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POINTS JUDGES LOOK FOR WHEN JUDGING A DAIRY FARM*

Simpson Rennie, York Co., Ont.

“The Standard of Perfection set forth in detail so that Farm and Dairy Readers may have the Ideal of an Expert wherewith to Assist Themselves in Judging their Own Farms.

“WHAT do judges look for when judging a farm entered in a dairy farms prize competition?” Farm and Dairy has asked me to answer this question. I shall, therefore, explain my views for the benefit not only of those farmers who may be thinking of entering their farms in the

of the house should be, as far as possible, convenient, having in view the heating and saving of labor throughout. It is an advantage to have each floor of the house on the level. A step down or up from one room to another or in the hall is an objection.

Sanitation—15.—Sanitation is something sadly neglected around many farm homes. Too often scrub and dish water with portions of decayed vegetables are to be found outside the kitchen door, causing this spot to be unsightly, also unhealthy. This should be avoided.

Ice and Water Supply—15.—A good supply of ice, and that in a convenient place, is essential on a dairy farm. A convenient supply of good, clean water at all times of the year is very important.

Education, including Books and Periodicals—20.—To keep up with the advance of the times

Something Special for Next Week

Watch for the 3rd Annual Special Farm Machinery Number of Farm and Dairy, out June 1st. An illustrated article on this page next week will tell about some of the newest things in farm machinery, and will deal particularly with the small motor for farm work. The issue throughout will instruct and please you.

a number of books and papers on dairying and farming in general should be found in the home, as well as a supply of more general reading.

THE FARM BUILDINGS

Buildings—175, viz.—Provision and Size—25.—The farm buildings should not be larger than the requirements of the farm call for to accommodate the crops and live stock. Too much barn space is rather expensive nowadays when materials are so costly.

Location—25.—It is a very important matter to have the buildings located at the most central and convenient point to accommodate the whole of the farm work and so that the distance will be as short as possible in going to and from work, hauling in the crops, hauling out manure and for the cattle going to and from pasture.

Condition—20.—We expect the buildings to be substantial, neither roof nor siding showing signs of decay; no doors hanging by one hinge instead of two; nor any of the outside boards wanting, thus allowing sparrows to get in and thus destroy part of the season's crop.

Neatness—20.—The buildings should be neat and clean. All outside woodwork should be painted, which will not only preserve the timber, but will at the same time give the buildings a much neater appearance. Grain and hay when hauled

in from the fields should be neatly stored, the face of all mows being even with the posts and beams. The barn and stable floors should be swept at least occasionally, and all harness, forks, scrappers, and milking stools be kept in their place after being used.

Convenience—25.—The farm buildings should be so arranged in rows convenient for both feeding and cleaning out. All up-to-date stables are supplied with water basins so that animals can drink at will.

Light and Ventilation—25.—Light is important in any stable. It should not be obstructed by high board or cement partitions stalls or passage ways. Ventilation is also important and should be such as to carry off foul air without allowing a draught to reach the animals; fresh air should be supplied from the outside.

Water Supply—25.—Water is an important necessity for cattle. A liberal supply should be within their reach at all times; water is the cheapest food that can be fed to animals.

Yard—10.—The barnyard should not be large, since it is used mostly for two purposes—that of a dumping place for manure from the stables and as a place for the animals to exercise.

THE LIVE STOCK

Live Stock—250, viz.—Number—40.—The number of the live stock kept depends upon the size of the farm, some allowance being made for the size of the breed, as large animals require more food and more space in the stable.

Quality and Condition—40.—Typical animals in good condition will receive a high score.

Breeding—40.—Where the breeding is right the result for food is soon apparent in any dairy herd, and should be scored accordingly.

Feeding—20.—Feeding is a science not so much in summer as it is in winter when the animals are stabled. A feeder is expected to study each individual animal so as to feed it up to its full capacity for milk production—and at the same time without overdoing, since an overfed animal is often thereby ruined for the balance of the season.

Horses—30.—The horses should be suited to the work of the farm and be in good condition. In recent years good Clyde mares have been very profitable on dairy farms.

Swine—25.—The raising and feeding of hogs is a very profitable side line on a dairy farm, especially where the cream only is sold. Where a number of good hogs are being fed the scoring should be higher.

Poultry—15.—With poultry, numbers count, but not so much as does a nice flock all of one breed.

THE CROPS

Crops—215, viz.—Suitability for Milk Production—50.—We look for such crops as alfalfa and red clover and peas and oats, corn and roots. Other crops may also be grown on a dairy farm such as timothy hay, wheat, barley and rape.

Yields and Condition—75.—The crop should be of a good even stand and give evidence of an abundant yield. An even heavy crop is desirable, it being neither short nor large.

Freedom from Weeds—75.—Since labor has become so scarce of late years, it is difficult to keep



Mr. Simpson Rennie

standard I here set forth. On this account any one having a reasonably good farm need have no hesitation in entering his farm in the competition this year since other farms are sure to be deficient in many details, although to a casual observer they might appear to be well high perfect.

All departments of the farm are considered in the competition. A total of 1,050 points are offered this year. I shall take these points up individually and comment upon them briefly.

THE HOME

House—155, viz.—Plan, Finish, and Approaches, 25. The house should be of sufficient size to meet the requirements of the household, and no larger. It should be built of good material; all wood work to be kept well painted. The approaches should be nicely graded, and where necessary board, gravel or cement walks and a well.

Lawn—20.—The lawn should not be too large on a dairy farm. If nicely kept and nicely interspersed with flowers and shrubs, even though it be not large, a lawn is a very attractive feature of any farm home.

Kitchen, Garden, and Orchard—35.—The garden if possible should be laid out so that it may be worked with a horse. In size it should be sufficient to raise the vegetables required for the household. The orchard should be well laid out, the trees being planted in straight rows for the convenience of working. Suckers should not be allowed to grow around the trunks and the trees should be well pruned and sprayed each year.

Arrangement of House—25.—The arrangement

* Mr. Rennie, whose farm in York county, some 25 years ago, won the gold medal offered by the Agricultural and Arts Association for the best farm in Ontario, scoring about 98 points out of 100, was a judge last year in the final competition held to determine the best dairy farm in the province. We did not know of a man more capable of writing on this subject.—Editor.