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SONS
TORONTO



AND AGRICULTURE
The Recognized Exponent of Dairying in Canada
Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham
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Shall We Feed Grain to Cows on Pasture?

Two Ontario Dairy Farmers Say "Yes"; a Third Makes Exceptions. What Do You Think?

Grain in June Emphasized.

At a dairy meeting in Eastern Ontario some five years ago a speaker from Ottawa, a man with an abundance of practical experience in the handling of dairy cows, made the statement that grain benefits from a discontinuance of grain feeding during the month of June, but that the grain ration should be continued as soon as pastures showed the least tendency to fall. This statement of the speaker's views called forth considerable discussion. A few good dairymen held to the belief that cows should have grain every day in the year. Other equally experienced men agreed with the speaker. A few there were who did not think that grain feeding in summer could be made profitable at all if soiling crops were provided in abundance. A general deduction from the discussion would be that, even in poorer years, there was no general agreement among dairymen as to the profitableness of summer grain feeding.

And what about experimental evidence? On this point our agricultural colleges and experimental farms are almost silent. There is very little conclusive experimental work on record. Apparently, for the present at least, every farmer must decide for himself as to the wisdom of summer grain feeding. The problem, too, is now complicated by the high price and scarcity of feeding stuffs. Milk prices have advanced, but has the advance been in proportion with the increase in the cost of feed? On this point Farm and Dairy has solicited the opinions of several good dairy farmers, and three of the replies received are published herewith. We would welcome letters from others of our readers who have formed conclusions of their own on this important problem in dairy farm management.

Feed Grain at All Times.

A GREAT many dairymen have a perplexing problem on their hands this year. It is to decide whether or not it will be a paying investment to supplement the pastures by the addition of a grain ration, as a great many have been doing in former years. Many feel that the high price of grain makes the practice almost prohibitive this year. The most commonly used grain for this purpose has been oats, but oats are now beyond the reach of the average dairymen, who is in the business for profit. My own experience in the past leads me to believe that we cannot afford to neglect the cows, as the great industry we represent is just coming into its own, and, although, for a few weeks at present, when pasture is green and luxuriant, we may not notice any direct benefit from supplementary grain rations, yet there will be an indirect gain.

When the herd is turned out to pasture, the extra exercise they are forced to take causes a great loss in weight, and it will necessarily follow that they will not retain the ability to continue maximum production when the pastures commence to dry up and the hot weather arrives. And the only cow that is making real money for her owner is the one that stays on the job all through her lactation period. I am fully decided that to neglect this important matter even on account of prevailing high prices will result in heavy financial loss on full supply, and will require an extra amount when they are again stabled to bring them back into good condition as they were when turned out. Shortly I have found to be the cheapest feed on the market, and, with the addition of a little oil cake meal, good results will be obtained. It takes just as much feed to maintain the body of the cow as what you can get her to consume over that amount, profitably, is where the dairyman makes his profit. Too many of us dairymen endeavor to see how little we can make a cow live on, while the real profit comes from trying to discover how much food she will consume and yield accordingly.—F. Smith, Perth Co., Ont.

WE believe in feeding a grain ration steadily the year round, and particularly in the summer months. In such dry falls as we had last year, it is very important that the cows should not be allowed to fall in milk and in flesh, and come in the stable in poor condition to start the winter. We will try to describe conditions as they are in our herd to-day in regard to feeds, and what our summer feeding will be.

On hand we have bran, oats, speltz (Russian barley), pea pickings (or screenings) and oil cake. The mixture used is 100 lbs. of each, and from six to eight pounds of meal per cow each day will keep the cattle in good health and assist very much in preventing scouring when they first go out on grass. This is the time when most cows are allowed to go without meal, but it should be the last time to neglect meal feeding, as most cows scour more or less after the sort of grass. With good pasture and a fair allowance of grain, the cows will pay a good dividend, and when the pasture is low, silage or green feed should be substituted in its place. We think it profitable to sow a few Greystones turnips for fall feeding. We pull them, tops and all, and draw them out on the sod. A quarter of an acre planted to pumpkins, but only good soil. It is just the steady good feeding which maintains the steady milk flow, and it is the even monthly cheques that enables the farmer to buy grain and still have a mar-

gin left. We realize the great scarcity of purchased farm help, and it is difficult to say what may come of some of the large dairy herds; but a few cows well fed oftentimes pay better than a larger number poorly fed.—A. D. Foster & Sons, Prince Edward Co., Ont.

No Grain Unless Pasture and Supplements Fall.

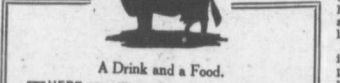
SHALL we feed concentrates during the present summer? This is a question which many dairy farmers are thinking about these days, and one which is of considerable importance at this time of high prices for both feed and milk. It is my purpose to look at the subject from the viewpoint of the average farmer, whether he be keeping pure breeds or grades, who is selling his milk at market prices and is depending on the proceeds therefrom, rather than from the sale of pure bred stock, for his yearly income. This is a question which can be remedied by being given in answer. Conditions differ and prices differ both of milk and the feeds to be bought. My opinion, however, founded on a few years' experience in producing milk, is that, at present prices, we should, as far as possible, plan our pastures so that it is possible to discontinue feeding concentrates during the summer months. However, there is a limit to all things, and this limit must be considered. I think the safest course is, first, to go to the very limit of what can be done with roughage, and then add whatever quantity of concentrates will give the most profitable results.

With a quantity of ensilage to feed when the pastures begin to fall, a small quantity of some concentrate, rich in protein, is advisable. If the cattle are abundant leguminous pasture, whether it be alfalfa, sweet clover or other crop, there is very little necessity for grain feeding.

The secret of the ability to do without grain feeding during the summer months lies in the proper planning of the summer crops, that at all times the milk cows have an abundance of luxuriant pasture of some kind, and I believe that more farmers fall down at just this point than at any other. There are very few farms where at some time or another the milk cows do not find themselves short of pasture and compelled to lessen their yield, if supplementary feeding is not carried on. This is a condition which should not be and which can be remedied by careful timing of the various crops and fields on the farm. Even at the best there are miscalculations, and if the feeding is necessary, it is a question of how many times the farmer has been counting on his pasture holding out till some field, which he expects to be able to turn the cows on, will be ready. Possibly he intends to take the hay off and give them the after grass, but he has been hindered by bad weather and cannot have it ready soon enough. Possibly there is some piece of rough land that he is expecting to have ready around before his other pasture failed. Possibly his annual pasture crop failed to grow, or possibly a few feet of silage in the bottom of the silo, which he was saving for the dry time, went and was not fit for feed. In any case, his plans have gone wrong, and he has not the feed ready when his cows demand it.

When to Feed Grain Liberally.

In such cases as these it pays to feed grain and to feed liberally, if necessary. Under no conditions should the yield be allowed to suffer a drop just because the cows were short of pasture for a week or so, for any dairymen knows that if the yield goes down during mid-summer it simply stays down, and may result in the loss of a few hundred dollars' worth of milk during the rest of the season. However, if properly planned, there should be a continuous supply of good pasture even during the dry spell of July (Continued on page 9.)



A Drink and a Food.

THERE are still people in the world, and no small number of them, who look upon food as something that is eaten with a fork and a knife. They honestly believe that, because of their drink to class milk liquid, it gives a milk the right—something in its way, but still a milk beverage. However, the fact is that a food depends not upon whether it is solid or liquid, but upon its ability to build the body and furnish energy to it.

There is an extensive supply of the most valuable proteins. Protein is the body-repairing. It is indispensable also for building materials in the shape of sugar. Thus, and that very fact indicates its importance to body-milk for supplying protein to children. In water, a quart of milk contains an ounce of balanced protein—that is, an amount equal to what is found either in "egg," from six to eight ounces of medium fat meat, four ounces of whole milk, or six ounces of dried navy beans, or a twelve-ounce loaf of white or whole-wheat bread.

Along with protein milk also gives the body plentiful supply of fat. In addition to the protein, carbohydrates in the shape of sugar. Thus, whole milk is made up about as follows: Water, 87 per cent; protein, 3.2 per cent; fat, 4 per cent, and sugar, 5 per cent.

From such close examination of the materials which go to make up milk it is easy to see why it is so valuable a food for growing children. It is not merely because of its structural sugar, and mineral salts, its fuel fat and sugar, and its stimulating vitamins, but because of the balanced relations between them. And because of its easy digestibility, that milk is so essential to the normal growth in childhood and youth.—U. S. Food Administration.