

reason the beds are benefited by several dressings of salt, kainit, soot, and sulfate of ammonia, but don't overdo this. It is well to remember that 1 lb. of fertilizer on a bed 5 feet wide and 16 feet long is over 4 cwt. to the acre, which is a good dressing of any one concentrated manure. For a bed 16 feet by 5 feet, each dressing might consist of 1 lb. kainit and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of sulphate of ammonia. After the stems have turned yellow, and been cut down, the bed should be dressed with seaweed, manure, and superphosphate, and left for the winter. Of course, all weeds should be kept down, and on no account should the seed be allowed to fall. The worst weed in an asparagus bed is young asparagus. For good results, ample water is required in spring. Cutting should cease in summer, and the stems allowed to mature.

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The Dairy.

PASTURE AND SOILING

As soon as the spring grass gets high enough for the cows to get a bite, let them have it, for they are longing for it and clearly show it by their actions. It is not advisable perhaps, at first to allow them on pasture all day long, for the good of both pasture and cow. Cows should be quite gradually changed from stable feeding to pasturage, especially if the feeding has been of dry material or mostly so; but where ensilage is used the difference in feed is not nearly so pronounced. The stable feeding should continue unchanged, undiminished, until the cow herself indicates that she is getting enough grass to replace a part of the stable ration. Then, as the pasturage increases and improves, indoor feeding may be lessened and finally discontinued. If a pasture furnishes an abundance and variety of grasses, there can be no better food found for the milch cow, indeed it is truly a perfect food. Analysts have determined that the nutritive ratio for mixed pasturage is about 1 to 5, which cannot be improved for succulent food. But as the best of pasture grasses contain from 65 to 75 per cent of water, sometimes more, the cow must procure a large quantity of this material, 100 pounds or so in the course of a day, to secure the food material required. Shade and water should be carefully looked after

in connection with pasturage, as well as the grass, in very large pastures there should be watering places in different parts of the inclosure, as well as shade, so that the cows may not be compelled to travel far to find either.

Cows can be kept most advantageously in the pasture during the day time and the stable at night, or be left out all the time, until flies and heat become troublesome. But in the worst fly time, and perhaps when the sun's heat is greatest, it is good practice to stable the herd during the day in an airy but shaded cow house, and turn it on pasture at night. If the pasture has not abundant shade and water this course should certainly be followed. Heat and flies reduce both quality and quantity of milk product.

The trouble from flies can be largely remedied spraying the cows with a very weak mixture of water and some one of the approved sheep dip preparations. Such a spraying will last a week or ten days, unless there are hard rains meanwhile. The entire interior of the cow-house should be sprayed with a solution of this kind, and strong enough for an insecticide, weekly throughout the summer.

There seems to be ample evidence that, although milk may be increased by feeding grain to cows at pasture, the grain no more than pays for the extra food, and seldom does that. There may be in some cases a small margin for profit in improving the pastures by less grazing and richer manure. But if pasturage is short, even temporarily deficient, the cows should be fed enough of grain, hay, silage, or green crops to supply the deficiency. The dairyman who has most of his cows dry during drought, fly time, and "dog-days" appreciates the advantages of "bringing in" his cows in the fall.

There is no doubt that the advantages of soiling over pasturage are so great, especially when dairying on high-priced land, that every dairyman should carefully study the question of adopting this system. Much of course depends upon the supply, character, and cost of labor at one's command. It may be profitable to practise partial soiling where it will not be to do more. Careful trials have shown that by feeding cows wholly on green forage crops in the stable, from two to five times as much milk can be produced from an acre as from pasturing the same land. Of course, farms often contain many acres of pasture land that cannot be tilled, but for tillable