



Summer Pasture for Cattle: Very Important

The Department of Agriculture is anxious to have the farmers reap the benefit of making provision for the hot, dry months

Winter feeding has been carefully studied and profitable methods are now employed. Haphazard methods are in vogue too often in the system of summer feeding. Pasture is plentiful until June 30th, and after August 31st. During July and August heat and drouth prevail, pastures become dry, flies are a serious pest, and live stock invariably have to meet this critical period of the summer season by a greater effort to secure sufficient food, with the inevitable result of a falling off in the milk supply, or a lack of general thrift in beef cattle.

The loss in milk reaches 30% of a normal year's yield. Throughout Ontario this loss becomes enormous.

Very often beef cattle are marketed in an unfinished condition late in June to avoid midsummer failing.

Profits are reduced to a minimum under ordinary systems of pasturing. A large amount of valuable food is actually lost every year.

During 1917 Canada can ill afford any loss which can be overcome with a little foresight. Every cow can be kept up to her normal milk flow during July and August, without extra labor, if summer pasture is provided. Beef animals will thrive regardless of the heat and drouth.

Additional food may be supplied by adopting a soiling system: crops, such as oats and peas, corn, etc., may be sown and made to return green forage throughout the season, and the results will be satisfactory. But labor to carry on this work is necessary.

Summer silage is excellent where provision has been made for a sufficient supply, but many have not and will not have this for 1917. One ton of silage will supply one cow, during July and August, with 30 lbs. per day.

The soiling system involves labor just when it is most needed upon the Ontario farm for harvesting, and when labor cannot be secured some branch of work must be neglected.

Now, no man is anxious to neglect any branch of the farm operations, so a system is required which will allow the cattle to collect their own supplementary food.

The Summer Pasture is the Remedy

Because no extra labor is required during the harvesting season.

Because the animals pasture in the ordinary way, and will retain normal condition.

Because crops can be sown which will give ample pasture, withstanding heat and drouth.

Because our ordinary grain crops make an excellent pasture—They will thrive.

Here is the seed required for one acre: 1 bushel of wheat, 1 bushel of oats, 1 bushel of barley, 7 lbs. of Red Clover.

Sow about May 20th or shortly after seeding of spring grain has ceased. The sowing is done when the spring rush of work is just over.

In one month six to seven inches of growth will take place and pasturing may be commenced. Rapid and thick growth takes place as the plants are eaten off. If not allowed to head out, growth will continue until late in August.

Red Clover thrives well because the shading is not too great, and the compacting of the soil by the cattle is of great advantage.

Results of Summer Pasture at O. A. C.

At Guelph Agricultural College in 1915; with less than one acre per head, the results were:

Seventy-five head of cattle, all over one year of age, were maintained on 28 acres of annual pasture, 8 acres of old natural pasture, and 30 acres of third-year sod, 66 acres in all, from first turning out in May, until August 20th. At that time 35 head were removed.

In 1916: A very dry, hot season, seventy-seven head were pastured on 34 acres of the annual pasture, and 36 acres of permanent pasture from the last of May to August 25th, without feeding one pound of silage or other coarse feed, and the milk flow of dairy cattle, and growth of beef cattle and young stock were kept at normal during the entire period. On Aug. 25th, one half the cattle were removed to other pasture, but the annual and permanent pasture was sufficient for the remaining cattle during the balance of the season.

Every farmer has the necessary seed. Provision can be made for the land. He can get just as good results and reap the benefit.

Every stockman can increase his profits by adopting such a system, because the cattle gather their own food, and labor is saved at a period when it is most valuable upon every farm.

Every stockman can add to the food supply of the Empire by adopting methods which will keep his stock in producing form throughout July and August. Every stockman should consider summer pastures most carefully.

Ontario Department of Agriculture

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