

## DAIRY

### Dairy Cow Stable for Alberta

EDITOR "FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

I would thank you to answer a question as to the best way to arrange a cow barn on the inside. I am building a barn 135 feet long and 24 feet wide, and would like to be able to water the cows in their stalls, and I want the best opinions I can get on how best to tie the cows and water them without taking them out in the severe cold weather. I might say I have tried tying them with their heads to the outside, with a wide runway in the centre; but it is too cold when the rack is over their heads, leaving an open space to put the hay down, and this time I thought of putting their heads to the inside and feeding in the centre, but don't know the best way to tie them and water them.

Alta.

E. J. W.

From this letter, we judge that our correspondent intends having two rows of stalls lengthwise of his stable, which is a very good way of arranging stalls. But, with such an arrangement, we would strongly advise more room, whether the cows face or are back to back. If the stalls face, there should be a feed passage at least five feet wide, then allow six feet for the manger and stall, twelve inches for the gutter, and, at least, five feet behind each row. This would give a total width of 29 feet inside measure. The only way to lessen this width would be to make

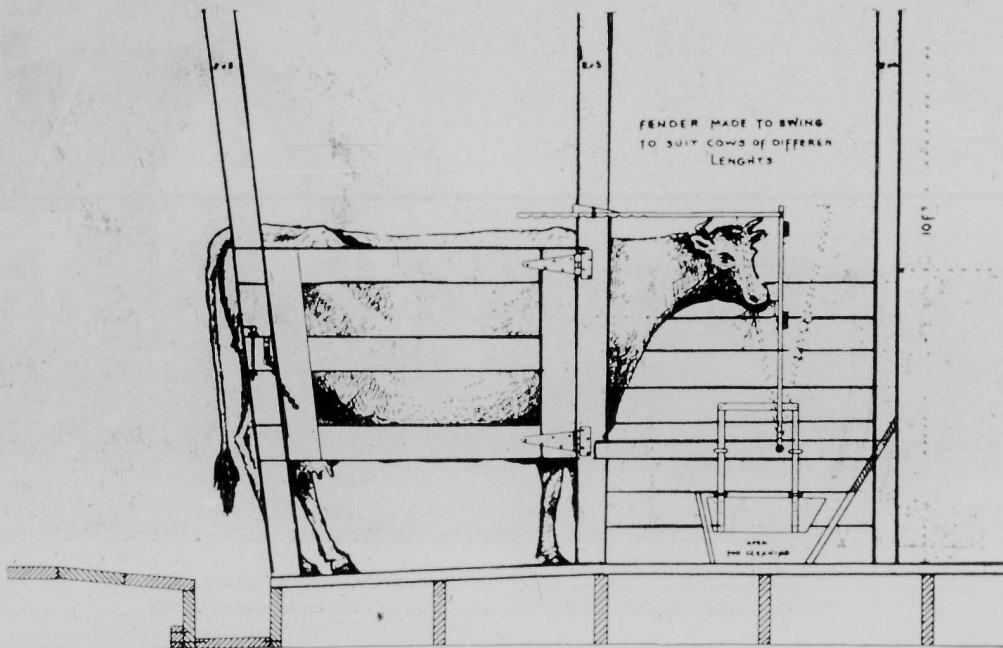
fashioned plan of tying with chains, with a stationary manger in front.

One of the most complete of the more modern devices is illustrated herewith. These stalls are made from three feet to three feet six inches from centre to centre, depending upon the size of the cows. It is a good plan to have some of each size, as there are different sized cows in any herd. The sides of these stalls are on hinges so that the cows may be let out without backing over the gutter, and for convenience in milking. The front part of the manger is on a pivot so as to prevent a small cow stepping forward and soiling her floor. The manger has an adjustable end piece that can be raised up so as to sweep the manger trough from end to end of the stable. Chains are used across the back of the stall instead of tying by the neck.

Sometimes a modified style of this plan is used. The sides and front of the stalls are stationary, but the chains are used behind. Others make the sides of the stalls shorter, and tie by the neck. In such cases the gutter should not be more than four or five inches deep on the inside, and less on the outside. The swinging manger front, or fender, is a useful device under any circumstances.

Single stalls are to be preferred to double stalls, but probably seventy-five per cent. of the dairy stables have double stalls. Single stalls would have to be the rule if the cows were fastened in from behind, and there is no doubt but this is the most convenient way to tie cows up.

When all is said and done, the important item in the dairy cow's management is the individual attention which she receives. Too many owners regard their cattle purely as a bunch of cows, instead



COW STALL WITH ADJUSTABLE MANGER SWING SIDE AND HITCHING DEVICE BEHIND.

the feed passage four feet, and the passage behind the cows four and a half feet, which would make a total saving of two feet. If the stalls were back to back, there should be four feet for each feed passage, six feet for each stall, twelve inches for each gutter, and six feet for passage behind, making twenty-eight feet inside measure.

As to whether it is better to have the stalls facing or back to back, much depends upon taste and contrivances used. If it is intended to remove the manure by horse power, we would put the stalls back to back, but if by hand power, or litter carrier, then face to face. Actually, we think there is very little difference.

To overcome the objection of the draft when the stalls face out, make the walls tighter, and introduce a scheme for ventilating that will do away with drafts. For this purpose, we are enthusiastic over the cotton screens in place of glass in the window spaces. Have plenty of window space, and then stretch cotton in place of glass. This gives a fresh, clean atmosphere all the time.

As for a system of watering inside, we have yet to see one that is clean, sanitary, and wholly satisfactory. The trouble with these metal tanks and troughs, is that the cows will begin drinking with food in their mouths, and they soon get filthy, or they are damp, and the temperature of the stable must be kept too high. If one is determined to water inside, we would suggest galvanized buckets fastened in the corner of the manger so that they can be removed and cleaned, and fill them with a hose attached to a water tank or pipe.

But there is a deal to be said in favor of turning cows out in winter for a drink. The change and fresh air and stretch gives them a relish for their food, and the stable can be thoroughly aired. If the trough is situated in a sheltered place, there will be no shock from the cold.

As for methods of tying cows, there is no "best" way. Some people, who have studied the question thoroughly, have devised quite elaborate contrivances for fastening cows in their stables, while others, who have thought quite as much, adhere to the old-

### Milking Machine Tests

RESULTS OF EXPERIMENTS CARRIED ON AT UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN.

Tests on machine milking covering twenty months with 29 cows, embracing forty separate trials made by the Wisconsin Experiment Station and reported in bulletin No. 173 just completed, show that machine milking is both practical and economical in herds of twenty cows or more, providing the machine is cared for by an efficient operator. Cows were milked continually by machine for periods of four to sixty-two weeks, or an average of twenty-six weeks.

The effect and efficiency of machine-milking on the cows was in general beneficial, most of the cows standing well and showing little shrinkage from change from hand to machine milking, with practically the same average milking, with practically the same average decrease in production as when hand-milked. Comparison with preceding periods of hand-milking for the same cows showed practically the same average production. Stripping by hand after machine-milking was found necessary in most cases.

The economy of machine-milking is due to a saving in time and in help necessary to milk a large herd. About five minutes for each cow is saved where four cows are milked at once, and more time when one man operates three machines milking six cows at one time. The cost of operating two machines by electric motor was about four cents an hour.

The bacteriological examinations showed that the germ content was slightly decreased and the keeping quality of the milk was somewhat improved by machine milking. Veterinary examinations showed no appreciable effect on the udders or the general health of the cows as a result of machine milking.

## POULTRY

### Going Into Poultry

EDITOR "FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Would like to go into the poultry business? What would be the best way for me to make a start?

Send to a well known breeder of pure-bred poultry, and buy a pen of birds from a good laying strain.

The Barred Plymouth Rocks are one of the best breeds for the farmer or anyone going into the business. \$10 should buy a pen of say, four pullets and a cockerel; from these you should be able to raise enough chickens to make a good start the next year.

You would find a good market for any cockerels that you did not want to keep yourself, and in that way you would soon make the price of your pen.

As it is getting late to buy birds, and if you have any hens that you could set eggs under, your best plan now would be to send for a few settings of eggs, or say 100, and set them under the hens you have and let them raise the chickens for you. In that way you would make a good start this spring.

Busy "B."

### Poultry keeping in Saskatchewan

EDITOR "FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Do you think there is a good opening for pure-bred poultry near Saskatoon?

Would you recommend people to keep the Barred Plymouth Rocks?

Can birds be sent by express with safety?

Yes, there is a great demand for fresh eggs and dressed poultry in the town of Saskatoon; eggs were selling at 45 to 50 cents a dozen up there this winter.

Most decidedly, as they are fine winter layers and good table birds. When making a start see that you get them pure-bred and from a good laying strain. Feed and care for them well, and you will soon find them money-makers.

Yes, we send birds all over the country by express and find the company look after them well. The birds must be shipped in light, but strong coops, and feed sent with them, also a tin cup put in the coop for water. The express men look after the watering of the birds.

Busy "B."

### Ill Flavored Eggs

EDITOR "FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

1. My hens have been laying well all winter, and this week have suddenly stopped altogether. I have in no way changed the food or conditions and they seem in good health, only their combs seem to have lost color.

2. I have had one or two eggs which seem good in all respects, but when boiled have a fishy smell and taste. Can you in anyway account for it?

Alta.

H. W.

1. The change in the color of the combs is evidence that they have been frozen and when this occurs it puts an end to laying for a time.

2. The taste of eggs can be influenced by the diet of the hens, the same as milk can, by what the cows get to eat. No doubt eggs which taste and smell fishy are a result of the hen's having access to very strong fish in some way. I have fed fish to my birds while it was fresh with no bad result, but I have noticed that when they happened to get some fish that was badly decomposed, we had to throw the eggs away. Meat in all forms when fresh, is very good for chickens but when spoiled is liable to give them "pip" or worms, which fill the wind pipe and suffocate the birds.

No doubt the readers will have noticed when there are plenty of grass hoppers, that the eggs have a rather strong flavor and the yolks are very dark, while the birds are shelling out lots of eggs. I have known of instances in Kansas where grass hoppers were almost a plague, the eggs being flavored so badly that they were entirely unfit for use; but these insects, or bugs, as a general rule, are very beneficial to the chickens, while the chickens are beneficial to the crops which the bugs infest. The birds on free range can eat spoiled meats with no bad results, as they can get enough other food to offset the harm thus caused, but when yarded one must be very careful not to let them have anything but fresh feed for the best results. In the winter time when giving green food to the fowls, I gave them a large quantity of chopped onions, and I noticed the results very quickly in the flavor of the eggs, but that was on account of an excess being fed, and the birds not having had green food for some time filled up entirely on the one food. As a general thing with birds on a free run one has no trouble with the flavor of eggs.

Alta.

LEON B. LOSEY.

"Your paper is a constant source of information and its value out of all comparison to its small cost. We shall not deny ourselves continued association with the exponents of a fair deal to the farmer regardless of corporations, powers or parties. So here's three dollars for two new subscribers."

Gra'son, Sask.

WM. N. PARLEE, J. P.

## FIELD

### Events of

CANADA

James J. Hill announces will be pushed from the t the coming summer, and t tended west as far as Sasl struction have been filed v ment.

Tommy Longboat, the was badly beaten in the New York, on April 3rd, fessional long-distance run ten thousand dollar purse nineteenth mile, and a Fre the world's record for the c

The Board of Govern Saskatchewan have decide at Saskatoon. The uni- erected in 1910, but, in th formed in temporary qua- to open the agricultural c meantime being acquired, buildings and equipment opening time in that yea- intention to limit the wor- courses during winter.

BRITISH AN

A cyclone swept across States on Wednesday of able damage to property people.

Rear-admiral Sir Ch Charlie" as he is called, command of the Channel ing in the agitation in Eng ship-building programme the immediate constructi believes Great Britain wi of the air as well as of tl be adequately protected.

Some of the wildest sc Chicago Stock Exchange when Patten finally saw touch the dollar and a q came with a rush, and su pit was shouting wildly i jumped two cents a bush were reported at any figu Patten dumped a million profit of about twenty-fiv

The case of the United the Standard Oil Compa- this week. The compan- trust and operating in res-

### Our English

The Minister of Agric England cannot be rente- a matter of consequence larly the peers, are takin- and putting large areas o- ket. County councils h- acres of land for small- vastly more. Large esta- and the outlook for tenar- one.

English agriculture ha- in the death of Lord Ege- keen interest in promoti- community.

Lord Egerton's stud- the finest in the country, honors at all the leading Rostherne was a model- point and many import- carried out there in rec-

There is a strong move- to improve the supply of- The idea is that suitable- and be taken over by th- It is suggested that at t- shows annually held in- should offer premiums f- horses. A condition of- should be that the horse- country.

The annual report of- Station gives many deta- plots at the farm. The- above the average and of-

The unmanured plot, c- crop in succession wit- bushels of wheat weigh- and 7.7 cwt., of straw.