

Efforts to Maintain the Milk Flow

George Huton, Greenville Co., Ont.

In view of the importance of keeping up the flow of milk throughout the whole season, and the probability of short pastures later in the season, it is wise to make provision for the time of need in order to avoid disappointment in the desired returns. Usually cheese is a better price in the fall. If cows are allowed to fall off in their milk, they simply become boarders, and not producers. It may be questionable if it pays to feed a grain ration, but there can be no question of the necessity of keeping up the flow of milk in some way. With a little planning and labor, provision can be made, which will provide a cheap feed that will successfully tide over the dry time and give splendid results.

We have never practised feeding ensilage in the summer. This year we have about five feet of good stuff in the bottom of a 16 x 26 ft. silo, it will provide for an experiment if required. My plan has been to feed liberally with corn, preferably sweet corn, as early as it is large enough and this is supplemented with 30 to 50 pounds of mangolds or sugar beets. In this way we secure the June flow in the fall, when cheese is usually highest in price.

THE EXTRA WORK.

Some will object to so much work. There is extra labor connected with such management, but I would suggest that any one who is afraid of work might as well go out of the business for they are bound to make a failure of it. It makes one tired to see cows wintered, pastured, milked and cared for (a certain kind of care) with no returns worth mentioning.

I know of a certain herd of cows that two years ago led the factory in production. They were a fine thrifty bunch, a pleasure to see, and to handle. Now it will take more than two of them to give what one cow formerly would and they are a disgrace to any owner. The same cows on the same farm, kept in the same buildings, watered at the same well, leathing the same air and using the same sunshine, give only half of what they formerly did! All the difference is in the care,—or want of care. These cows as they used to be were a good investment and making money; now, they are a poor investment and a loss. Formerly they were a pleasure to see and to handle. Now, they are a sorrow and a shame. It is all in the management.

A DIFFERENCE IN THE CALVES.

Furthermore, the calves that are raised under such a system are a failure, and can never make good cows. They are as large at two years of age as they ought to be at one. They have cost as much for food, but the food is put into their pails and they eat it or let it alone, "it is all the same." They are forced to lie in filthy water nothing could possibly ever thrive, no matter how well fed. The calf must be kept growing and thrifty, if it is to make a good cow. "Anything worth doing is worth doing well" is an axiom that is particularly applicable to the dairy enterprise.

Four acres of land, well prepared, sown to sweet corn and sugar mangolds, these being properly cultivated will afford a crop which if judiciously added to the pasture rations of 15 or 20 cows will turn failure into success; every time, and with constant, thoughtful care will give one the pleasure of marching somewhere near the head of the procession rather than bringing up the rear. The poor dumb animals will not only gladly respond to the additional feed and care, but will enjoy as well the pleasure of living.

SYNOPSIS OF MANAGEMENT.

A brief synopsis of our management of the dairy in summer would be something like the following: See that the cows are strong and fit when they go on pasture. Provide a liberal ration. Be sure they have abundance of good

water. Salt every day in the stable. Protect from flies. (We use Dr. Williams' fly and insect destroyer). Milk carefully and punctually and when the pasture is not abundant, give liberal supplies of corn and roots. The returns in cash more than pay for the extra labor and convert into a profitable investment what would otherwise be lost labor. There are splendid possibilities in the dairy cow for those who will put thoughtful, intelligent and earnest effort into her management.

Management of the Alfalfa Harvest

R. H. Harding, Middlesex Co., Ont.

We commence to cut alfalfa about the 15th of June, provided the weather is favorable. We aim to have our first crop all cut before it is in full flower. The ideal condition in which to cut alfalfa is when about one-quarter in bloom.

We never cut more in one day than we can handle during the next day. If the weather is catchy, we coil it while still pretty green, after it has been tedded twice. We aim to cut and dry very opposite to what many alfalfa farmers advocate. Our reasons for tedding before the dew is off it is to shake the dew off and thereby prevent it drying into the hay; second, it prevents the leaves from flying off, as they are very easily shaken off when they are dry or partly dry.

ration, followed by a moderate feed of hay. Be sure the horse is never put into the barn while thirsty.

The curry comb should be used diligently on the horses even though they be at pasture. When the horse is sweating its skin becomes loaded with dust and it cannot do well. If the regular daily cleaning is given in the morning be sure and rub the horse down a little before turning to pasture at night. If it has been very warm through the day, allow the horse to dry off and then clean him before turning to pasture.

We should always bear in mind that the value of the pasture is not so much in the feed which the horse will pick, but in the fresh air, the ease with which this food is digested and the consequent good health of the animal.

The Gasoline Engine as a Farm Power

Anson Groh, Waterloo Co., Ont.

Our gasoline engine is of one and a half horsepower, while many of them are as much as three horsepower, and if I were buying again I would purchase one a bit stronger and heavier than ours and not so highly speeded. Then we have a 13 horsepower gasoline engine, which is used for such work as filling silos, chopping or grinding grain, cutting straw or hay, sawing firewood.

The gasoline engine is not really a complicated



The Thrift of the Danish Farmer is Well Illustrated in Tethering Cows at Pasture

Save in exceptional instances, we would not care to imitate the Dane in his method of tethering his stock at pasture, but we can to advantage do more to conserve our pastures and make them yield maximum results. To leave considerable growth is always the best policy for it protects the roots, conserves the soil moisture, and considering the season throughout, a greater yield will be obtained.

If we have any alfalfa caught in a shower of rain we start the tedder as soon as the showers are over. In this way we shake most of the water off the hay and thereby save bleaching.

If the weather is ideal we rake the alfalfa with the side delivery rake, while quite green and gather it with the hay loader. In this we can save it in choice condition without the additional labor of coiling it.

Care of Horses in Warm Weather

J. R. Westlake, Carleton Co., Ont.

Good feed and good care are essential if we are to get the best work from horses in warm weather. Where the horse is worked regularly every day the feed should not be reduced even though he be turned to pasture at night.

Have the horses in the stable in the morning at least two hours before they are to be hitched up. Give them a moderate feed of good hay and their full grain ration.

If the horses are working very hard their grain should be ground as the horse can then assimilate it more easily. The horses should be watered before feeding and given another chance to drink before being taken to the fields.

An hour and a half at noon is none too long to rest a hard worked team, though on light work one hour may be sufficient. Grain alone should be fed at noon. Hay at this time does more harm than good.

At the evening feed give the regular grain

machine, but the forces at work are somewhat subtle and need to be fairly well understood or a mere trifle may baffle the operator. Properly understood, the gasoline engine is the farmer's power. Given anything like good judgment and reasonable precaution on the part of the operator, it is not a dangerous machine to employ. And for the farmer who may want power somewhat intermittently and yet have it without delay when he does want it, we know of nothing else to take its place.

What the electric wire may do is a question for the future. The old sweep horsepower is a thing of the past. Direct water power is only for a few. Wind for anything but pumping is unsatisfactory.

The gasoline engine can be adjusted to the gang of men; its cost of running is adjusted by the work really taken out of it. In filling silos, for instance, if the gang of men available cannot keep the machinery going all the time, it may stop, without loss, half its time and still be ready when the men are ready, but the men and teams need not want for it.

Still I cannot say that it would be wise for every farmer to own a gasoline engine. That is a question to be settled according to circumstances. Sometimes it would be much wiser for two or three to co-operate in such an investment; in other cases, especially where the smaller machines are needed, they could not be owned jointly with satisfaction.