

the amount of milk she is giving. We feed ensilage and grain all summer, except in June, about half the ration both of ensilage and grain in summer as we feed in winter, and in very dry and hot weather in fly time keep cows in days and out in pasture nights, and let them run in pasture from 20th May to Oct. 1st. No matter how good the pasture is, my cows are very fond of eating ensilage in the summer and prefer it to green soiling crops fresh cut, and we find it much cheaper and much more convenient feeding. We have cows coming in fresh every month in the year, but prefer having the greater number coming in fresh in the fall and early part of the winter. Raise all our calves and keep weeding out all the poorest cows for beef. Weigh each cow's milk separate once a week and keep a record, also use the Babcock tester.

You might ask if we can give any reason for our cows giving so much more milk this year than last, the difference being between 10,242 lbs. last year and 11,800 lbs. this year, a difference of 1,558 lbs. per cow. Before this last year, we have never been in the habit of feeding our cows a regular ration of green feed or ensilage and grain all through the summer, but just a little to help them over a very severe drought; and when the pastures would be dry and poor during the middle of the summer the cows would be dry and poor during the middle of the summer the cows would shrink in their milk, and when a cow falls off in her milk you can never bring her up again that season no matter how well you feed her afterwards, and that is where our farmers make a great mistake. In a dry time in summer their cows fall away or shrink from one-third to one-half in their milk flow again that season. Last season we fed our cows all summer, whilst in either good or bad pasture and, with the exception of June, fed a full winter ration of ensilage and grain, some of the time alfalfa fed in the stable at milking time morning and night, ensilage once a day and alfalfa once a day alternately. We are great believers in alfalfa, have four acres and cut it four times a year and feed it green to both hogs and cattle. Fed it last year for the first time to our pigs, 300 of them and also occasion-

ally to our cows, alternately with ensilage. We find alfalfa to be one of the most profitable crops of clover that we can grow, either for hay or green feed or for fertilizing the land. It stands the drought better than other clover and produces such tremendous heavy crops, four crops in a season. Well, now, to give you an idea of what the benefit in feeding cows all summer, we will say that we feed a half ration, say 20 lbs. of ensilage costing \$2 a ton, equal to 2c. per day, and 5 lbs. of bran and meal, \$12 per ton, 60c. per 100, 3c. per day making the feed to cost 5c. per day for 150 days extra for summer months. You will see in my milk record for the two years that my cows this year through this treatment gave 1,558 lbs. each more than last year under the old treatment of feeding only in time of severe drought. Our milk brings us \$1 per 100 lbs. in butter and skimmed milk, making a gain of \$15.50, less \$7.50 for feed, or a net gain of \$8 per cow for the extra feeding, and the extra manure saved will pay for the extra labor, and then the cotton seed meal and bran make a great improvement in the butter in warm weather. A clear gain of \$440 on the 55 cows.

Yours truly, E. D. TILLSON.



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