

grain. Rape sown among the corn at the time of the last cultivating will also supply a lot of fall feed. Red clover and alfalfa are among the best for summer and fall pasture. Fresh green pasture should put the lambs in good shape for market, as well as the breeding ewes in good thrifty condition for mating. It is necessary that they be in a thrifty condition in order to gain the best results. It is then very important that a pure bred ram be placed at the head of the flock. This ram should be of a mature conformation. No matter what breed the flock owner may fancy, it is just as much a mistake to use a scrub ram as it is to use a scrub bull. Scrub sires are causing a loss of thousands of dollars each year to our farmers. It costs more to prepare the scrub for market than it does the well-bred animal and it will command nearly the same price.

Shall the Dairy Farmer Raise or Buy His Cows?

The above problem is one that concerns many of our dairy farmers. They must have cows; this is the first requisite of dairy farming. How shall we get these cows—buy them or raise them? This is one of the most important and most unsettled questions that the market-milk and condensary dairymen faces. Ask the dairymen this question and he will likely answer: "If all the cows raised were good ones, if there were not so many blanks to be drawn in breeding, under present conditions, where comparatively little attention is paid to selecting dairy sires of the highest type and less attention is paid to raising the dairy calf, certainly the dairy farmer advice, 'remain at home and raise them.'"

On the other hand if all the cows we bought were good ones, if they were often nearly as good as they look, if they passed current in the dairy at their face value, we would vote 'buy them.' We would buy them because a cow with her second calf, considered merely as a piece of bovine flesh, can, as a rule, be bought for less than it would take to raise her on our farms.

But they are not all good. Even the good lookers—good lookers in dairy points—are not all good cows. Besides all cow buyers are not good judges of cows. Some of them are very poor judges. It is most amusing to watch this class at an auction sale making their selections. They select their cow because of the length of her tail or the turn of her horn, or some point foreign to dairy type. If we were all wise in this sort of wisdom, we might find profit in going out and buying cows to replenish or increase our herds, instead of following the time honored orthodox advice 'remain at home and raise them.'

In the first place there are very few of our commercial cows that are in any degree pure bred. They are either pronounced grades or non-descript

chances or accidents. They are from sires of no particular breeding and from dams of no particular dairy locality. That so many of them are such passably good lookers is an animal husbandry wonder. That a few of them may be fed into reasonably good producers is a beautiful demonstration of how nature strives to correct mistakes of man and carry out her improved plans against the most potent discouragements.

BREEDING MUST LEAN ON FEEDING

There is not the least doubt but that the very best breeding must always lean, for results, on good feeding. The cow, as we have her to-day, that will give ten times her bodily weight in milk in a year and put so much butter fat in that milk, that from it butter may be made equal to one-half or more of her live weight, is a creature of very remarkable artificial development. She must do this great work of milk production and fat elaboration from the feed she is able to consume, digest and assimilate. Therefore, the amplification of good dairy breeding must lie in producing an animal capable of this heavy food consumption. No matter what may be the ancestry of the cow, no matter how her breeding is emperured with the royalty of her race, if she does not have the ability and capacity to consume large quantities of the ordinary forage of the farm, and give it forth in a large milk yield, she cannot take her place in the herd of the 'living-making' dairymen, and hold it with that honor that comes from paying her way.

To do this real farm work she must have the tendency encouraged in her breeding—in her pedigree, if you choose. She must have the ability, encouraged and developed in her feeding from calfhood to cowhood. No man, in looking at the calf, and studying even most carefully her breeding as represented by the performance of her ancestors, can accurately forecast the qualities of the cow. It is true, we sometimes meet men, wise in their own conceit, who will claim to look at the calf and outline the cow she will grow into. But they are trying to fool us; they cannot do what they claim.

THE SIGNS WHEREBY WE KNOW

The dairy breeder must divest his operations of all theories that are not facts that can be counted such under reasonable limitations. All experienced dairy breeders know that there are certain calf signs that are reasonably sure to grow, under proper management and direction, into cow traits. There are the evidences of rugged strength and health; the long, angular structure, the strong back, good rib and keen eye, the large nostril, the under promise and under room, the lean head and dairy neck, are all points pleasing to the eye of the dairy breeder. I have noticed that the calf having these conspicuous points, and having for her forbears, cows and bulls of

pronounced dairy performance can be generally fed and fashioned into an excellent cow. But, the calf born with all these good points of promise must rest her hopes of excellence upon the wisdom of her feeder. He must train and encourage her to grow up to her inheritance of form and pedigree. If she is to grow into the most profitable dairy cow, capable of turning the cheap products of the farm into her refined production of milk, butter and cheese, her feeder must intelligently work with her. He wants her developed into a cow that will use his ordinary hays, grasses, fodders, grains and roots—such feeds as cost only their growing expenses and have no attractive selling value.

The ordinary cow of trade will eat much of these and all other feeds if they are given to her. As a rule, however, she will not turn them to as much profit as the distinctly dairy cow, that has for generations been bred and fed to do just such work. Therefore, the dairymen who surely would improve his herd in the lines of high yields at low cost should be a breeder dairymen, one that pays close attention to all the details of breeding and feeding the 'baby' calf.—W. F. S.

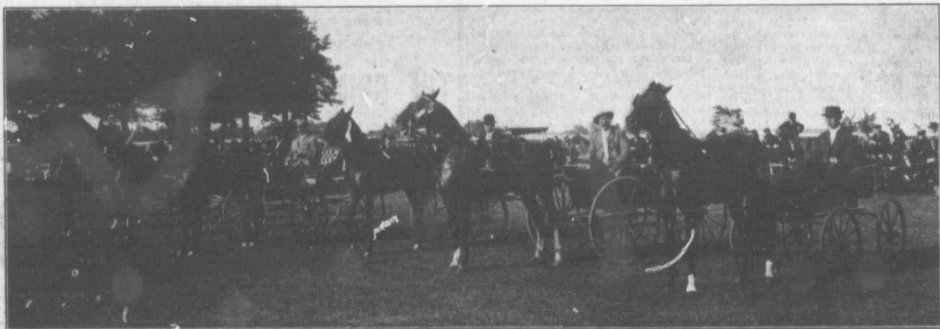
Preventing Waste of Silage

Henry Glendinning, Victoria Co., Ont.

Each year, as frequently as silos are filled, there is considerable waste, owing to the surface layer coming in contact with the air. The loss varies with the condition of the corn, and with the attention it has received after it is placed in the silo. In seasons of plenty it is a common practice to simply fill the silo and take chances on what would spoil. This is a very wasteful practice. It is possible to bring this waste down to a minimum by a little attention after the silo has been filled and thoroughly tramped.

Last year, owing to the scarcity of corn, we made an extra effort to preserve all that we had. As a result of which efforts there was scarcely two inches of spoiled silage. After the silo was filled and thoroughly tramped we put a two inch layer of clover chaff on it. We then dampened this chaff with a barrel of water in which had been dissolved a ten quart pail of salt. This brine proved to be the most effectual preserver we had ever tried. On the surface, when we came to feed the silage, the two inch layer on top peeled off slick and clean, and left good silage immediately underneath. Try this scheme on your silo this fall, and you will save much fodder that would otherwise be spoiled. It is much better than chaff and growing grain such as is commonly used.

I would not be without The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World for twice the amount of the subscription.—David Taylor, Peterboro Co.



A CLASS OF HARNESS HORSES AT THE COBBOURG (ONTARIO) HORSE SHOW HELD LAST MONTH