

Nature's plan is for a cow to give sufficient milk, that her offspring may get a fairly good start in life, then the cow "dries up" and the calf picks a living from nature's food, grass.

When man began to study the problem, he stepped between the cow and calf and thereby obtained more milk from the cow, and also raised a better calf for dairy purposes. He was able to do this by persistently milking the cow, thus increasing the flow of milk at each milking and extending the length of time during which the cow produced milk—say from three months, to nine or ten, and in some cases, twelve months of the year. The calf was, and is, reared on whole milk for a time, then is fed skim milk and substitutes for the cream. In this way the cow produced more milk and the calf developed an organism better suited for milk production, if not so good for beef-making.

Instead of depending on grass alone, the dairymen perceived that while grass is, and always will be nature's food for producing milk, it is not a dependable food. Scorching sun and drying wind, wither the plants that nature intended for cows and other animals, consequently the hungry cows look up and are not fed. Nature is a fickle dame. She starts out in the spring full of promise to her trusting spouse. It has always been so easy to "fool a man", but even the most foolish fools learn, after a time, not to trust, where trust has been betrayed a number of times. Because of this, wise dairymen do not "trust-to-luck", or trust in nature, which is much the same thing, for feed-supply during the summer time. (Long ago Canadian cow owners learned to provide for winter feeding by storing surplus crops.)

SOILING AND SILAGE CROPS

Without going into details regarding these two classes of crops, we should like to emphasize the importance of growing at least some crops to supplement the pastures of 1916. What 1916 has in store for us, no one knows, but it is hardly likely to be so good a season for grass as was 1915, which will be long remembered as the best year for pasture in the history of dairying in Ontario. It is estimated that the cows of the Province increased their average milk-yield by from 500 to 700 lbs. each. There are approximately one million milk cows in Ontario. An increase of 500 lbs. per cow means an increase of five hundred million pounds of milk, which at the low price of one dollar per hundred pounds means an increased value of five million dollars for milk alone, during last season. Why? Because the "weather-man" was kind enough to provide frequent showers, which caused the grass to grow abundantly, thereby the cows were well-fed and the milk-flow was stimulated. Neither men nor cows worked more than in ordinary seasons, to any appreciable extent, but it was a case of favorable weather conditions. We cannot control the weather, but we can circumvent it, by growing crops, not so easily affected by dry weather conditions as is the case with grass. Such crops as peas and oats, peas, vetches and oats, alfalfa, and corn should find a place on every dairy farm. They are preferably sown near the barn so as to be convenient for feeding. It is also best to sow the grain crop at two or three intervals, so that they may not all be ready for feeding at one time. That not needed for soiling purposes may be made into hay for winter feeding.

Corn Silage is the best supplementary