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More About Deferred Breeding

Jno. McKee, Oxford Co., Ont.

I was very much pleased on receiving Farm and Dairy of January 2nd to note the timely article from the pen of Prof. Barton on the subject "At What Age Shall we Breed our Dairy Heifers?" I am thoroughly in accord with the views expressed in the article. I consider the matter of such importance that last February, at the annual meeting of the Canadian Ayrshire Breeders' Association, in my presidential address I referred to the subject as follows:

"I believe also when the demand for dairy cattle is so keen and Ayrshires are selling for prices

am not at all alarmed at seeing them grow big and strong and, maybe, become a little thick in the head, neck and shoulders. The refinement will come in due time when they get to milking, and we will have big, strong cows with constitution and capacity.

Alfalfa Pointers from a Noted Dairyman*

By Glendinning, Ontario Co., Ont.

No farmer, no matter how skilled a feeder he may be, can make a profit from his best cow by feeding her silage, oat straw and timothy hay. This is because they do not contain the proper nutritive constituents. The clovers, especially



A Scene That Would Make Any Scotchman's Heart Glad

The Scotchman is a cosmopolitan; he is found everywhere. The Scotchman's horse, the Clydesdale, is almost as good a wanderer as its originator. The splendid bunch of Clydesdale mares seen in the foreground are the money makers on a New Zealand ranch. They would be even more profitable in Canada.
—Photo courtesy New Zealand Farmer.

never before realized in the history of Ayrshire breeding, that a word of caution should be extended to the new breeders who are now purchasing their first Ayrshires and laying the foundations for future herds. I refer particularly to the practice of having heifers drop their first calves at too early an age. I consider that an Ayrshire heifer should never freshen under two and one-half years of age, and some of the best cows I ever raised did not calve until they were three years old. The tendency among new breeders, in their eagerness to build up a herd as quickly as possible, is to breed heifers too young. This is a great mistake, and has resulted in the past in a deterioration in the size of our Ayrshires as compared with the original imported stock."

OUR OWN PRACTICE AND RESULTS

The practice of having Ayrshire heifers at Brookside drop their first calves at from 30 to 36 months of age has produced such cows as the champion cow, Annie Laurie 2nd, record 15,134.4 lbs. of milk and 598.45 lbs. of fat in a year, and also the sweetest and bonniest of them all, Jean Armour, with a record of over 20,000 lbs. of milk and 774 lbs. of fat. As well we have her half-sister, Victoria, with a record of 11,283 lbs. milk and 451 lbs. of fat. Star's Sarah has a record as a three-year-old of 10,651 lbs. of milk and 407 lbs. of fat. The two last records were made under perfectly normal conditions, with the cows only milked twice a day and receiving no grain after being turned out to pasture in the spring. The splendid heifer, Violet of Hillview 2nd, winner of first prize as a two-year-old at Guelph and Ottawa Winter Fairs last winter, and first at Guelph last month as a three-year-old, is another product of this system of breeding.

The world's champion two-year-old heifer of the Ayrshire breed, Briery 2nd of Springfield, is also another example of the great advantage to be derived from giving the heifers time to develop before dropping their first calves. As long as they have the proper line of breeding behind them I

alfalfa, will round out the silage ration.

We used to hear farmers say it was impossible for them to grow alfalfa as it would not grow, but that complaint is little heard today because it has been proved that alfalfa can be grown almost anywhere. Those farmers who have grown alfalfa successfully are now adding field to field because they have found out its merits for themselves.

Don't think that because the growing of alfalfa enriches the soil where it is grown it is advisable to grow it on naturally poor soil. That process of improvement is too slow. Alfalfa does best and gives the best results when grown on naturally good soil.

Buy Canadian crown seed. It is the best that can be obtained.

I have seen good alfalfa in the fall of the year, sometimes two and three feet high, but have never seen it with too much top on it. It holds the snow and comes through the winter better than is the case where it is cut or pastured too close in the fall. If you can grow alfalfa at all it is the best crop of the kind that can be grown by the dairy farmer.

I use arsenical sheep dips in the spring and coal tar dips in the fall.—Col. McEwan.

In selecting a breed of sheep, take the one that originated in a country with conditions similar to your own.

Dr. Vivian of the Ohio Agricultural College, sums up the lime question in verse, as follows:

"Lime and lime without manure
Makes both farm and farmer poor.
But
Lime, manure and vigorous clover
Make the old farm rich all over.

*Summary of an address at the E. O. D. A. Convention at Kingston last week.

"Yarding" the Ice Supply

J. H. J. McKenney, Elgin Co., Ont.

When certain conditions make it necessary that we should put in a supply of ice last winter, we were met with a genuine problem. No suitable building was available. We had to have the ice, house or no house. This emergency resulted in a structure defying all the generally accepted requirements of an ice-house. The experiment seemed risky, but proved a huge success. All through the hot weather we had abundance of ice.

In selecting a site convenience was only considered. This happened to be under the spreading branches of a large apple tree. We calculated that the continuous shade thus secured might help to counterbalance some of the departures we found it necessary to make from the regular rules of ice-house construction. To support the framework eight posts were stood upon and so as to form an enclosure 12 feet square. These were of good cedar, which happened to be on hand and would have lasted a long time had the ends been sunk in the ground. But as the ground was frozen a couple of feet down they were set on the surface and held in an erect position by means of the boards forming the walls.

SCRAP LUMBER UTILIZED

The lumber used consisted of one-inch boards of all lengths, selected from a rubbish heap, nailed on the inside of the posts, of which there are three on a side. They effectively resist any pressure from the interior. An opening for entrance was left and a door constructed of short pieces, kept in place on the inside by the ice and on the outside by the posts. As the ice is used these are taken down one after the other.

Another point we ignored was drainage. Concerning this, I was not a little uneasy. If there had been time, the floor space would have been covered a foot or more in depth, with loose stones or bricks to improve the drainage facilities and form an air space between the ice and the ground. We were, however, fairly prodigal with sawdust, the floor being covered about two feet deep.

SAWDUST EFFECTED INSULATION

This 12-foot box completed to a height of eight feet, and floored with sawdust, we began filling in the ice at once. When done packing there was a solid block of ice 10 by 10 by 6 feet, or approximately 15 tons. This left a 12-inch space between the walls and the ice, which was filled with sawdust and well ramed down, after which a covering two feet thick was spread over the top. In every case, old sawdust, that had become thoroughly dried out, was used. If in a more or less green condition it is found to heat and melt the ice. As soon as this covering began to settle more sawdust was put on. The settling causes the covering to become quite hard, and proves very effective in keeping out a July temperature.

Our finished ice-house represents about two hours' work, with no cash outlay whatever. It is just a box to keep the sawdust in place. No roof was put on, and none seems to be needed, as the ice could not have kept in better condition. I believe that many do not provide sufficient ventilation. Many tight buildings have to my knowledge proved a failure in this respect. My method is nothing more or less than "yarding" the ice. As it has given the best results, I shall try it again.

There are different ideas as to whether or not it pays to buy second hand machinery. It all depends on the machinery. A tool that has not been much damaged is but little the worse for having the new paint worn off and the reduced price pays well for that. Old farm tools are seldom worth hauling home.