

Farm Buttermaking

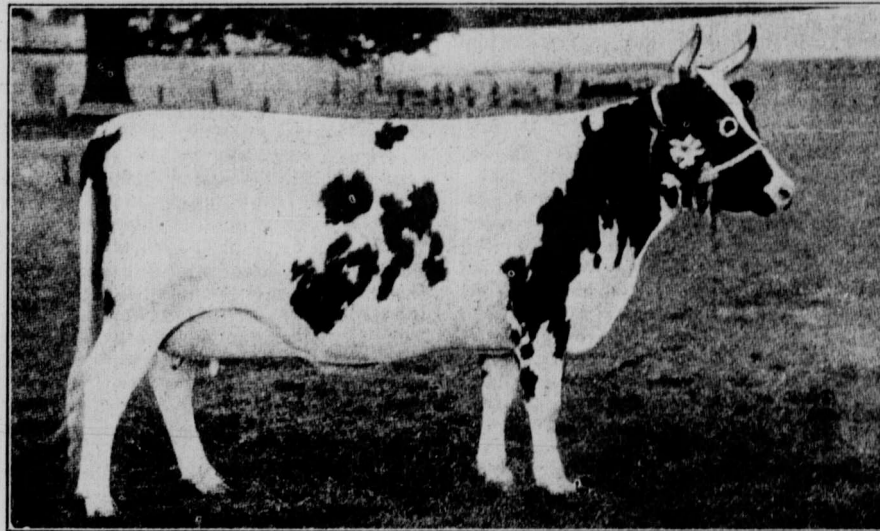
By E. J. TROTT, B.S.A.

There is a tendency nowadays in treating with farm matters to take for granted that the farmer understands perfectly the why and wherefore of all the usual operations which are common to farm work. It is quite usual to single out one farmer who has been particularly successful and use his advanced methods as a model by following which other farmers, usually not born in such prosperous circumstances, may rapidly wend their way to affluence. There is no doubt great value in reviewing the work of such men. Their accomplishments serve as an objective for farmers to strive toward. But the fact must not be overlooked that there are a great many embryo farmers in this Western country. There are a great many families which are just starting up on a prairie farm to whom pictures of large well furnished barns, stocked with pure-bred, well fed milking machines, are an inspiration no doubt, but who would derive vastly more immediate benefit by learning just what a good cow looks like, how to construct in the most economical way possible a good, small barn or to be told that the oat crop is particularly susceptible to frost, that a few degrees in the early stages of growth are enough to ruin oats for seed and that consequently they should be careful to test their seed to be certain whether it will grow or not when sown next spring.

One branch of farm work to which little attention is paid in a great many instances is that of the care of milk and cream. Very little judgment is used in the selection of the cows, no idea as to their productive value is formed and the subsequent handling of the milk and its products is a matter which is given very little thought. Since this is a department of farm work which might, with a little care, be made to yield a profitable return,

a few remarks on the farm dairy may be valuable. The first consideration is, of course, to obtain as good a dairy cow as possible. This matter has been dealt

sold during the whole year or whether just home supply is the objective of the dairy. To have the cows freshen in September or October is a good plan if



A SPLENDID DAIRY ANIMAL
"Hillhouse Heather Bell III." Champion Ayrshire female and champion of the breed at the Highland Show

with in a previous article and needs no further mention here.

Freshen in Spring or Fall?

Having obtained the necessary cows it might be well to consider when is the best time for them to freshen. This point is one which rests largely with the individual. It depends upon whether the milk, cream or butter is going to be

cream and butter are to be marketed because prices usually are higher for these products during the winter months. But consideration must be given to the fact that in order to do this a good warm barn must be available, fodder of a succulent nature must be in plenty and extra care must be given if the calves are to become eventually as good, or perhaps a little better, producers than their mothers.

On the ordinary prairie farm where milk and butter for the house is all that is required of the cows it is usually better to have them freshen in the spring and early summer. Just in regard to freshening, time would be well spent in considering the kind of bull which it is best to use. When the farmer has gone to the trouble of selecting cows which have the best dairy characteristics obtainable surely it is a great loss if such a cow has to be mated to a common scrub bull. The bull is half the herd and now that the Departments of Agriculture in the various provinces have made arrangements whereby practically every locality may obtain a good sire, farmers are failing to take advantage of the opportunity for improvement offered them if they persist in using other than pure-bred sires.

Milk Regularly

To be successful in farm dairy work, in fact with any farm work, a definite system must be followed. Nothing tends to lessen milk yields so much perhaps as irregular milking. When a cow becomes accustomed to a certain time for giving down her milk, any change in that time creates a disturbance in the animal's nervous system and greatly retards the milk yield. The same is true of a change in milkers. In herds where daily individual milk records are kept a sudden falling off in the weight of milk given invariably is found to follow a change of milkers. Before commencing to milk the cow's udder and flank should be carefully wiped off with a damp cloth. This has the effect of removing any loose dirt which might otherwise drop off into the milk pail and also tends to moisten the dust, keeping it from being easily brushed off from the cow's side. In the old days

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Farm Experiences

SURFACE CULTIVATION

A great deal of advice is being offered the farmers these days regarding what they should do, but there are but few suggestions as to how they should do their farming. The writer has followed the old plow and harrow system from boyhood until now, and has had considerable experience on land where there was sufficient rainfall, and also where dry land soil culture has become a necessity, and with this brief introduction, we will make some recommendations to the farmers that, if followed, will materially increase the yield of not only wheat, but all other kinds of grain.

The present season, since the mid-summer, has been unusual, inasmuch as the heavy rain at exhibition time put the weeds, annual and perennial, together with the wild oats, in a condition to germinate, and the moisture that we have had since has given all kinds of noxious weeds the condition they required to cause them to take root strongly on the surface of the summerfallow and the early fall plowing, so much so indeed that many fallows have a green carpet of weeds.

This is where the farmer should not only think but act. Many farmers place too much dependence on the frost for winter killing the weed growth on the land they intend to seed to wheat, because the springtime offers but little chance to destroy weed growth as the wheat, like the garden seed, must go in just as soon as the frost is out enough to put on the drill.

While the annuals will "winter kill," the perennials will live thru the frosts of winter and be ready to drink up the moisture that the grain plant should have, in addition to sapping the fertility of the soil.

There are some agricultural men who hold that the wild oats that are now infesting considerable of the land, and are so much in evidence the present season on fallows and fall plowing, are so accimatized as to be able to stay over

We believe that there is nothing quite so helpful to farmers as an exchange of ideas. We want to make this page as valuable as the good heart-to-heart talks which neighbors have round the stove on cold winter's nights. We want each one of our readers to take a personal interest in this page by writing to us relating any methods they have tried which have proved of service in overcoming some difficulty or improving some farm operation. By doing this you will be helping some less experienced farmer to improve his methods and probably at some time you yourself may be able to benefit by someone else's experience as related on this page.

We will pay 25 cents per 100 words for all such articles on farm experiences which we accept. These articles must be written very plainly and on one side of the paper only. The number of words in the article should be marked at the top of the first page. Enough postage must be enclosed to return the article in case we cannot use it. All articles will be paid for or returned within three weeks from the time they are received in our office.

Address all letters to the Agricultural Editor.

winter, just like fall wheat and French weed and grow the next spring with a strong root. Let this be as it may, it will be safer to disturb the surface growth of all noxious weeds because there is no doubt that the wild oats which have not germinated will do so when climatic conditions are favorable.

Now, sir, we find some men on their fallows who are aiding this condition, viz., working the land so deep that they are bringing the wild seeds near the surface, and with moisture, light and air, the result will be a dirty crop. The weed seed that is down and not germinated, let it, like a sleeping dog, lie. Surface cultivation should be done very shallow at this time of the year, and with

the blades or feet of the tools used very sharp. Even should odd pieces be missed, better cross the cultivation and cover it the next time, but whatever implement is used, have it sharp, and work the land shallow. One other weakness in our system of preparing the fall plowed land for wheat is the neglect to pack, level, or harrow with a lever harrow with the teeth at a good slant so the trash turned down with the plow will not be rooted up, as the old style drag harrow will certainly do. The old drag harrow, together with the barbed wire fence, should all be milled over and put into reinforced concrete. They are a hindrance to agriculture. It is also a fallacy to leave the plowed land open,

some say to hold the snow. All the water this snow makes outside of what lies about the fence, generally evaporates with the first wind that blows from the South. All the best agricultural men emphasize the importance of smoothing out the land after it is well plowed, so that it will not dry out.

Our agricultural schools are dreaming a beautiful dream, and our agricultural journals are not always candid in telling the farmers the plain truth, as good missionaries should do. The demonstration farms that the Provincial Governments are establishing have a mission, but the real benefit will come when the farmer will use the plow more intelligently and surface cultivate just as a young man shaves. Go over the fallow with a tool just as sharp as a razor every time there appears any growth, and occasionally when there is no growth. This will assist in keeping the moisture in the land and encourage the weed seeds to sprout, so that they can be killed. Our soils are not exhausted, only badly farmed and weedy.

G. L. D.

Winnipeg, Man.

A SAMPLE OF THE LETTERS WANTED FOR THE EXPERIENCE PAGE

A SEVEN-HORSE HITCH

To The Farmer:—In your October 10 issue in answer to G. A. D., Saskatchewan, you insert a sketch of a seven-horse hitch for a gang plow. I beg leave to submit one that I am using which I consider better and which can be used on any plow whether single, double or triple, and is readily changed from a seven-horse hitch to a six, five or four-horse hitch by placing holes in the proper places when eveners are made.

The big evener is made of 2x8-inch oak, bound with strap iron. The five-horse equalizer is made of iron and can be bought from most any plow company.

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