

## The Holstein in its Home Land

D. Schoenmaker, Hoogkarspel, Holland

From the last days of April or the first of May until the last of November our cows remain on our natural pastures. We prefer our permanent pasture to new-made meadows. The cows are out on pasture day and night and get no other food during the summer. Milking is always done out of doors in summer.

The cows are stabled during the winter. The most common feeds are meadow hay and linseed cake. We feed many other kinds of feeding stuffs, and plenty of them too, but hay and linseed cake are standbys. Very few cattle raisers have land which is ever cultivated. All the grain feeds therefore have to be purchased. The linseed cake which we feed contains 30 per cent. protein and 10 per cent. fat.

We plan to have our cows freshen during the latter part of February or in March. They will then give plenty of milk on winter feed and just as they are beginning to slacken up in flow, they go out on pasture and a large flow of milk is resumed.

The Holstein cow of extreme dairy type is not in favor with breeders in this country. A cow of this type is not hardly enough. She is too sensible to changes in the weather, especially in the autumn. If such a cow contracts some disease in her udder or for some other reason her owner finds that she is not profitable, she practically has to be thrown away as the carcass is of little use for beef. We aim to produce a dual purpose cow; a cow giving a large flow of milk with a high percentage of fat and which will after three or four years of use in the dairy make first-class beef.

Among the different Herd Books, which we have is the "Bond van Fakvereenging". It has for its purpose the registration of cows that have produced a certain amount of milk and fat. Members of this society register their heifers before they have had their first calf in what we call the "Interim Herd Book". These animals are marked by indentations on their horns. When they freshen, an official of the society tests their yield of milk, fat, and solids not fat, once a month during the first two milking periods. If the animal has produced the required amount of milk in the two years, she is registered in the herd book.

A cow of poor conformation even if she does produce the required amount of milk cannot be registered. A registered cow is marked by a button in the ear. On one side of the button is the number of the herd book and on the other the mark of the union. If a cow gives a very large flow of milk, rich in fat, she may be registered after only one milking period, but we believe that a two year test is more accurate.

Calves to be registered must be sired by bulls, the dams of which are registered in the advanced herd book. The farmer must warn the official in charge of the herd book within three days of the birth of the calf. The young animal is then sketched and entered in the herd book for calves. This only applies to calves whose dams have answered the requirements in the production of milk and fat.

### PRODUCTION FOR REGISTRATION

For two, three and four-year-old cows, there are different requirements as to the amount of

fat and solids not fat that they must produce to be eligible for registration in the advanced herd book; also a cow with less than three per cent. of fat in her milk, has to give more pounds of fat than a cow that gives milk testing over three per cent. If the cow however, does not test over 2.8 per cent. fat, she cannot be registered. The requirements for registration are as follows:

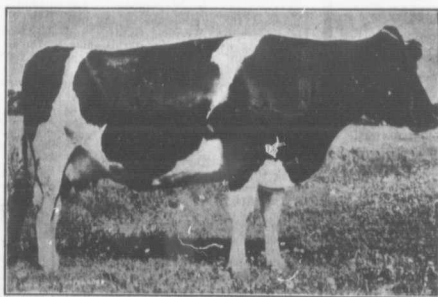
	LBS. FAT	SOLIDS NOT FAT
Two years old.....	187.34	551
Three years old.....	220.40	617.12
Four years old.....	264.48	749.35
Over four years.....	286.52	804.46

## Selection and Storage of Seed Corn

N. B. Stuart, Oxford Co., Ont.

Last spring great trouble was experienced all over Ontario in getting a good stand of corn. Many fields in almost every section had to be reseeded. It has practically become necessary if we are to get good corn to select and store our own seed corn.

Next spring just before corn planting is a poor time to look around for good seed. Now is the time to prepare for a profitable corn crop next season. When husking the corn, throw aside the best ears to be kept for seed. A good ear of



"Juliana" a Three-year-old Holstein in Holland

Notice that this cow is not of the extreme dairy type. She is one of the cows in the herd of Mr. D. Schoenmaker, who contributed the adjoining article especially to Farm and Dairy. After dropping her second calf in 1909, "Juliana" (three years old) in 360 days gave 10,851 lbs. milk, testing 3.09 per cent. fat. Her chest measure, just behind the shoulders, on May 23 last, when this photo was taken, was two yards, and 13 inches.

corn is one of good size, but not too large, the rows straight and well kernelled over the butt and tip. Mature corn, when gathered, has 25 to 35 per cent. of moisture. Stored in the ordinary way in the corn crib, this moisture freezes and the germs of the corn are often destroyed, making it useless for seed purposes.

### STORING THE SEED

The same day that the seed corn is selected the husked ears should be put in a dry place where there is a free circulation of air and in such a manner that the ears do not touch each other. Braiding the corn by the husks and suspending from the ceiling of a dry room is a first class way of getting rid of the excess moisture and insuring the safe keeping of the seed. Where a large amount of corn is used, however, corn racks are necessary. These can be readily made by having shelves made of slats two or three inches apart.

After hanging in the shed or lying on the racks for two months, the seed ears should be as "dry as a bone" and contain less than 10 per cent. of moisture. If it is desired, they can then be stored in barrels or boxes during the winter, but in any case, they should not be exposed to dampness. Seed corn so treated will give a good stand and there will be no trouble owing to the corn not germinating.

Of course this selection of ears when husking

is by no means the best method of getting good seed corn. To get the best results, every farmer should have a corn breeding patch and use only ears from high producing stalks. Hand selection of ears this fall, however, will be better than risking a poor stand of corn next spring.

## Some Benefits of Fall Plowing

J. R. Westlake, Carleton Co., Ont.

In preparing the land for almost all our common crops, fall plowing is to be preferred to spring plowing. One of the most important points in getting a first-class crop of grain is to have the seed in the ground as early in the spring as possible. A difference of one week in the date of seeding of crops may make a difference in yield of eight to 10 bushels. Fall plowing reduces the work on the land in the spring and makes it possible to get this extra week of growth for the grain crops. We all know that there is plenty of work to be done in the spring in preparing the land and getting in the crop without having to plow.

Fall plowing also provides the conditions which change the plant food in the soil into such a form that it is immediately available for the use of the young crops. In sod land, a large portion of the plant food is in the form of organic matter which is insoluble. Plants can only make use of plant food when it has been reduced to soluble forms. Fall plowing by breaking up the sod gives natural agencies a chance to reduce their mineral compounds are also acted on by the frost and air and by alternate freezing and thawing rendered available. The young crop next spring, therefore, will have close at hand, a large supply of soluble plant food to give it the start which is essential to a good crop.

### MOISTURE CAPACITY INCREASED

The success of any crop is dependent to a large extent on the moisture which is stored in the soil during the fall and winter months. Even with the large rainfall that we have in Ontario, all crops use at least twice as much moisture as is brought to them in the rainfall during the growing season. Any practice therefore by which we are enabled to increase the store of moisture in the ground is of great importance in ensuring a good growth the following season. Plowed land will absorb more moisture, has a larger capillary capacity, and will therefore hold moisture better than land in sod. This is one of the strongest arguments in favor of fall plowing.

Unless land is plowed at a very favorable time in the spring, it is difficult to work it down to a fine seed bed. We who have had experience know how exasperating it is to have to wait, some times for a couple of weeks, to get the land in a suitable condition for plowing when we know the crops should be in the ground. If we lose patience and do not wait for suitable conditions but plow when the land is wet, we have a lumpy seed-bed and unfavorable conditions for germination. All the work which we can then do will not bring such land into good condition that season. On the other hand when land is plowed in the fall, we are free to go straight ahead with our work in the spring.

### DESTRUCTIVE INSECT PESTS

The only way in which many insect pests which have become very destructive in late years, can be combated, is by fall plowing. White grubs and the larvae of the May beetles, which have been so destructive in some localities in the past season, can be checked to a large extent by plowing quite late in the fall. The little cells which they have formed to spend the winter in are broken up by plowing and the insects die in consequence. Grasshoppers and wire worms are checked also by fall plowing.

One copy of the April 8th issue of Farm and Dairy is worth one full year's subscription price. —C. Robbins, Lincoln Co., Ont.