

Co-operation Among Fruit Growers

W. H. Chandler, Columbia, Mo.

The growth of co-operation among fruit growers in the United States and Canada has been very rapid during the past 10 years. While there have undoubtedly been many failures, taken as a whole, co-operation has unquestionably been a great success. In many sections the growers have been greatly benefited in price, and in increased production and quality. The year before the Ozark Fruit Growers' Association began operations in Missouri, many strawberry growers were going out of the business because of poor prices. Largely through the efforts of this association, the strawberry business is probably the most prosperous of any agricultural business in the state.

BENEFITS OF CO-OPERATION

Some of the benefits of co-operation are: It enables small growers to ship in car lots. The crop may be distributed so as to prevent glut in the market. It enables the growers to establish a brand that will be known in the markets, and will thus insure better prices. It makes possible better business methods in dealing with the fruit buyers, transportation companies, etc. It enables a community to make use of varieties of fruit that for any reason it may not be desirable to grow except in small quantities. It generally brings better equipment, such as cold storage plants, for handling the fruits of a section. It insures better care of the orchards. In nearly all cases it results in greater stability of the industry.

DIFFICULTIES IN THE WAY

Some of the difficulties in the way of co-operation are: (1) Since the chief benefits from co-operation are in distributing the crop and establishing a reputation for the section, independent growers in a section where an association is located will receive these benefits and get nearly as good prices as members of the association. Since this is true, independent growers will be slow to come into the association, and members

co-operation is in establishing a grade that will be rigidly maintained from year to year. For this reason co-operation in the apple business must necessarily begin on a small scale and enlarge as the growers become accustomed to rigidly maintaining a high standard.

A Discussion of Soiling Crops

D. D. Gray, Farm Foreman, C. E. F., Ottawa.

Soiling crops as a means to supply green foods for cows, to supplement pastures when they become short and dry, cannot be over-estimated. For although the grass may be plentiful yet it becomes dry and loses its succulence and is not suited for milk production. Hence the necessity of having some soiling crops or succulent food to supplement the pastures.

The list of soiling crops is a long one, but those most adapted for our purposes are peas and oats, vetches and clover, and corn. Where alfalfa can be grown it stands as one of the best for summer feeding, as it can be cut two or three times at least during the season. Soiling crops are valuable insofar as they are palatable, nutritious, abundant in growth and the length of time they remain succulent.

HAVE CROPS AVAILABLE WHEN NEEDED

It is wise to make provision by growing some of these so that they will be available when needed, for most of us have found that dry spells come and down goes the milk yield, and it generally stays down when allowed to drop off at this time of the year for any length of time. Crops that are cultivated while growing are safer to grow to supply soiling food, as they suffer less from drought than other crops. For instance, it is possible to grow a good crop of corn in a season too dry to obtain a good crop of peas and oats.

The feeding of ensilage as a soiling food is growing rapidly in favor. It can be conveniently fed and the supply assured, as the crop is grown the year before. It also has another advantage in that it can be fed without requiring any horse

Handling Dairy Cows For Record Work

Possibly few if any of our dairy cattle breeders have been as successful at dairy cattle record work as have Messrs. D. C. Platt & Son, the well known Holstein breeders of Wentworth Co., Ont. Recently one of the editors of Farm and Dairy spent a few hours with the Messrs. Platt looking over their stock and farm. For the benefit of Farm and Dairy readers we questioned Mr. Platt, Sr., as to how he made these records, and he replied: "Would you be any good in your position and for the work you are doing if you were not prepared for it? The same principle applies to a cow. We have got to prepare a cow before she will make a record."

"It is not necessary to dry up a cow to get a record. A cow must be developed from year to year if she is to excel in record work, and the only way to develop a cow is to keep her milking. We never dry up a cow in order to get a record, and we will not do it. The only cow we ever dried up in order to get her record did not accomplish anything."

A COW REQUIRES TWO MONTHS' REST

"A cow requires to be dry for two months in any case, and if we do not give her this rest she will take it out of us in her decreased production during the following lactation period."

"Just how to go about making a record with any particular cow cannot be written down in black and white. There are many things to be considered and no two cows will respond exactly the same to any given treatment. A cow has got to be right, and then get the best of care. There is no use stating just what feeds to give, since what one cow will eat another often will not care for, and then one must get something that cow will eat."

ONE OF THEIR RECORD BREAKERS

The four-year-old Holstein, Jennie Bonerges Ormsby, may be cited as a fair example of the skill of the Messrs. Platt in handling dairy cows for milk records. This heifer is the first 30 lb. cow to be developed in Canada. Her official record, as was published in Farm and Dairy, page two, July 13th, for 30 days was 125 1-2 lbs. of butter, from 2,580 lbs. of milk. Her seven day record is 30.76 lbs. butter. The daily ration for this cow was as follows: 10 lbs. bran worth 9c; 4 lbs. corn chop worth 5c; 3 lbs. oat chop worth 4c; 2 lbs. oil-cake worth 3c—a total of 19 lbs. meal worth 21c a day, or \$6.30 for 30 days. In addition to this she received all the green grass she wanted. Mr. Platt allows \$4.50 for the grass during the month, which makes a total of \$10.80 as the cost of food for 30 days. Her milk, 2,580 lbs., sold wholesale on the Hamilton market at 16c a gal., brought \$41.28, there being a balance of \$30.48 for caring for the one cow for 30 days, which goes to show that the art of obtaining big milk production is worth while.

FACTS ABOUT THIS RECORD COW

The record made by this heifer is the more remarkable in that it was made during the excessively hot weather of June and early July. She is the only cow in the world that ever made such a record in hot weather, and as a four-year old she has not been beaten by any cow elsewhere. While making her recent record, her best day's milking was 95 lbs. As a two-year-old (for which age she holds the championship for the world for a two-year-old carrying calf), she made 832 lbs. of butter in one year. In the light of these facts it appears, as Mr. Platt affirms, that this cow, Jennie Bonerges Ormsby, stands a chance of giving fellows on the other side (United States) some trouble in getting those records, known amongst dairy breeders as "the big things."

Do your horses shiver and try to get away from you when you are currying them? Apply the curry comb a little lighter.



An Exceedingly Comfortable and Attractive Ontario Farm Steading

The barns on Messrs. D. C. Platt and Son's farm, Wentworth Co., Ont., appear to the right of the illustration. Mr. D. C. Platt's residence to the left.

of the association who see the independents doing as well as they without having to pay their share toward the support of the association, may tend to drop out. (2) A spirit of envy, and lack of confidence in and loyal support of the association by the members.

SIZE OF ASSOCIATIONS

The size and organization of an association will have to be adapted to the conditions of each particular section. However, generally speaking, the most promising type of association is one that handles a large share of the output of fruit or produce from any section with natural environments uniform enough to produce a fruit with uniform characteristics for the entire section. This general association should in almost all cases be divided into well organized sub-associations so that there will be personal contact from the general manager through the local officers to the members of the small associations.

In the apple industry the principal benefit from

labor, which counts for a great deal in the busy season.

No fast rule can be given as to the exact time to commence feeding grain, if it has been stopped while the cows were on good pasture. The kind of grain or concentrates to be fed, of necessity are to be governed by the price of the feeds to be bought, the kind on hand, and also the nature and quality of the soiling crop used. There is, however, a principle which can be followed through all feeding and which will apply to feeding of concentrates with soiling crops, as well as during the winter: Namely, this, that when the soiling crops are made up of clovers or peas and oats or any protein foods it will be in order to make such feeds as barley and corn as factors in the concentrates fed. If, on the other hand, the soiling crop is made up of green corn or ensilage, then the concentrates should be high in protein such as bran, gluten meal, oil cake meal or even ground oats.