

The Dairy

SUMMER CARE OF THE DAIRY HERD

(By W. M. Kelly)

Good fences make good neighbors. Poor fences and dilapidated gates are a source of constant danger and annoyance. The farmer who keeps cows should have his pasture safely enclosed with good fences. Many valuable cows are lost or permanently injured each year through neglecting to mend a gate or repair a weak place in a fence as soon as discovered. Not necessarily by the fence or gate itself; perhaps she strayed into a field of clover or grain and became bloated; into an apple orchard and choked; or onto a railroad track and was killed by a train. Sometimes the whole herd breaks through the fence into a neighbor's field and ruins his growing crops. Such things are very unpleasant and expensive. Good fences are cheaper than valuable cows, damage suits and court costs, besides every dollar spent for fence material and gates adds to the value of the farm.

When practicable it is best to have pastures subdivided so that various kinds of animals are separated and to give the cows a change of pasture when one becomes closely grazed. In this way the cows can obtain their food by walking over one-half the area. Dry cows and young things should not be allowed to run with milk producers, as they are a source of annoyance at milking time and when driving the herd from the pasture to the stables. By fencing off a few acres of poor land and utilizing it for a night pasture for the cows it will become well fertilized and very productive in a few years and the owner will know just where to find his cows at milking time every morning.

Good tender and nutritious pasture grasses promote the finest milk flow of any ration and it seldom pays to feed supplemental grain foods while the cows have plenty of good pasture grass. When grasses begin to dry up and diminish in quantity supplemental foods should be quickly supplied. Various carefully conducted experiments show that unless dairy products are extremely high there is a loss in feeding grain feed to cows that have good pasture grasses.

The supply of water is an important factor in maintaining a milk flow and the health of the dairy herd. Such diseases as typhoid may be transmitted from cows to the human family through the use of water from impure or stagnant sources. Unless the pasture is well supplied with fresh running water or water from springs they should have water pumped from deep wells during the dry summer weather. Cows that have to drink impure water fall away in condition rapidly. Water is fully as important as food.

Cows should have shade during the heat of the day. Many argue that cows will give as much milk when confined in a pasture without shade, but humanity dictates that we should make our cows comfortable by protecting them from the direct heat of the sun during the summer weather.

Anything that we may do to alleviate the suffering of the cows during the season when flies are troublesome will be amply repaid us in the increased flow of milk and gains in flesh condition. One pint of blood from each cow daily is the heavy toll demanded by the flies during August and September. Such losses and suffering mean they can return no profit at the pail. In nearly every dairying section flies cut down the receipts of milk from 30 to 40 per cent. during August and September. No dairy section can stand such losses. Carefully spraying the cows greatly reduces their suffering during fly time. The following formula has given excellent results wherever it has been used under favorable circumstances. In fact, better results than some of the more expensive prepared

dips and sprays that are highly advertised as fly repellants.

Fish oil 50 parts
Oil of tar 100 parts
Crude carbolic acid 1 part

The cost of this mixture is about 30 cents a gallon and it may be applied with a hand sprayer every two days. If applied once a day less will be required and better results will be obtained.

Each year adds convincing proof that it is unwise to depend on pastures alone to sustain the dairy herd during the summer. It is imperative that we plan some means of carrying the cows over the time when pastures are failing. A steady flow of milk and growth of young animals can only be obtained by supplying additional food as soon as the pastures show signs of failing. Supplying supplementary feeds early makes the change more gradual and at the same time insures us again a loss of milk flow and condition. We must supply green feed to cows during this critical period. It is a waste of grain to feed it to cows that do not have an abundant supply of palatable and nutritious roughage. A drought-stricken pasture does not furnish this. It is not necessary to plan an extensive system of supplemental crops to feed the cows during this period. Clover, alfalfa, oats and peas and corn that are grown in the regular rotation practiced on the best dairy farms make excellent supplemental feeds (in case ensilage is not available) and they are the very best of feeds to eat and feed green. This fact seems very difficult to impress upon the minds of many dairymen. In trying to save feed for winter they allow dollars to slip through their hands by allowing their cows and young things to suffer a loss in milk flow and condition. A milk flow once lost by default can seldom be regained until the cow again freshens. It is always best to feed when it will do the most good.

It is a common sight to see dairy cows in the summer stamping dust and fighting flies in a drought-stricken pasture and vainly trying to break through a fence which separates them from a field of luxuriant corn which floats its wealth of forage to the breeze. It is a penny wise and pound foolish policy to allow cows to shrink in milk flow and fall away in flesh condition when a few rows of the rank growing corn would prevent the loss.

Farm and Field

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chant is supposed to do. For instance, if he is offering barley, wheat or oats, and there is more than one noxious weed seed per pound, it is up to the seed merchant to attach a label written in a plain manner, giving the name and address of the seller, the kind of seed being offered, and the common name of the weed seed found in that sample. If you buy seed and see nothing on the package you have a right to believe that there is no more than one noxious weed seed per pound at least in that seed. The exemption simply allows the farmer to sell that seed without putting a label on it, but when it comes to the selling of red clover, timothy and alsike, the law applies to the farmer if he is selling these seeds with more than five noxious weed seeds to the thousand. Last year we made a couple of test cases; one farmer was offering clover seed on his own premises that contained more than five noxious weed seeds to the thousand. We obtained a sample and had it analysed. An action was entered and he had the opportunity to employ a counsel, but he pleaded guilty and paid his fine. Another farmer was found selling seed on the market in a certain town. One of our inspectors happened to be there and saw him offering the seed. He took an official sample, had the sample analysed and found there were more than five noxious weeds to a thousand, and he was called before a magistrate and pleaded guilty and paid his fine. So you see there is one way in which the law applies to the farmer.

Preparing Better Land

Since the act came in force there were two years when seed was a very high

price, and the farmers jumped at the conclusion that the act was working to their disadvantage. The Americans came over here and bought up a quantity of the dirty seed and the price did not drop, but last year the seed was not such a high price, and the result was that a great many farmers took from \$1.50 to \$3 less per bushel for their seed because it was not pure, and that made them think, and now many of them are trying to find out how they can improve their seed in order to get a better quality and a higher price. How can they do this? Simply by preparing their land in a better way, and if they have dirty seed sell it and buy better seed. We have scores of farmers now who seed their clover in the field and this is the best place to deal with the problem; it is the cheapest and most economical way of getting rid of these weed seeds, and I believe the act is having a beneficial effect in emphasizing this method.

Sold Dirty Seed

We had occasion to bring one dealer before a magistrate and prosecute him for selling dirty seed. He said the act was no good because it had not made the farmer produce better seed, and almost in the next breath he was telling me of a farmer who had 80 bushels of clover seed this year, and 8 bushels of that had been offered to him that the farmer said was entirely clean. The rest of it was more or less polluted with buckhorn or rib-grass. Why did that farmer keep his right bushels of good seed free from the rest of it? Because he would get a better price for the cleaner seed, and he took a smaller price for the dirty seed. This act is inducing the farmers to make a closer examination of the seed they buy as well as sow. Seed dealers tell me that farmers formerly paid for the seed without any question, but now a great many of the best farmers will spend half an hour and spread the seed out on a piece of paper and in some cases take a glass and satisfy themselves that it is all right; others take samples and send to the seed branch and have a report on them before they purchase.

Is Helping the Price

The Seed Control Act is helping the price that is being paid to the farmers for pure seed, and has increased the amount of first-class seed offered on the market. Before the Seed Act came into force much of the best seed was shipped to the old land where they were willing to pay a good price for the good seed. When the Seed Act came into force dealers kept a lot of the best grades for the home trade, and they shipped much of the lower grades across the line, and that is having a very beneficial effect. There are a great many tenant farmers who have little regard for the land they are working, and to them the cheapest seed is the best. They never bother about what effect it is going to have in poisoning the land. I believe owners of the farms make a great mistake when they do not furnish seed to their tenants. It would pay them to put their hands in their pockets and buy good clean seed so as to keep their farms clean. I believe this Seed Act will work out in the future more and more in favor of the farmer, and we want your co-operation in this work. We have no grudge against the seed merchant; he is coming in line and is trying to put on the best grades of seed, and if you will buy the best grades it will not be long before the poorer grades are removed. Send down your samples to the seed branch and we will test them for you, and will tell you what noxious weed seeds they contain.

KILLING QUACK GRASS

E. W. Philo, a noted farmer and poultry expert of the State of New York, gives as his experience in the eradication of quack grass the following:

Anyone who is familiar with quack will fully understand the amount of work required to cultivate a field that is thickly covered with quack.

As some of our most valuable ground was infested with this grass, we thought best to commence fitting it, and, if possible to get the quack subdued, to seed thickly with buckwheat, as a heavy growth of buckwheat tends to smother weeds or plants that may be growing under it.

When a small lad I remember my father plowing under quack by plowing twice in a furrow, taking but a very thin layer the first time or just enough to turn over the portion of the ground filled with quack roots. Then with a short chain attached from the beam of the plow to the whiffletrees it was possible to drive a team in the same position with one horse in the furrow

and thus turn up four or five inches more of soil below the quack roots, completely covering the quack that had been turned over the first time. After the second plowing in the same furrow, we have a deeper trench in which the soil is turned and when the second trip around has been made, the soil will be completely covered. When this work is thoroughly done, once plowing will generally kill the larger portion of it, when almost any crop can be grown with comparative ease.

The men doing the plowing were not familiar with this kind of work, and thought it would be best to plow in the regular way, then thoroughly drag out the quack roots with spring-tooth harrows, and after drying in the hot sun, draw them off in a pile. After the plowing has been completed, the spring tooth harrows were used to drag out the roots, going over every foot of the land at least a dozen times.

Each succeeding week the ground was harrowed twice over the following three weeks. It was then left a week on account of other work and when attempting to harrow it the next time, we found it so completely filled with quack that the harrowing did but little good. We then plowed the field cross-wise, cutting the sod in small cubes, then by thorough harrowing, nearly all the quack was drawn to the surface and removed. This work was completed the last of July, almost too late for seeding the buckwheat to get a crop of grain. The buckwheat was seeded however, as we knew it would be good for the land to plow the buckwheat under should there not be any possibility of its smothering seed. It was so extremely dry that only a few patches of the buckwheat came up for fully two weeks.

It was after the middle of August before a fair growth of buckwheat could be seen on all parts of the field. The ground was in such a thorough state of cultivation that when the buckwheat did come, it made a most remarkable growth and the killing frosts came late in the season, allowing time for a full crop to mature. There was neither fertilizer nor lime applied to the soil.

The only thing to which we can attribute the success of the good crop is the thorough cultivation. The farmer who is working the farm remarked to our teamsters that the cost of cultivating this land would be more than the value of the land. This, however, was a mistake, although it was quite expensive, owing to the fact that the teams and the men were employed by the hour and it was necessary to do so much work.

While the quack is not entirely subdued, there is but little left. This ground will be planted in the spring with corn in the hill, and will be cultivated both ways of the row, which should completely destroy the few remaining roots.

It may be necessary to do a little hand work to cover some of the quack that may come up in the hill of corn. When the quack is completely covered it will soon smother, but where the sprout is allowed to come to the surface, it will grow and develop. There are many more acres on the farm having some quack in with the timothy, although not nearly as thick as the piece referred to above.

We will try the old plan of plowing twice in a furrow to learn if it will not be possible to smother it and put the land in a better stage of cultivation without so much labor, in harrowing and drawing off the roots. The roots when smothered will decay and add some humus to the soil.

The wholesale fruit and vegetable jobbers of all the Prairie Provinces, have petitioned that the tariff be removed from the articles they deal in, stating that it simply acts as a tax on the prairie consumers.

Wm. E. Corey, for several years president of the United States Steel Corporation has been removed from his position.

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