

The feeding value of well cured alfalfa hay is so much in advance of that indifferently cured that I do not consider the expenditure of one or two extra loadings as being either here or there when the superior feeding value of the well cured alfalfa hay is considered.

In all favorable seasons our alfalfa will average four to five tons of cured hay to the acre. It is worth as much pound for pound for feeding to dairy cattle as is bran, so our chemists tell us, and from practical feeding experience I believe that they are right. Bran at the present time costs us \$26 a ton on the car. We can grow alfalfa hay at an expense of about \$5 a ton in the barn. We can surely afford to take a few precautions in curing it properly when it represents such a big saving in the feed bill.

Long Rows or Short

Wm. James, Huron Co., Ont.

"I would not like to weed the roots in that field of yours," said one of my neighbors' boys to me one evening last spring. We were looking over a large field that I had just gotten into rangeland and corn. I asked him why. "Well," came the answer, "the rows are too long. When I weed a root field I like to see that I am getting something done. On your rows a fellow would work half a day to get from one end of the field to the other. No long rows for me!"

To like to see the results of your labors is natural. But it should not be made to interfere with efficiency in work. We believe in long rows. I have found by keeping careful tab on all of the work done on our farm that on those fields that are long and narrow plowing can be done in one-half less time than on other fields of equal size but nearer the square. The same applies to all other operations, such as harrowing, seeding

and cultivating. I used to calculate that with a good horse and long rows, a man should cultivate eight acres a day with a single-horse cultivator (which we don't now use), while in fields of the same size but of shorter rows, five or six acres seemed to be the maximum.

NO MACHINERY ADAPTABLE

Long fields also encourage one to use bigger machinery. No one wants to be bothered with a big implement in a small field.

I have found it comparatively easy to arrange a rotation as our whole farm is divided into four fields of approximately the same size. Where one has a dozen fields or so, I have noticed that the rotation followed is apt to be extremely irregular; and that means poor farming.

Short rows are apt to be deceiving even in the feeding. One of our rows would make six in the field in which our neighbor had his turnips last year. Therefore a man weeding one of our rows in half a day would do much work as the man weeding six in his neighbor's field. But it would not look so big. But which is better,—to really get the work done efficiently and then feel a little bit disappointed with what you have done, or to get the same amount of work done that looks big, and is apt to lead us to take a slower pit next day? Big fields, long rows and efficiency go together.

An Enthusiastic Silo Advocate

Geo. Trim, Egin Co., Ont.

We have used a silo for years, and we are more than satisfied. From the standpoint of economy, palatability and efficiency in the rations for various kinds of farm stock, it cannot be beaten. We feed both fat cattle and milch cows on our farm. We feed on an average about 15 cattle. We feed them corn ensilage eight months of the year. Our silo is of cement, 12 by 35 feet. With careful feeding a silo of this capacity holds sufficient feed for our needs.

In our experience in feeding and fitting cattle for the butcher trade, also exporting, we feed the following rations: One bushel of ensilage with four quarts of good chop twice a day, with hay at noon. Milch cows to be kept in good condition we feed according to their needs and production.

Silos of different makes are numerous throughout this section, but the solid cement silo gives the best satisfaction. Cement block silos are also giving very good satisfaction. We would advise all farmers to invest in a silo, cement or stone preferred. We have found it the best investment a farmer can make.

The Dairy Cow at Freshening

Wm. Stewart, Northumberland Co., Ont.

Most of the dairyman's troubles with his cows happen about the time that the cow is freshening. We have found that trouble at this time can be controlled by good management. We like to have a cow in a box stall a few days before calving. With the exception of heifers with their first calves, we allow the young one to remain with the cow for three days at least. We do not milk the cow except to draw off that which the calf cannot take.



A Great Crop on a Competing Farm

The judges in the Interprovincial Farms Competition conducted by Farm and Dairy may be here seen inspecting the excellent crop of fall wheat on the farm of C. Howson, Peterboro Co., Ont. Mr. Howson may be seen to the right.

Here it is that many make a serious mistake. They will sit down and take the last drop of milk. This is against nature. Under natural conditions the calf takes very little milk at a time, but takes it many times a day. Removing the milk also imposes on the cow the work of replacing it. The cow is apt to take a chill and milk fever results. We have never had a case of milk fever since we adopted our present methods of feeding and caring for dairy cows. We have conversed with other breeders, veterans in their profession, and very many of them agree with us, first, that the calf should be left with the cow, and, secondly, that the cow should not be milked out dry.

We make an exception in the case of heifers. We never let a calf suck a young heifer. The

heifer is apt to be troublesome and will hold up her milk, and then when the udders are loaded to full capacity, there will be trouble in the milk vessels. A cow that has been previously milking knows that milking will ease the pressure in her udder, and hence submits to the calf drinking.

Of course all should not be left to the calf. The herdsman should examine every quarter of the udder frequently and take out milk enough to leave all right.

Another plan that is frequently practiced is of milking the fresh cow and giving practically all her milk to her. This is a plan that I would be very slow to adopt, as it may scour the cow half to death. In exceptional cases where the cow has been fed only dry feed do you do her good by this treatment?

Why I Feed the Aftermath

J. L. Blair, Westmoreland Co., N. B.

"Are you going to plow that down?" asked a friend of mine the other night as we were looking over an excellent growth of clover on one of our new meadows. He even went on to tell me what a excellent thing it would be for my land to plow down such a large growth of green vegetable matter. He expatiated on the advantages that would come from the added supply of humus in the soil—how it would hold moisture, afford feed for nitrifying bacteria, and so forth.

But I will follow my own system of pasturing the aftermath just the same. I do not know of any way in which the second growth of clover can be turned to better advantage than by turning it into milk. Last season when pastures were short and we were out of green feed our dairy herd dropped 50 per cent in their milk yield. A couple of days after they were turned on the aftermath the milk flow had increased from 12 cans to 18 cans, which meant an increase of 50 per cent in my income. In my experience there is nothing to equal the clover for increasing the milk flow.

And nothing is taken out of the land. The cows are pastured right there, and all manure goes right back to the land, and in a more available form than it would be if the growth were plowed down. I realize that plowing down clover is of great advantage on light soil or where intensive dairy farming is not followed, but where there is the possibility of increasing the milk flow 50 per cent I do not see how I can afford either to plow down the second growth or allow it to rot down. Of course I would not turn the cattle on clover seeded this present season. My remarks apply only to the second crop of clover the second year from seeding.

We make a practice of taking the harness off the horses in hot weather when they are in the stable for the noon feed. It means a little more work, but it is very comforting and cooling to the tired, sweating horse.—C. E. Southwick, Ontario Co., Ont.

As soon as the weather is warm and the grass good we allow our calves the free run of a pasture, where they are fed milk until five months old. These calves are intended to make dairy cows when about 30 months old.—H. Johnson, Middlesex Co., Ont.

When thinning roots care should be taken to not only destroy all weeds but to see that double plants are not left in the hill. If the work is properly performed there will be little work to do with the hoe the second time. Do not fail to keep the scuffer going up to quite late in the season, even if there are no weeds. Cultivation makes a fine mulch and retains the moisture in the soil.—Henry Glendinning, Ontario Co., Ont.