

BEEF AND DAIRY COMBINED.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Our cows are mostly Jersey, with a few Short-horns. If a beef calf is not a real good one, it is not worth raising; if it is a good one, it must be raised well, or raised at a loss. There are many easy ways of losing money in raising a calf for beef. The most common is to summer him on skim milk and grass. The flies usually get the blame for his slow growth. His first winter finds him a scrawny little fellow, and the winter usually adds very little in either flesh or growth. He goes thin onto his second summer's grass, but this time, if he has good grass, it does him very much more good than the first summer. His second winter begins to show what breeding he has. If he has done well enough to reach 1,000 to 1,200 pounds, John Campbell, of Woodville, or Thos. McMillan, of Seaforth, may buy him. These men are both skilled feeders, as well as close buyers; but, with a gain of 1½ to 2 pounds per day for an animal of that weight, the profit certainly cannot be very large—certainly not so much as the first man lost. Why starve a calf intended for beef for two years in order to feed him at a loss the third year? The use of the scales would indicate that that was bad policy. For the last four years we have been weighing calves intended for beef. We have been weighing some calves just now. Here are the weights of one of these: At between two and three weeks old he weighed 107 pounds. His nurse is a little old cow, with a few teeth left, that had nursed a calf last summer and stripped through the winter. Besides this, he gets milk warm from the separator, but not so much as he would take. He is nibbling ensilage, with a little ground oats and corn, and picking a little hay. In 25 days he had gained exactly 50 pounds, and in 19 days his gain was 41 pounds, thus in 44 days he had gained 91 pounds, or a little over 2 pounds per day. Now, if a little calf can make two pounds per day at that age, why wait till he is 1,200 pounds to get a pound and a half per day? Two other calves on a fresh cow that gives them so much milk that the amount of skim milk taken has been very little, made a gain of two pounds less in the same time, which would indicate that a calf does not require much new milk, provided he has sufficient skim milk to give him growth. Any one who has been weighing calves will find nothing startling in these figures. Four years ago, a calf kept going from the start, made, at 10½ months old, over 900 pounds, and the average since at that age has been from 850 to a little over 900 pounds. We have one now, a little under ten month that tips the beam at 911 lbs., and is gaining at the rate of 3½ pounds per day. He was not good enough to go with four others that were sold in February. Since that he has been getting ten quarts skim milk from separator morning and night. His mate could not be induced to take skim milk, and is making a gain of a shade less than two pounds per day. We think it is safe to assume that this extra weight could not be made without the use of skim milk, and that the average weights could have been increased if the supply of skim milk had always been sufficient.

By adopting this plan of feeding, we have no yearlings, two-year-olds or three-year-olds, unless heifers that are intended for milkers.

THOS. B. SCOTT & SON.

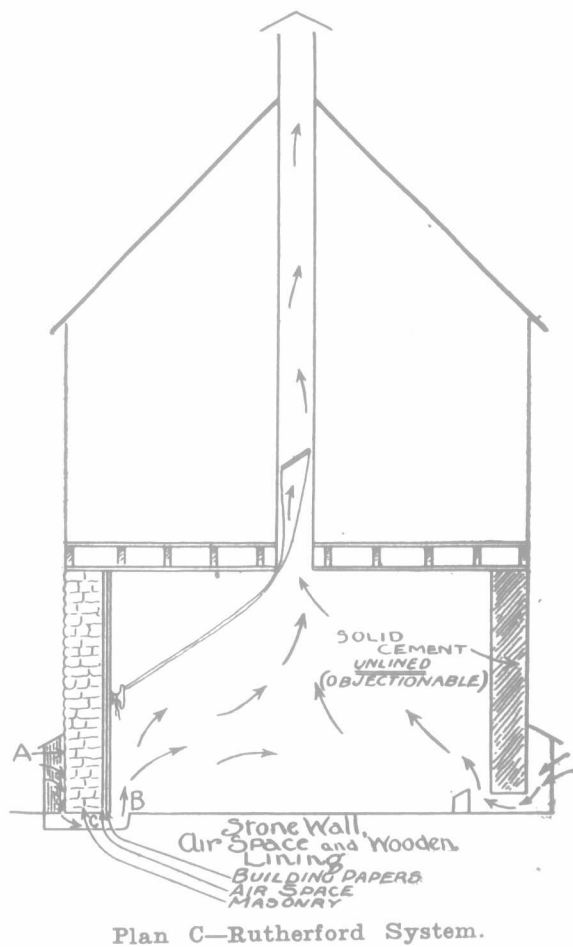
Middlesex Co., Ont.

SPRING POETRY ON THE HOG QUESTION.

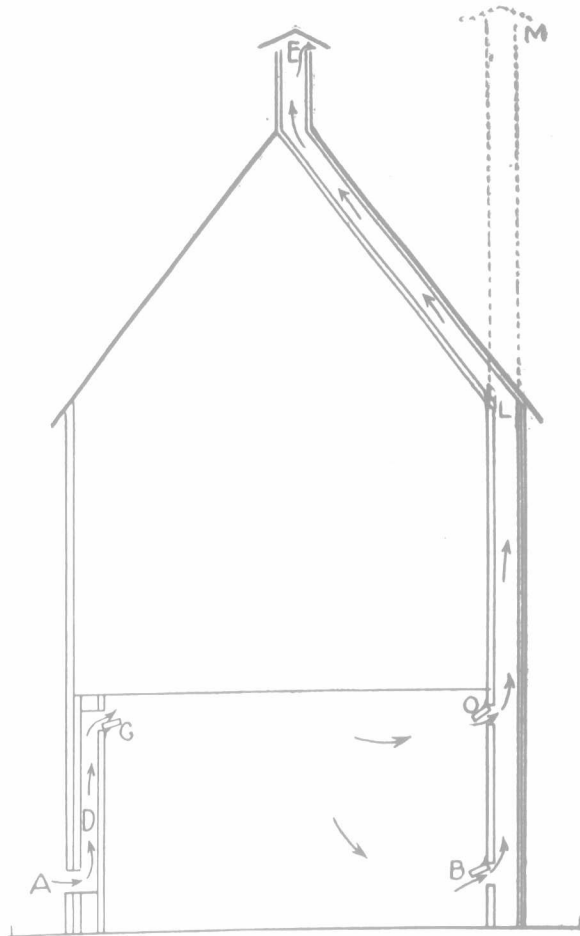
Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I would like to say a few words on the hog question. I am not writing this in any spirit of harshness towards anyone, but I noticed in the issue of March 12th, Prof. Day writes again and says the figures he has offered are the best he has, and would welcome additional facts regarding this important industry. Now, as I have read with pleasure the letters from Prof. Day, J. C. T. and J. G., I would like to say a few words in regard to Prof. Day's letter of December 5th. I think, in his letter, that he is trying to show that there is more money made in the hog industry than there really is, as he seems to make light of pigs being sold at 50 cents each at weaning time, or slaughtered to stop their demand for food, and I am sure there are plenty of farmers in this part of the country who would have been more money in pocket by giving away or slaughtering their hogs last fall, considering the prices of grain and of pork all through the winter. He also says of farm animals, and especially hogs, consume and turn into valuable meat many products which would have otherwise been wasted, and I cannot agree with him there, as all feed, except a little kitchen swill, is as good as the money. He goes on to show that, in selling the grain, instead of feeding it to the hogs, he has sold a lot of valuable fertility, and hence will lessen his next year's crop; but, as I have been in the habit of keeping a great many hogs, I have proved for myself that the quantity of fertility you would get from hogs,

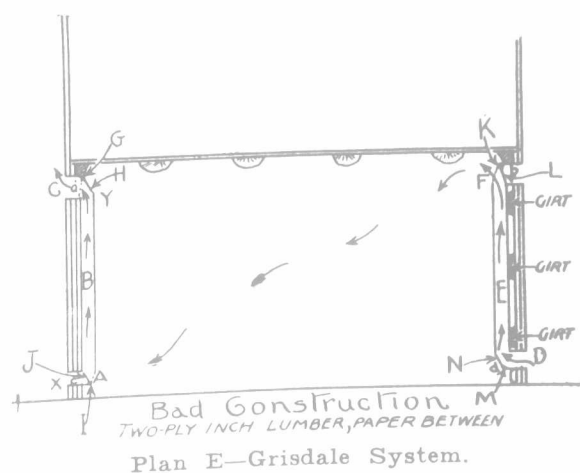
although rich in value, is such a small bulk that, if a farm were not built up until it was built up from keeping hogs, it would be a long time before it was much richer. In speaking of what the pigs were fed, and who fed them, J. C. T. says, in December 26th issue, that there are not many farmers who have bran, shorts and skim milk for their hogs; and Prof. Day, in another letter,



Plan C—Rutherford System.



Plan D—King System.



Plan E—Grisdale System.

thinks that J. C. T. has misunderstood him, and wants to make it plain that two-thirds of the hogs were fed by hard-headed, intelligent farmers, and not at the College. But I cannot see that it makes any difference whether they were fed at the College or by farmers. Now, all will agree with me that hogs will do much better with the skim milk and middlings than without them. Gaining at the rate these hogs gained, at 5 cents per pound live weight, they would return \$23.87 per ton for meal, 20 cents per hundredweight for skim milk, and 10 cents per bushel for roots. We will grant him the skim milk and roots at the values he states, but just look into the grain question. The prices that were paid early last fall and this winter were as follows: Peas, 90 cents; barley, 85 cents, and oats 50 cents. These three grains will average a fraction over \$31.60 per ton, and \$1.00 for chopping will make \$32.60 per ton. Now, take \$23.87 per ton, which he got for his meal that was fed to the hogs, from the \$32.60, and you will see that the farmer is losing \$8.73 on every ton of chop that he feeds, if he is only getting 5 cents for his hogs, not saying anything about driving horses through the snow banks after the chop. And I don't find it as Prof. Day says, that you can always feed it just as it comes from the machine, as sometimes there is small, bitter seeds in it, and if you chop it that way the hogs won't eat it. Now, if that's the way they gained when fed properly, with lots of skim milk, how under the sun will a farmer feed them, if he has a lot, and make money, when he has to pour in the cold water with the chop. I think if we could make them eat straw and hay, and chew their cud, we might make some money out of them.

Now, I have not said it all,
As my thought are few and small,
But I hope you'll agree with me, one and all,
That the farmer in his place
Has to run a very hard race;
And that all you print or do
Will be to help the farmer through.

But, as for my part, I expect to do as Prof. Day told those other gentlemen to do—drop out of the hog business.
HENRY ARNOLD.
York Co., Ont.

THE FARM.

MANGEL - SOWING WITH GRAIN DRILL.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

As the time for mangel seeding is come, and we have ours sowed, I thought perhaps others would like to use our plan. Take a common grain drill (ours is a 10-hoe Champion), have the hoes all in line, then take off all but two, the third from the right and the fourth from the left. This makes it sow from 24 to 30 inches apart. Then put a cultivator tooth on each side of each hoe for covering with. Take a piece of wire, and fasten the hoe to the left at the front of the machine, so as not to let the seed drop too deep. Fill the cup in the drill box with seed (just the one sowing), which will be enough to sow forty rods or more. The seed can be carried in a dish or box in the seeder, and filled any time. Set the index pointer at between 2 and 3 pecks on the lowest line, and it will sow about 4 pounds per acre. Roll before and after sowing. When sowing, the hoe can be raised or lowered by the length of wire, according to depth wanted, and the cultivator teeth make a little drill and a good guide, as the wheel goes back in the cultivator tooth mark every time.

Ripley, Ont.

YOUNG FARMER.

FOUNDATION FOR STABLE FLOOR.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

On page 779, your answer to correspondent reads: "A good clay bottom, well rammed, if necessary, to make it solid, is as good a foundation for laying a concrete floor as can be had. Having had many years' experience with concrete floors, I have come to the conclusion that no concrete floor should be laid directly on the earth, as the cement always has a tendency to draw moisture from the earth; therefore, you will have a damp, raw, cold floor. My plan is to under-drain around the building first, then grade at the lowest point 18 inches, at the highest point 12 inches, deeper than the concrete, this to be filled with any kind of stone, large in the bottom and smaller towards the top, on which the cement is to be laid. This plan gives a floor that one could sleep on. Many floors have been condemned as being damp for no other reason than simply that of the cement drawing moisture from below."

JOHN FIXTER.

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