

SWINE DEPARTMENT

Our readers are invited to ask questions in regard to swine. These will be answered in this department. You are also invited to offer helpful suggestions or relate experiences through these columns.

Farmers' Opinions on Hogs

As long as Ontario farmers go in for dairying as extensively as they now do, hogs will occupy an important place on the farm, and the supply will be fairly consistent. Reports received from Farm and Dairy correspondents in all parts of Ontario, however, indicate that hogs are not looked on with great favor as profit-making animals, but are kept mostly to consume the dairy by-products. Almost all Farm and Dairy correspondents report fewer spring litters in this than in previous years, and also a serious loss in spring litters.

The unpopularity of the hog that was once known as the mortgage lifter is variously explained by Farm and Dairy correspondents. An Ontario county farmer, Mr. F. M. Chapman, says: "Recent prices (\$7 a cwt.) will pay us for our trouble in looking after hogs, but most of us feel that a price below this yields us no profit." For several months recently prices have been considerably below \$7, which has discouraged many farmers from breeding their sows for fall litters.

Another reason for the unpopularity of hogs is touched by Mr. Thos. H. Myers, of Lambton County, when

he calls it a "most uncertain business." Several of our correspondents believe that did our packers pay according to quality there would be more encouragement for farmers to breed a good class of bacon hogs. Mr. J. R. Cole, of Durham County, complains that "packers and drovers do not discriminate enough between select and fat hogs for the good of the bacon industry." In some sections also the large growth of our towns and cities, and the consequent demand for milk and cream at remunerative prices, is driving farmers out of hogs altogether. "Farmers sell their milk and cream, and are going out of the hog business altogether," writes Mr. Wm. Clarkson, of York County. "We are raising more calves than in other years, good milk cows being high in price and offering larger returns than the raising of hogs."

It would also seem from the reports received that we farmers ourselves are partly responsible for the unsteadiness of the hog market. Little effort is made to produce a steady supply, many of us rushing into the hog business when prices are high, and dropping out again in the slump that follows. There are still those, however, who regard the hog as one of the most profitable animals on the farm. On another page of Farm and Dairy this week, Mr. D. P. Cameron, of Stormont County, Ont., gives figures showing where he has made money in hogs. The reports of some of our correspondents follow:

MORE THAN LAST YEAR

"There are more hogs in this local-

ity than last year, and the tendency is towards more hogs yet."—A. Blais, Glengarry Co., Ont.

"The falling off in the number of hogs this year is very noticeable, due to a low price commencing last fall and continuing through the winter. There are fewer spring litters than previously."—A. P. McDonald, Glengarry Co., Ont.

"There are fewer hogs here than at this time last year's cause, high price of feed and low price of pork. Fewer sows have been bred for fall litters."—W. E. McKillop, Glengarry Co., Ont.

"There are not as many hogs as last year, and the tendency is towards less."—D. P. Cameron, Stormont Co., Ont.

DEPENDS ON THE PRICE

"There is a larger number of hogs on hand than last year. The number of hogs depends on the price."—Arthur Christie, Dundas Co., Ont.

"There were more spring litters than last year, but more for sale."—D. H. Barber, Grenville Co., Ont.

"There were fully double the number of spring sows kept last winter as compared with the winter previous. There were, however, many losses in spring litters, and a heavy mortality in young pigs. There is a perceptible increase in the number of hogs."—F. A. Cameron, Hastings Co., Ont.

"There are about the same number of hogs as last year."—J. R. Cole, Durham Co., Ont.

"Hogs are slightly in excess of last year. Present low prices will cause many of us to raise fewer hogs."—A. M. Chapman, Ontario Co., Ont.

"The number of hogs is on the decline owing to low prices."—Wm. Clarkson, York Co., Ont.

SELLING THE SOWS

"The pig crop is about the same as last year. Some farmers are of the opinion that hogs are going down and are selling their sows."—Geo. Laithwaite, Huron Co., Ont.

"There are fewer litters than in previous years, but the litters have been unusually large."—Wm. L. Falkingham, Grey Co., Ont.

"There are fewer hogs here than a year ago. The loss in spring litters was serious."—H. A. Drummond, Wentworth Co., Ont.

"Hogs are falling off to a slight extent. Some farmers are breeding only one sow instead of two."—D. C. Brodie, Middlesex Co., Ont.

"There will be one-third and, perhaps, one-half less hogs shipped from here than a year ago. Neighbors who have kept 10 to 80 hogs now have 10 or 12."—Thos. H. Myers, Lambton Co., Ont.

Some June Counts

C. L. Whitely, in Charge of Records, Ottawa

Many grade cows are making good records this season. One grade cow near Cassel, Ont., has given over 200 pounds of butter fat in three and a half months. In the cow testing associations at Warsaw, Ennismore, Cassel and Tayside, Ont., the average yield of all cows tested for June was over 35 pounds of butter fat. Eight associations in Quebec average over 30 pounds of fat per cow. A good many herds, however, in Ontario and Quebec average less than 700 pounds of milk and 35 pounds of butter fat during June.

In Prince Edward Island the highest average yield for June was at Kensington, where the 150 cows included in the "Dairy Record Centre" there gave 787 pounds of milk, 8.7 test, and 30 pounds of fat. Included at this centre are several individual cows that gave over 900 pounds of milk and 35 pounds of fat. One of the best yields was from a seven-year-old grade Shorthorn that gave over 1,200 pounds of milk and 40 pounds of fat. But hard by these good rec-

ords are found poor yields of only 500 pounds of milk and 18 pounds of fat from six or seven cows that were freshened in April and May.

Between yields of 40 and 100 pounds of fat in one month there is too great a difference to be overlooked. It is all the difference between the very satisfactory return and no adequate payment whatever for all the energy, time, feed and care expended on cows that are not capable of making money for their unsatisfactory owners. We should conserve our energy by keeping better cows. We cannot afford to keep a herd of only medium capacity.

Cow testing pays abundantly, for it shows which cows are making a good profit, and again which cows cannot by any strength of imagination be considered in the same category.

The 3,500 Lb. Cow Again

Editor, Farm and Dairy.—In the reply to my letter published in Farm and Dairy of June 22nd, re "Favors the 3,500 Lb. Cow," it is stated that the question of feeding dairy cows is not what it used to be. We do not return the cows will give. This statement is correct, but you have made wrong deductions. Intensive dairying does not pay at present prices of butter and cheese, and referring to see you follow up my ideas so closely, but you soon drift from the straight and narrow way in your statements of cost and profits. You neglect two important items in your statement, the cost of the cows and their attendance. This will very materially reduce the 35 per cent. net profit on Mr. Brodie's fresh cows.

You contend that the 3,500 lb. cow will not give 35 cents profit a day even if fed on nothing. Also that she is only fit for the rich man for the London or the hotel society. Your theories show that you are a genuine tenderfoot in need of coaching. The 3,500 lb. cow is milked about six months yearly; she gives a fine flow for about two months, which is gradually reduced if she is not assisted. Her first job is to rear her calf, which she readily does on half her produce. The calf is worth \$12 at four months. She also produces cream during her period of lactation to produce 25 worth of butter. The skim milk at 20¢ a cwt. is worth \$7, making a total of \$14. The first cost of the cow as a heifer would be about \$30.

These results are obtained by cows in my herd in six months on grass and browse on a rough range. Being dry early, such a cow puts on flesh and is able to practically winter herself. She gets a little wild hay, some straw and a quantity of turnips. The whole is worth more in manure than in any other form. Being dry a long time, this reduces her leaves her in fine form for her summer's task.

You will note that this cow practically pays one hundred cents on the dollar, her own price included, each year. This bears out my contention that no cow nets more, cost considered, than this desirable animal. This cow, instead of being merely a society for the rich man, is one of the best levers to shift the poor man to east street.—G. W. Cann, New Westminster Dist., B. C.

I received my pure bred Chester white pig shipped me by Mr. F. B. Bessor, of Cedar Grove Farm, for Farm and Dairy in return for the nine new subscribers. I secured for that paper, last Wednesday, and I am very much pleased with him. Everybody says he is a nice one, and I think he was worth trying for, as I had no trouble in getting the subscribers. All the subscribers are pleased with the paper, and I think that more boys should try to secure pure bred pigs too.—Clarence R. Nott, Elgin Co., Ont.

FARM

Seeding Fair

(1) I have a (2) and of oats) (3) with re- (4) to the d- (5) to show for (6) in such (7) yard manure (8) thistles in the (9) in spite of (10) me what to do (11) complete? (12) stur- (13) fore fallow, (14) now it again (15) suggest sowing (16) while next year



What

Gates that his- (2) state source of (3) opened, are a glo-

I shall be glad (2) matter from son- (3) experienced in s- (4) to it adv- (5) fall wheat in the (6) Co. Ont.

(1) It is diffi- (2) satisfactorily, no (3) crops you grow (4) rotation you an- (5) any case the fi- (6) showed at once (7) we kept cul- (8) raised cultivator (9) will work consid- (10) the thistles, altho- (11) bable you will o- (12) year can use (13) in which case w- (14) again during the (15) spring before pl- (16) Should you n- (17) field for a hoo- (18) it again next sp- (19) oats, seed- (20) Any thistles th- (21) topped off with (22) train shoots into (23) the clover catch (24) the thistles in cl- (25) can get a hoe c- (26) keeping after the (27) If the field be- (28) and you fear the (29) sufficiently by t- (30) will give between (31) may carry the fl- (32) next spring, and (33) and then sowing (34) it without a (35) last of June, sho- (36) note this area is (37) might carry it o- (38) and sow part of (39) the rape early in (40) We would not (41) case to leave the (42) low next season.

(2) Some sple- (3) have been report- (4) from seeding in (5) wheat. The affai- (6) are would not (7) be own in this (8) perimental way, (9) methods of sowing (10) certain of giving

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