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FARM AND DAIRY

RURAL HOME

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HOW TO RUN YOUR DAIRY HERD FOR THE GREATEST PROFIT

J. H. Grisdale, Agriculturist, C. E. F., Ottawa

Timely Comment and Suggestions on a Question of Much Concern to All Dairymen, which if Practiced Generally, Would Revolutionize the Dairy Industry.

UPON the quantity and the quality of the food fed depend the returns in milk. Even the poorest herds may be expected to leave a profit if well fed. Commonplace herds will surely pay and leave a profit from good feeding. The best herds are useless and certainly a losing proposition if poorly fed. The deduction is clear, let us all feed better. There is never a man of us who cannot do better. The great majority of us are surely falling far short of our possibilities and our knowledge in this line. Very few and scattered are the farmers who are doing the right thing by their herds in the way of feed. This seems all the more strange seeing that we all admit the truth of the statement.

FEED WELL THIS SUMMER

Good feeding at all times is necessary. Abundant forage of the right kind in summer is an absolute necessity. Then why not have it this summer? As well start now as later, for, this business of summer dairying in Canada means better summer feeding, if it is to continue. This thing of sending 2,500 to 3,000 lbs. of milk a cow per season to the factory is done with. No farmer who wants to stay in the business can afford such luxurious leanness, on the part of either himself or his cows. He must get busy. Here is how, twice:

First, build a summer silo and grow more corn, using ensilage to supplement pastures in summer.

Second, take 15 acres of land (on a 100 acre farm) near the buildings. Divide into three equal fields. Follow a three-year rotation thereon.

First year: Corn, an early variety. Feed in August and September.

Second year: Mixed grain, oats, peas and barley (four bus. per acre) seed down 10 lbs. red clover, four lbs. timothy per acre. Cut quite green in July. Do not allow to lodge.

Third year: Clover, cut in late June and in early August.

Do not hesitate to feed this 15 acres of crop in the summer, even should things look blue for the winter forage supply. Let no consideration prevent its utilization at the proper time, not even an abundance of grass. It will always pay to feed such forage in summer.

DON'T NEGLECT THE COWS IN THE FALL

The Frenchman says: "It is the first step that costs." The dairyman might say: "It is the last bite that counts." This is true not only of each day, but also of each season. Good feeding must continue through the fall, and of course through the winter; then through into the spring to say nothing of the next summer.

"Good feeding," means the right kind of feed just as surely as it means sufficient feed. The right kind of feeds are cheap, spring, summer and autumn use there is nothing beats good corn ensilage. It's as cheap as it is good. If you have no silo, why, this year of grass 1910 is when you ought to build one. If you can't build an expensive one then build a cheap one. The ensilage from a stave silo is just as good as from one built of cement. You can build a silo for from \$1.00 to \$2.50 per ton capacity. You can grow the corn and put it in your silo for less than \$2.00 a ton. As feed, good corn ensilage is worth

\$5.00 a ton. Does not that appeal to you as an investment and a crop worth while?

COW RECORDS

Good feeding is essential to success. Most so called dairy herds as a whole can be so fed as to leave a profit. Every herd includes more or less inferior dairy animals. Very often "more" is the word. They are the ones that make the dairyman's life too often seem like drudgery. Let's not keep them, my friend. Let's unload the losers, every one of them.

If you don't know which is which, here's how to find out: Weigh each cow's milk each time you milk her, and keep a record of the weight. Yes, that's right.

"Too much work!" Not a bit of it. Very little work and wonderful results! You will feed better, you simply won't be able to help doing so. You will get very much more milk in the year, from 1,000 lbs. to 1,500 lbs. per cow. You will like your business better. You will feed better, but you will feed more cheaply because you won't be wasting feed on the poor ones.

The writer would gladly send ruled blank forms for keeping records. A scale will cost from \$1.25 to \$4.00 according to quality, and there you are. Not a few farmers thought dairying a failure till they started in on this line. This is the year for you to begin. Begin right now.

GET A GOOD BULL

First-class dairy herds are not accidents. They are the results of liberal feeding, careful selection and good breeding.

Pure bred females are not a necessity. The majority of farmers will do better with grades. But good grades mean the use of good bulls. Not merely a pure bred bull, but a good one of the breed. The breed does not matter provided always (1) that the breed suits the line of dairying followed (2) that you like the breed and (3) that you stick continuously to the one breed. Better buy your cows, than try to breed by changing from one breed to another in selecting sires.

Only good individuals of good breeding should be used. Such are worth good prices. It has been demonstrated that a really good bull in a 15 cow herd is worth \$500 in two years. You can get a good bull calf for from \$50 to \$100. If the \$100 one is of better type and breeding than the \$50 one he is easily worth the extra money. Buy a good bull in 1910 if not already provided with such an animal.

AVANTAGE FLIES AND PARASITES

Resolve that flies and parasites shall get no warm reception if they molest your herd in 1910. The best fly preventive, all things considered is probably pine tar and lard. One pound mixed and applied with a bit of cloth on parts most subject to attack. For parasites, Croclin, or some similar preparation

(Continued on page 10)

OLD MOTHER COW

*Old homey cow with felding cud,
That daily tramps our chews and mud,
And night and morning stands so cool
For unthoughtful man on a milking stool;
We praise and pity your much changed state
As the ages of time domesticate.*

*We have list'd to your moo on the prairies wild,
As you lowed and bawled for your only child,
Where your only thought was your daily feed
And supplying the food for your offspring's need;
But we find you now in the farmer's care
And your usefulness ends we know not where.*

*O, lonely cow, of kindly face,
The foster mother of the human race,
You know not of the world-wide good
That centers in your milky food;
But the joy you bring to every home
Seems almost too much for a cow alone.*

*You secrete your milk, we know not how,
About all we know 'tis from the cow;
And the cream and butter and well-cured cheese
The stomachic cravings of nations appease;
While you mother the child of the human race
And receive as reward the beef trust's grace.*

*You have lived in a stable unclean and dark
Where the air you breathed made you lean and stork,
Where tubercular germs your big lungs invade
And sap out the life the Almighty gave;
You must feel glad when the winters pass
And you breathe pure air and eat the grass.*

*We often call you the great dairy machine
As you manufacture the foods so green,
And the farmer smiles at his big milk check
That saves the farm from the mortgage wreck;
O, noble cow, if you had a chance
You're the best old thing on the whole darn ranch.*

C. A. Publow, M.D.