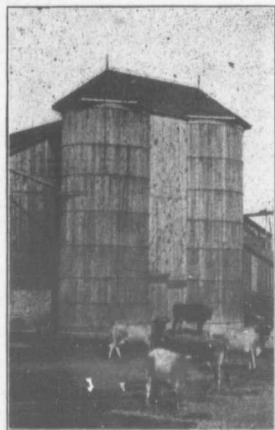


proved by the systematic and intelligent use of the road drag, and by rolling and proper drainage.

"The maintenance of good roads not only insures an earlier and more expeditious delivery to the patrons residing on that portion of the



Mr. A. F. Jackson's Double Silo

Two silos are much better than one larger one. For summer feeding, a silo small in diameter leaves less surface of silage exposed to the action of the atmosphere. Hence the feed will be fresher and there will be less waste. See article by A. F. Jackson, page 11.

route last to be served, and from whom the most complaints come, but lessens the liability of irregular or suspended service on any part of the route.

"The difficulty which the Department has experienced in securing the improvement of highways on which rural delivery is established lies in the apathy of patrons, in the absence of highway laws and highway commissions in some of the States, and in lack of concerted action and intelligent and proper methods in other States where highway laws exist. No great or general improvement in the highways can be expected until the people take an active interest in the matter and secure the enactment and enforcement of adequate highway laws."—H. B. C.

Experience with Cows

J. F. Robinson, Nipissing Co., Ont.

My own "personally conducted" experience with cows reaches back but to years. During that time we have kept up to nine during the summer. Not one of the whole lot has ever proven able to pay for its board and care. So now, having discarded all the rest, we are able to afford the cost of keeping one to make our own butter. We could buy the butter in the open market for less than it costs us to make it, but it wouldn't be our own.

Roots, ground grain and dry fodder at their market value are worth 30 cents a day for the cow. She returns us an average of 18 ounces of butter, the skim milk and the manure. I could haul the material to market, buy the butter and be money ahead after paying expenses and cost of trip, but it is worth something to eat our own making. We use an up-to-date cream separator. All that can be done is being done. Nor is the cow a hopeless critter either. She is young and a prietaker in a creamery district.

"This is a new country. Among the stumps we cut most of the hay with scythes. The aver-

age price of hay for the past seven years has been \$12 a ton. Very few but are able to spare feed enough to make milk and butter for their own use. When, however, I see men keeping cows, selling the surplus butter for 20 cents a pound (though it will be 30 cents for a while this winter), in order to buy the grain feeds, with hay at \$20 a ton, bran \$26, provender \$35, I do feel it is time a newer gospel should be preached.

As in other things, there are cows and cows. I have in mind, at the moment, a neighbor whose stock I saw the other day. He is feeding them hay worth \$15 a ton at his barn and in the lot of 14 head there isn't a decent canning carcass. His wife admits there is a difference between some cows and others.

Under certain circumstances and with good cows the farmer has admittedly a good asset. Yet I am convinced that if things were put together as a business man would do it: value of farm; stock; machinery; labor; depreciation; taxes, insurance, etc., not one half of the so-called general farms could show a profit from their cows.

How then, you may ask, has the farmer got along? First by drawing on the fertility of the soil, as witness the impoverished farms. Second by the excessive labor of himself and family old and young, and finally because he has lived at a level far below what he should have lived—sold the best and eaten what was left.

But signs of a change are noticed. "Nowadays the farm is not so firmly wedded to the cow as formerly. If she is no good she goes. Farmers are beginning to figure upon the cost of things and those non-paying lines are cut out. A shortage follows, then prices become remunerative.

On our own rough place we grew into cows while clearing land, never knowing with certainty that they paid or otherwise. One month with the milk sheets showed the trend and two months confirmed our suspicions. And, though we no longer make, at a cost of 25 cents or more, butter to sell at 20 cents, we still keep the records at each milking. Manufacturers of other wares keep account of the output of machines in their factories. If one is short of its profitable output they want to know why. Nothing will help the farmer to a higher level quicker than doing the same thing in every branch of his complicated business. At no other point on the farm can this be done more readily than when getting up from the cow. Life is too short to have cows unless they pay their way and do it well. There are plenty that will, they cost money but it pays to have them. To use the words of another. "How do I know?" "Because I paid my good money to find out."

The Sow at Farrowing Time

R. C. Morris, Northumberland Co., Ont.

My brood sows are allowed the run of the yard during the day until about three weeks before farrowing. I shut them up in a shed at night where they have a dry bed to sleep in. My sows are given as much exercise as possible.

Their feed consists of roots and corn in the ear and what water they will drink. When they are shut up in order that they may become accustomed to their pen before farrowing, I feed ground barley and shorts, making it soft so they will have milk for the little ones when they arrive.

If the sow is an old one, I never bother with her at farrowing time. If the sow is young I watch to see if she is all right and does not try to kill the little ones.

I never feed or disturb the sow until the little fellows are about 24 hours old, when I give her a drink followed by a slop made of shorts and water and continue this for a few days. After that I add a little barley meal.

Some Results With Strawberries

T. J. Ranson, York Co., Ont.

In fruit growing there is quite a profitable pleasure in producing the best possible of its kind, and as a general rule, the best, is most likely to bring in the dollars, which most growers believe to be the one great incentive. I have a small place of 10 acres. I commenced three years ago and have in that time, got rid of some delusions. I thought that I would be able to make a living by working about half time, but I find that sometimes I have to work overtime, and then do not do all there is to be done. If people see you selling a few nice crates of strawberries, or a basket of nice fresh eggs, at 50 cents a dozen, they say there is money in that, so there is, and lots of it, but you have to know something about these things, to get the money out. It seems easy if you read a few nursery catalogues, to make big money out of anything, in their line, which in most cases is true, but it means work with both hands and feet, also the head, and the "head work" or thinking should be done first.

I make strawberries my head liner, and have been successful under difficulties. I have made them pay, and got a valuable experience, which means dollars and cents in the future, as I intend enlarging my beds as time rolls along.

I find that each grower must experiment with several varieties to find the most suitable to his soil, and location. Some will grow on light land best, some will do on heavy land, but most kinds will grow well on rich loamy soil, well drained, and well cultivated. A change of plants, as well as kinds, is advisable every two or three years. I have been growing early and medium kinds, and am going to grow some late kinds also, as the prices get up at the last when they get scarce. I sold my first last year on June 22nd, at 17 cents a box, and the last July 14th, at 8 cents a box. A box at 8 cents, cost as much to pick as the 17 cent ones; this shows where the profit is.

Fer early I grow Michael's Early, and am going to plant Texas; for medium, Lovett, Parson's



Cement Silo on A. C. Hallman's Farm

Cement Silos are expensive to build. But, once they are properly put up, they are a source of everlasting satisfaction to their owners. Farmers will do well to investigate the cement silo proposition before building a wooden silo.

Beauty, Klondyke and Enormous; for late, Brandy wine, Marshall and Steven's Late Champion. Thus, I hope to have a long, and profitable season in 1909, as I am this year putting them on the best land I have got, having had them previously on the worst land on the place.