

Alfalfa the Dairyman's Best Feed.

H. R. Nizon, Brant Co., Ont.

Thirty-five years ago I sowed my first field of alfalfa, eight acres. I did not know enough at that time to cut it early. I cut it about July 1st to 10th,—same time as we used to cut mixed clover and timothy. Of course, we lost nearly all the leaves and only got the hard dry stalks, which were little use for food. I decided that alfalfa was no use for hay. We always pastured it after the first cutting with the natural result that it soon died out.

I have learned something about alfalfa since then. We have been growing it ever since, but have changed our methods. We now cut it June 20th and twice afterward the same season and never on any consideration turn a hoof of any kind on it to pasture excepting where it is sown especially for hog pasture in small fields near the pens. I have frequently seen these fields totally killed in one season by close pasturing with hogs.

THE VERY BEST FEED.

I consider alfalfa much superior to any other kind of hay for dairy cows, especially the second and third cuttings. The first cutting is apt to grow a little coarse, especially if not a thick stand.

I always sow 20 pounds of seed to the acre. I now have 20 acres seeded to alfalfa and am preparing to sow 20 acres more this spring. I have fed alfalfa twice a day to our dairy cows since July 7th last as pasture was short last season, we fed green corn as well and of course ensilage in winter. I cannot too highly recommend alfalfa to dairy farmers.

What Should He Do?

Mr. Walter Payne, a Farm and Dairy subscriber in Victoria Co., N.B., wants to get better dairy stock. He writes Farm and Dairy as follows:

"Would it pay me to sell my cows that produce annually from 6,000 to 7,000 pounds of milk and get right into pure bred stock? Or would it be better to get a good bull and keep the cows I have? I would like to know what some of your readers think of my problem?"

Mr. F. R. Mallory, Hastings Co., Ont., whose success as a breeder of Holstein cattle is well known to Farm and Dairy readers, deals with Mr. Payne's queries in the following manner:

"There is no doubt about the financial success of pure bred stock both as milk producers and money getters from the sale of surplus stock. A new enjoyment also is taken out of the dairy business from a breeder's standpoint, viz., in competition of the breeds, in competition of individuals of the breed, in being one of those who are by act as well as word, placing the dairy stock business upon a higher plane. I would say a pure bred herd every time for interest in our work, ambition to succeed and profit from the business.

"The means of acquiring the herd is one for W. P. to decide, according to his means. By buying a pure bred sire and several females the mixed stock can gradually be eliminated in a few years, with a comparatively small investment.

"The man with the nerve to sell out what he has and buy what he wants usually succeeds even better than the one who is more conservative in

his methods. Of course, the latter way means more capital invested at the present price of pure bred stock. But the future of the pure bred dairy cattle industry looks good to me. Capital invested by a careful man will certainly pay a good interest on the investment."

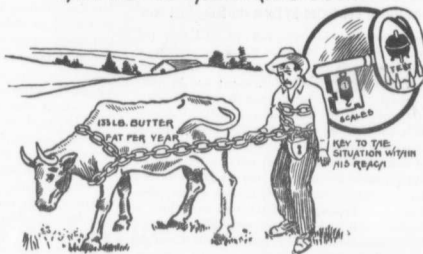
We invite others of our readers to give their experiences in improving their dairy herds. There are many thousands of our dairy farmers who are in exactly the same quandary as Mr. Payne.

Our Pure Bred Dairy Cattle.

A. S. Turner & Son, Wentworth Co., Ont.

We bred pure bred dairy cattle because we

CHAINED TO THE WRONG COW



OVER THE HILLS TO THE POORHOUSE

have found them more profitable in our own personal experience. For 15 years we had grade cows and a grade stock bull. Then we purchased a registered Yorkshire bull. We found that one cross produced much more profitable cows than we had been keeping. We continued to use a pure bred sire from year to year with increasing success.

Seeing the great improvements in our herd we decided to branch off into pure bred stock entirely, for in so doing we were getting the highest ideal of the dairy cow. We can now easily sell our calves when dropped at an average of \$50 a head, whereas grades are worth a comparatively small amount. Besides being more profitable, pure bred cattle are far more beautiful than grades. One can take more interest in a pure bred animal. We found that when we got pure bred stock our interest urged us to get our stock to the highest standard possible.

Our first consideration is the milking qualities of our cattle as that is where we get the most profit. We believe in weighing each cow's milk as milked. There is no other way of doing it correctly. For this reason we consider the record of performance work is a grand thing for the country, as it gives every breeder a chance to know what his cows are giving, and he has an authentic record of present to purchasers. Even were our cows not pure bred we would still weigh their milk to know if they were profitable or not.

For a Bigger, Better Crop of Corn

Myles Hartley, Oxford Co., Ont.

Our dairy farmers cannot afford longer to talk with the corn crop. The amount of corn that is grown for ensilage on our farms is a comparatively small amount in comparison with what might be grown with great profit to ourselves. Corn is the king of crops. There is no crop that we dairymen should value more highly. It will give us more cow feed per acre than any other crop we can grow. It combines succulence and palatability, hence for those of us who practice winter dairying it is invaluable. We ourselves after feeding it for many years consider ensilage an indispensable part of the ration. We do not know of any better motto that dairymen could adopt for the season of 1912 than "A Bigger, Better Crop of Corn."

We see by the provincial reports that the acreage of corn grown for ensilage purposes in Ontario increased from 327,627 acres in 1910 to 335,935 acres in 1911. If we mistake not the signs of the times, the increase in 1912 will be much greater than in the previous year. We should ask ourselves the question, Are we getting the best value in feed from that acreage?

DOUBLE THE PRODUCTION POSSIBLE.

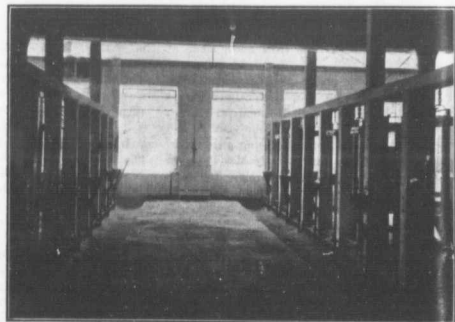
Referring again to the official statistics we find that in 1911 the average corn crop was only a little over 10 tons per acre. There is no reason why it should not be 15 tons and in many cases farmers in our own section have gotten 20 tons an acre of good ensilage from a large area. We doubt very much also, if the quality of the most of the corn harvested for ensilage is as high as it might be. We have seen corn put in the silo that should have contained twice as much feed value a ton. It was green, watery stuff at which any respectable cow would turn up its nose. We should aim for both quality and quantity in the corn crop.

We grow from 15 to 18 acres of corn for ensilage each year. Our farm is laid out in four large fields and we follow a rotation of corn and roots followed by grain, clover one year and then pasture. This rotation combined with a large hoe crop, we find excellent for maintaining soil fertility and keeping the land free of weeds.

WHY WE FAVOR SPRING PLOWING.

We are inclined to favor spring plowing for the corn crop but on heavy clay soil it may be better to plow in the fall in order that the land

Concluded on Page 15.



Good Stables Have a Big Influence on Production and Profits

The stables here illustrated are almost ideal for economy in labor, comfort for the cows and the maintaining of the health of the herd. Notice the individual watering device, the simplicity of arrangement, the comfortable stanchions and the abundance of light in these stables. The ventilation also is of the best. Cows in such a stable as this one will yield maximum returns for the feed and care expended on them.

—Photo taken in stable at Central Farm, Ottawa.

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