

that farmers are purchasing gasoline engines in place of windmills, the question of filling the silo is becoming more easy of solution.

Alfalfa For Dairy Cows

By Glen Gintling, Ontario Co., Ont.

Farmers at this season should take a retrospective and prospective view of their business. In looking back many Ontario farmers will note times when they suffered from a shortage of feed for their stock. Now is the time for them to make up their minds that such unfavorable conditions should be reduced to a minimum. The feed should be not only abundant, but of the best quality. For the dairy farmer, no feed has been introduced that will yield so much, and be of such a superior quality, as alfalfa. Whether for soiling in the summer or for hay in the winter to be fed in conjunction with corn silage, not only is alfalfa the best feed for dairy cows but it can be fed with equal profit to all stock from the horse to the chickens.

Every farmer who has a piece of land favorable for its growth should sow some alfalfa this year. To the new beginner, it is advisable to sow a small piece only, say an acre or two to ascertain if his land is suitable for its production. The land should be dry, if not naturally underdrained it should be tilled to a depth of three feet. It should have sufficient fall so that the surface water will run off in the winter and spring, so as to prevent ice forming around the crowns of the plants.

The soil should be clean and rich and possess an abundance of lime. A piece of land that has been in roots or corn the previous year is a good place for alfalfa. I prefer to not plow such land but cultivate or disc in the spring about three inches deep, harrow it several times over, so as to make a fine tilth. Secure the best seed possible, free from weed seeds. Test its germinative powers by placing 100 seeds between two pieces of blotting paper. Keep them moist and in a warm place. At the end of two weeks you will be able to tell the percentage of seeds that will grow. Secure from the bacteriological Department of the Agricultural College, Guelph, enough Alfalfa Nitro-culture to treat the seed before sowing. Enough can be secured for 25 cents to treat one bushel of seed.

Sow the seed at the rate of 20 pounds an acre with a nurse crop of barley, sown at the rate of three pecks an acre, spouted in. Sow the alfalfa seed in front of the drill so that it may be covered immediately. We gain two objects by sowing in front of the drill. First the alfalfa seed is thrown in between the two rows of grain, which prevents smothering of the young plants. Secondly, the seeds thus covered at once are kept from the action of the sun which will destroy the bacteria that have been added to the seed in the treatment by the Nitro-culture. Many failures in growing alfalfa, can be traced to a lack of the proper bacteria in the soil.

A Cow's Responsibility

Chas. F. Whitley, Supt. of Cow Testing.

During the last few weeks a great many farmers' meetings have been addressed on the subject of cow testing. Judging from the nature and number of enquiries made there seems to be a rapid awakening to its necessity. This view of the individual responsibility of each single cow in the herd is appealing to the common sense of the business dairyman. It is a matter of great satisfaction that our farmers, generally speaking are now taking this eminently practical survey of cow testing instead of wondering "what is the use of bothering with the test." It is being proved to mean not only increased cash receipts, but, entailing as it always must, the development of

powers of observation and greater attention to system and accuracy, it is exerting a strong educative influence. Mental pleasure and cash profit thus resulting, cow testing can never be deemed an extra or irksome chore; but on the contrary, by giving immeasurably more interest to every day's milking it will immediately relieve what might be considered toilsome drudgery.

THE BEST HERDS.

Invariably by learning that records teach the good, the best, paying herds been built up. Records thus form the starting point for the pleasant journey towards larger profits. Over and over again have our dairy farmers discovered something like this: one cow always considered fairly good, on being carefully recorded is found to be returning scarcely any profit; while another, perhaps judged to be only an average cow, is giving almost four times as much profit. This fundamental idea must be reiterated—it is absolutely impossible to gauge the ultimate profit from any cow without constant weighing and testing. When the "average" farmer seizes this fact, and he cannot grasp the idea too quickly both for his own good and the reputation of his district, we may then confidently expect to see several hundred more herds of 15 and 20 cows that will produce over 7000 pounds of milk and 250 pounds

that pull down average yields so tremendously. Fortunately there is a certain amount of contagion in good example, so that even one progressive man in a community will incite the best backward with the desire for improvement. Let our factory owners, our makers, and all our dairy farmers pull together. Let there be no hypocritical viewpoint, but a broadminded ambition for the Dominion's reputation as the home of excellent dairy cows. To accomplish this each cow must be made responsible.

Practical Hints on Horse Breeding

R. A. Smith, Brant Co., Ont.

The most saleable horses are of the draught, the carriage or the saddle class. Any one of these are always in demand. It makes little difference what class one goes in for but in each the market demands size, style and finish, also good legs and feet.

To raise A1 horses, one must commence with the best mares obtainable. Mares that will bring from \$200 to \$400 on the market that are perfectly sound and up to the right type are the kind to use. In selecting uares of the smaller breed, always look to having the mare equal to, or a little larger in size, than the sire. As a rule trying to get sires from a small mare and a larger horse results in failure.

We already have too many of that kind—no breed, no size, no good.

In selecting the sire, choose a fair sized horse, compact in every particular. Have him led past you on the walk and with a loose rein. Watch him and see that he holds his head well up in position. Many will be found to drop their heads when given a slack rein. Note his gait. See if he brings his feet far enough ahead to set them down square on their soles. Stand in front and afterwards behind the horse, while in action on the

straightaway and see how he goes, whether wide or close, straight or sideways. Put him through these performances while on a walk, then jog him. Watch his knee, hock and pastern action, which should be free, easy, high and bold. The more style, the better. If these points are brought out in the sire they are usually met with in his offspring.

It was only a few years ago that we were told that the horse would be a thing of the past. The bicycle it was said, would take the place of a horse for pleasure. The fad soon died. Next came the talk of the auto as being the only way to travel. But that was even shorter lived than the bike. As a consequence to-day the horse is in greater demand than ever and will continue to be in demand as long as the right kind are bred.

It Pays to Feed Well

Geo. Rice, Oxford Co., Ont.

Good feeding is the fundamental principle in progressive stock breeding. No matter what breed or kind of animals we are handling, if we want the best results and if we want big results, the animal has got to be well cared for and well fed be it a horse, a hog or a cow.

The dairyman wants cows that give a large milk yield. The actuality as regards milk yields and the possibilities, nay, the actual performance of some cows is so far apart as to give one a great desire to own the cows that give a large milk yield. But, in order that a cow may give a large milk yield she must be handled well, developed for that purpose and developed with the



A High Stepping Carriage Pair, the Delight of their Owner

While the market may be drab as regards the ordinary run of horses, enough of high class horses are never available to supply the demand. The illustration shows Mr. T. A. Cox, Brant Co., Ont., and his high stepping carriage pair.

—Courtesy O. A. G. Review.

of fat; several thousand more cows that will return \$2.50 for every dollar's worth of feed, and that will earn over \$50 net profit each.

The Dairy Division, Ottawa, has organized over 30 new cow testing associations since January on the same liberal terms as before. There is no charge to the farmer for testing; the Department of Agriculture pays the maker at the local factory to make the tests, besides supplying acid, preservative, and all necessary blank record forms for weights of milk perfectly free. Members must agree to weigh the milk of each cow in the herd regularly, at least three days a month, right through the lactation period and take accurate samples of each such milking. It costs little, it does much; it does so much that it is difficult to estimate the full measure of resulting dairy achievement; but a very moderate estimate on a sordid cash basis means an extra hundred dollars a year to any man keeping ten cows, many men have increased their income by \$20 per cow.

This two-fold crusade against poor cows and for the study of the individual members of the herd means that the present poor "average" cow should soon cease to exist. In the general improvement of dairy herds, that is bound to result from this forward movement, the average production per cow will be speedily raised. When every factory reckons among its patrons at least a few men who will do this record work, surely then the average and the poor farmer will be ashamed out of keeping those travesties of cows