

### Where Cow Testing is Popular

J. E. Jewson, Welland Co., Ont.

It is difficult for me to place on paper a true idea of the interest that our local Cow Testing Association has created among our dairymen. At a meeting of the Bertie Cow Testing Association recently held it was very gratifying to note the general satisfaction expressed by all its members and a unanimous desire to carry on the work. The records of the various herds during the past year have revealed many surprises and likewise many disappointments for it is quite common to hear the expression, "My best cow is the poorest," and vice versa.

The writer has knowledge of a grade Jersey cow considered by the owner to be just an ordinary producer. Although this cow has not completed a full lactation period yet I am safe in saying that the amount of milk will exceed 6,000 pounds with an average test of six per cent. butter fat. Another herd with two two-year-old grade Ayrshire heifers each gave milk that tested almost the same per cent. fat, yet one gave nearly 1,700 pounds more milk than the other. The following opinions are expressed by some of the members.

Mr. W. Sexsmith says: "To me the true value of the cow testing association is in testing one cow against another in my own herd under similar conditions, and not my herd against another herd under different conditions. The cow I considered about the best in my herd has turned out to be about the poorest. The fact that your herd might claim a record inferior to that of your neighbor should not keep any man from testing his cows."

Jas. E. Laur says: "I hope to increase my profits during this year by disposing of two unprofitable cows."

Mr. J. Miller says: "I am well satisfied with the results."

Geo. Sexsmith says: "I want to continue the work as long as possible."

The membership of our association has recently been increased by two while others are thinking seriously of taking up the work which shows that the influence of the association is being extended. Meetings held frequently during the winter months would be most beneficial. At the last meeting of this association, a stock company was formed to purchase a high-class dairy bull. The all importance of a good sire is becoming more fully realized.

### Artificial Hatching and Rearing

H. Denhart, Macdonald Co., Man.

While my experience in artificial incubation is somewhat limited, extending over three years, I have been successful in that side line of mixed farming. I ran one "Peerless Incubator" two years ago and two last year.

In hatching I simply follow instructions given with the machine. I follow these to the letter not nearly to the letter. By giving strict attention to the machine and not trusting to Providence and the machine altogether, if a sudden turn in the weather occurs at night, I find it very easy to get a good hatch every time.

#### REARING THE CHICKS.

The stumbling block in the business is the raising of the chickens after they are hatched. I leave the chicks in the nursery drawers of the incubator not less than 21 hours after they are hatched, often 36 hours. In the meantime the brooder is thoroughly aired, cleaned, heated up and dry chaff put in. While the instructions call for 90 degrees in the brooder, when chicks are put in, I am satisfied with 85 or 86 degrees, because the temperature will raise considerably as soon as the chicks are in.

As soon as the chicks are transferred to the brooder, I feed them hard boiled eggs, finely cut up. I place these on small boards and tap them

lightly, imitating the mother hen in calling her young, and in that way I get the whole lot to come up to their first feed and begin to pick it up, after which there is no more trouble. The second feed contains granulated oatmeal and dry bread crumbs. On this diet with the addition of pulverized charcoal, ground oyster shells and fine sand, they live for six or eight days. This grit is in my estimation the most essential factor towards keeping young chicks healthy, and I have seen chicks get well from bowel disease after two or three feeds of charcoal.

#### THE ROUTINE AFTER SIXTH DAY.

After the sixth day I begin to feed everything that may be good for a chicken. Boiled potatoes, wheat, onions, cabbage, fine cut green grass, in short, anything that will give them a change and keep them eating. I always clean the feed boards after the chicks are done eating, never putting left-over food before them a second time. Fresh water, and from the fourth or fifth day on, sweet milk are given regularly with every feed.

I am very particular in feeding the chicks regularly every two hours, and always remove what they don't eat up in a reasonable time. Cleanliness of brooder and brooder house are, of course, first essentials in order to keep chicks healthy.

Two years ago I raised about 500 chicks out of three hatches with a 200-egg capacity incubator. My first hatch last year was 71% of the fertile eggs, an excellent percentage, considering the early hatch done under the most unfavorable conditions as to climatic circumstances.

### Culture of the Tomato

John N. Watts, Frontenac Co., Ont.

The tomato plant demands a cultivation different in some respects to that of other plants.



A Panoramic View of a Portion of the Waste Sand Lands in Durham Co., Ont.

The field in the foreground at one time was part of a productive farm. Now it is occupied rent free, the company owning it realizing its insignificant value, allows the present occupant to retain and work the land, and has ceased to bother him at all concerning the interest on his mortgage. The hills in the distance are Counties' Council of Durham and Northumberland has asked the Ontario Government to advance money.

—Photo by an Editor of Farm and Dairy.

The success of growing tomatoes depends largely upon the starting of the young plants.

To secure good healthy, thrifty plants, sow the seed in March if required for very early, and about the first week in April for a general or late crop. Sow in a good warm hotbed but not too hot as too much heat forces too rapid a growth and consequently a weak delicate plant is produced.

Sow the seed thinly to produce good strong, stout, healthy plants. Sow in rows about five or six inches apart and cover to a depth of one inch. Before sowing the seed use a bushel or so of well sifted coal ashes, scattered over your hotbed and raked in to a depth of half an inch.

When the plants are to a third of three inches high transplant into a warm bed in gallon pots if so desired; or set out about 9 or 10 inches apart to prevent crowding and to produce a sturdy, stocky plant. Give plenty of fresh air on fine days and protect from frosts at night.

When all danger of frost is over, set the plants out in a well prepared piece of land which has had a liberal supply of well rotted manure plowed in the previous fall. A week or so after the plants have been set out give a gentle hoeing around the plants after which go through the rows twice in a place, once a week with a fine tooth cultivator till the plants cover the ground. The remainder of the work should be done with the hoe. In an ordinary season, not too dry, success is sure to follow.

### Some Alfalfa Queries Answered

While delivering an address on "Feeding the Dairy Cow," in Peterboro before a meeting of dairymen, Mr. Henry Glendinning, the well-known authority on alfalfa was asked a number of questions relating to this crop. These questions with Mr. Glendinning's answers, follow:

Q. Will alfalfa grow on wet low land?

A. No, one would only lose the seed.

Q. Will it grow on gravelly soil?

A. Yes, alfalfa often will do exceptionally well on such soils.

Q. How much seed do you use and how many crops will it give in a season?

A. The quantity of seed depends upon its source and its vitality. Of good seed, one should sow, from 15 to 25 pounds to the acre, 20 pounds being the quantity that we generally sow. There is danger in buying imported seed as we are liable to get new weeds. Alfalfa will grow two or three crops in a year. We only cut ours twice last year. We cut two big crops. It was a late spring and the second crop yielded as good as the first one which is an uncommon occurrence. We could have cut another crop. In early fall it was standing at least 13 inches high. Rather than cut it, I pre-

ferred to keep that top. Alfalfa is too valuable a crop not to give it proper care. It requires lots of top and while we might have cut or pastured it as many would, we found it best to leave that top there to protect it for winter.

At this juncture, Mr. Glendinning asked for a showing of hands as to how many in the meeting were growing alfalfa. Two hands went up. Mr. Glendinning counselled them not to pasture alfalfa for by so doing they might lose it. "I do not say," said Mr. Glendinning, "that you will lose it, but the probabilities are that you may. It pays to look out for the worst years. In a severe winter, if it has been previously pastured, there is quite a danger of losing alfalfa altogether. Had I known this when I first began to grow alfalfa, 14 years ago, it would have saved me a great deal of money. I used to keep the cattle off during the first year and then let them on it the next year. The following spring, I would not have much alfalfa. All alfalfa growers are coming to