handled before freshening as we have described. We very seldom have a cow that requires care in matter of the afterbirth, but we clean cows for dozens of neighbors. If the cow does not clean at the end of 48 hours, we would remove the afterbirth by hand. This is not a job for every Tom, Dick, and Harry. If the dairymen cannot do it himself he should call in a veterinarian. We do not believe in the theory of letting the afterbirth rot away, although it is almost impossible to get it all away in stubborn cases.

Tile Drains—Bigger Grain Crops

James Marshall, Wentworth Co., Ont.

Fall wheat does much better on under-drained land than on wet land. One year I sowed the more rolling fields on my farm, which were not drained, first, knowing that the wheat on the drained land would grow more rapidly than on the other. I sowed on the drained land on September 22. That fall I had plenty of top on this late seeding. The next year the wheat on the land not drained yielded 25 bushels an acre, although naturally the better fields for wheat. The wheat on the drained land yielded 43 bushels an acre. This last part of my wheat was caught in about a week's rainy weather in harvest time. The heads broke off so much that I believe I lost at least seven bushels an acre while cutting.

Fall wheat will not heave much with frosts in

spring on drained soil, and will start growing earlier, as the ground is warmer. Wheat will often go back on sour, wet soil.

One fall I under-drained a sod field and sowed with oats. We had 80 bushels an acre of heavy plump oats heaped measure. In the next field with similar soil not drained, we had 45 bushels an acre, and not as good oats.

The Cheapest and Most Palatable Feed

W. J. Cowie, York Co., Ont.

I built a cement silo two years ago, 30 by 12 feet. If building again I would have one 40 by



Substantial Buildings in a Great Farming District

Good farm buildings are characteristic of the great dairy districts of Western Ontario. The farm here illustrated is that of Jas. Kitchen, Brant Co. Ont. Notice the lightning rods. Cheap insurance.

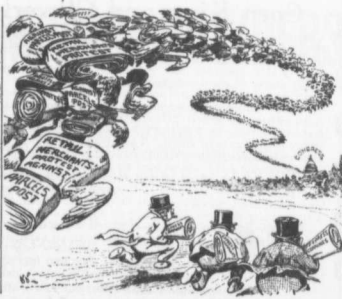
15 feet, for winter use. With a herd of 15 cows silage can be fed from a silo this size without waste. I also have a summer silo 22 by 10 feet. This I consider a great convenience and saving on pasture. Three acres of corn will produce as much feed if not more than 20 acres of pasture, as pasture only lasts about six weeks and sometimes not that long. Most of my cows are pure-bred Holsteins. I raise quite a few calves, which are fed on silage.

I find corn the cheapest, and, if well matured, the most palatable feed one can grow. The silo has come to stay. It is of great value to farmers raising either dairy or beef cattle.

The steer which can usually be depended on to fetch the best price at the stockyard is one whose fattening began early, whose appetite has been satisfied and kept on edge by a variety of feed-stuffs, but without overfeeding or permitting him to go off his feed. Growth once interrupted seldom progresses as well afterward.



Farmers, lazily: "We sure should have it."



Merchants and Express Trust: "We sure will beat it."

ALL THINGS COME TO THOSE WHO WAIT—BUT WE DON'T ALL LIVE FOREVER

In the country to the south of us 50,000,000 people have been discussing the need of a naval port. The farmers there all want it. But the four big express companies and a few thousand retail merchants who fear that their business will be injured by such legislation are making a more effective fight against it than several million farmers are for it. The cartoon, from "Farm and Home," an American farm journal, well illustrates the situation. There is a lesson for our farmers here in Canada in this cartoon.

Advises Working the Brood Mare

J. R. Westlake, Carleton Co., Ont.

I notice a tendency on the part of those who are just getting into better stock to think that pure-bred animals or even good grades require more pampering than the ordinary run of farm stock. This pampering can be carried to the point where it is detrimental to the breeding stock. One of the big mistakes that I see farmers making is in allowing their best brood mares to go idle. Their colts will pay for themselves and for the upkeep of the mare, so horse owners are careless about working the mares or even exercising regularly.

I believe in working the mares right up to the time of foaling. They will be in better shape themselves, and will give birth to stronger colts. Of course, one must use discretion as to what kind of work. For instance, I would never put a pair of brood mares on a disc harrow. This is one of the heaviest implements on the farm to draw, and the constant pounding of the pole is not good for the mares. Any work that involves great strain should be avoided. Nor would I allow a careless or cruel driver to handle a team of mares. There are very few men that I would trust with my brood mares during spring work. But by all means work them.

To Keep Sheep Pasture Good

C. A. Dunkin, Norfolk Co., Ont.

The whole secret of success with lambs from June 1 until weaning time, about August first, is to have good pasture; but change the pasture every few days. We might have them in clover up to their knees and think that they could stay there all summer, but such is not the case with sheep. They want a change. We might better turn them into a summer-fallow for a couple of days and let them trim out the fences of weeds. It would be a change that they would relish. And we should learn them to get rid of the weeds.

We usually have two or three small pieces of rape, and we keep changing our lambs from one to another. This keeps the rape good all summer. We often sow rape in our oats for late fall pasture.

Sixty per cent. of all the horses that go unsound, go wrong in the hock joints. That ought to be reason enough for a man to look very close at the hocks of the horse he buys.—Jas. Armstrong, Wellington Co., Ont.