

Judging at Plowing Matches

The annual fall plowing match is not so much in evidence in many localities as it used to be. It would perhaps be better for the community and for the condition of soil tillage in many sections if there were more of them. Such a contest properly conducted cannot but be of decided advantage in inducing more careful and better methods of soil tillage. Besides, a match where the skill of the farmer or farmer's son in handling that most essential farm implement is put to the test should be beneficial in inculcating exactness and care in other branches of farm work. It should also tend to create a greater love for the farm and its work and to counteract the tendency of many farmers to get through with the plowing and cultivation of the soil as quickly as possible, no matter how the work is performed. For these and other reasons we would like to see more plowing matches conducted throughout the country. This is something that our local Farmer's Institutes might expend their surplus cash upon.

But when a plowing match is conducted, the method of awarding the prizes should be after the most approved plan. We decidedly favor the use of a score card in judging of any kind at fairs and elsewhere where it is possible to do so. It gives a fairer distribution of the prize money and makes the contest, whatever it may be, of greater educational value. In a plowing match a score card should be of very great advantage. In fact, in our opinion it is about the only way of judging fairly as between the work of one plowman and another. True, there are no doubt capable men who could make the awards fairly and accurately without a score card so that the proper individual would receive the prize but the difficulty would be that no candidate would know in what particular point or points he failed. The great beauty of the score card in awarding prizes of any kind is that the exhibitor or contestant knows exactly wherein he has failed. He knows what his strong and weak points are and consequently can govern himself accordingly another year, which in itself is worth trying for even if one does not come out on top.

In an interesting letter published in these columns on April 17 last, Mr. A. S. Milne, Leaskdale, Ont., dealt with this subject very effectively, and produced strong reasons why a score card should be used in judging at a plowing match. A strong reason given by him in favor of this plan was that there would be no room for favoritism. Then there would be an ideal for plowmen to work up to, and a guide for the judges in distributing the prizes. In that letter Mr. Milne outlined a score card which seemed to fill the bill all right. We reproduce it here for the benefit of our readers, and with the hope that it may induce the promoters of plowing matches to adopt something of this kind. If there are any who would like to suggest changes we would be pleased to hear from them:

Number on Ridges.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Possible points.												
Shoot or scratches.....	15	0	5	3	8	10						
Crown of furrows.....	15	0	2	5	8	7			4		5	
Straightness.....	15	2	5	8	10	12			10		7	
Finish.....	15	3	0	2	10	12			7		8	
Uniformity.....	15	0	0	1	10	12			6		4	
Grass put away.....	15	0	5	4	9	10			12		5	
Solid plowing.....	15	2	6	7	10	13			7		8	
Points deducted.												
Plowman helped.....	10											10
Gauges attached to plows.....	10											
Staked or out of time.....	10											
		8	23		30	65	76			50	29	
					4h	2d	11				3d	

In a letter received from Mr. Milne last week dealing with this subject he says:

"By the use of a score card any plowing society could secure judges at home who would give good satisfaction because of having only to take one point into consideration at one time, while the public could follow them so

closely that they would have to give justice. Under the old system nothing but an expert in the art could give the same satisfaction. For instance, when a society is selecting judges they endeavor to secure a change of men so as to keep down favoritism as much as possible. A man is proposed from another neighborhood who is known as being able to plow straight, or as having on some former occasion taken a prize. When he begins to judge he doesn't know where to start because he can't fully size up his work. If he were handed a score card it is quite possible that he would be out of trouble right at the start."

The Farm Cream Separator

We have had occasion more than once to refer to the farm separator system now so largely practised in many of the Western States. This system, properly speaking, is a plan by which each patron of a creamery has a hand or small separator and separates his own milk at home, sending only the cream to the factory. As contrasted with the whole milk plan, where the whole milk is hauled to the creamery and the skim-milk returned, this system has many advantages. There is a great saving in the cost of hauling. This is figured out very nicely by a Nebraska creamery man. His weekly make of butter was 98 tubs. To have hauled the whole milk to make this quantity per week would have cost not less than \$220. By each patron having a separator and sending only the cream, it cost but \$68 to gather this, a saving of \$152, or between \$6 and \$7 per patron for the season.

Another distinct advantage claimed for this plan is that the quality of the butter is improved. It is reasonable to suppose that this would be the case. Where the cream is separated from the milk as soon as taken from the cow, there is not so much danger from bad flavors. A small quantity of cream can be taken better care of than a large quantity of milk by the average patron, and therefore the maker gets the cream at the factory in a much better condition than the milk would be from which the cream is taken.

Then the farmer has the skim-milk in perfectly sweet condition both morning and evening for his calves or other animals on the farm. This is a very great advantage, and in itself, where a comparison is made with the whole milk plan, is sufficient to enable the patron to pay the cost of a separator in a very short while.

This farm separator system is splendidly adapted for Manitoba and the Territories, where milk has to be hauled long distances to the factories, and we understand that a great many separators are being sold in the Canadian West for this purpose. It is in our opinion about the only plan that could be successfully followed in connection with creamery work in that part of Canada. But it should work well in the Eastern provinces also. Though there would not be such a great advantage as in the West in the cost of haulage it would be beneficial in other ways in producing a better quality of product and in leaving the farmer his skim-milk perfectly sweet and clean for whatever purpose he might care to use it.

The farm separator is also of great value in the farm dairy. Where a farmer has, say ten cows, and is not supplying his milk to a cheese factory or creamery it will pay well to purchase a cream separator. With that number of cows a separator will about pay for itself in one season in the extra quantity and better quality of butter that can be made from the milk, let alone the increased value of the skim-milk by being fed in a sweet condition. The centrifugal as compared with the gravitation method of creaming milk has been tested over and over again by our experimental stations with the results decidedly in favor of the former or cream separator method.

In speaking of farm separators we do not wish to be understood as countenancing in any way the use of what are known as dilution cream separators. These are a delusion and a snare as was very well shown in these columns about a year ago by Mr. T. C. Rogers and other thor-