

Methods of a Successful Dairyman

Miles Hartley, Oxford Co., Ont.

The success which I have had in dairying is due to keeping cows that will make a profit. Then I feed and care for them in such a way that they will make a large profit. My herd numbers from 25 to 35 head, according to the season of the year. They are all registered Holsteins of good dairy type, and are bred from some of the best milking strains. The milking herd is from 12 to 15 cows. The balance are young cattle.

My farm is divided into four fields of 20 to 25 acres each. A four year rotation is followed consisting of corn and roots followed by oats and mixed grain and two years in sod. This amount of corn furnishes all the silage the cattle need for both summer and winter. The grain field yields from 800 to 1,500 bushels of grain. Part of the grain is sold in the spring when grain is high; fill-feed and oil meal are bought in quantity when low in price. The hay field each year furnishes enough hay for the stock and a few tons to sell.

STABLE ALL WINTER

As soon as the cold, chilly weather starts in the fall, usually shortly after the middle of November the cattle are put in the stable and kept there until the next spring. There may be some objections to steady confinement in the stable but I have always noticed that my cows increase in the flow of milk about two weeks after they have been in the stable. I often have difficulty in getting them to go dry in time to get sufficient rest before the next freshening.

I get more milk from my herd in February and March than I can get in June with grass and weather at their best. The cows are given all the silage they will eat up clean. The grain varies according to the amount of milk they are giving and the season of the year. They have water before them all of the time. Therefore they never get chilled through drinking a large quantity of cold water at one time. The cows are more contented than when they are turned out once a day for a drink.

WINTER MANAGEMENT

With plenty of feed at regular hours and lots of sunlight from the south windows the cows enjoy themselves during the winter season. They are given a feed of hay at noon and a small feed after each feed of ensilage. They are given a little salt in their manger nearly every day and groomed to keep their skins clean.

I do not turn the cows on the pasture in the spring until it has a good start; usually near the first of June. As the grass begins to ripen and dry up towards the last of June I begin feeding silage with a small grain ration. This keeps them in good condition and makes their hair soft and glossy instead of being harsh and dry as is the case when they get nothing but grass.

MILK RECORDS

I have not tried to make any phenomenal records. Milk bringing 75 cents a cwt. at the cheese factory does not give much encouragement in that line. But I have tried to make every cow do a good profitable business. My best cow, five years old, gave in one month 1,800 lbs. of milk with 71 lbs. of butter; the rest of them were not far behind.

I have three two-year-old heifers, the best one of which gave me in May 1,213 lbs. of milk with 51 lbs. of butter. The smallest record of the three was 1,170 lbs. of milk. I expect my two-year-old heifers to give 7,000 lbs. or more.

THE 8,000 LB. COW

The mature cows should produce at least 8,000 lbs. in the season. The four cows that have been milking the longest this season have given a total of 32,200 lbs. of milk with an average period in milk of five months and 12 days. The dairyman will have better financial returns if he takes part

of his pay in the pleasure and satisfaction of owning and caring for a first-class herd. He will then be better able to supply their wants and to give them whatever is required for their comfort.

Bank Accounts vs. Investments

"Some of my neighbors think that I am not worth much; they expect to hear of me making an assignment almost any day." Such were the words of a prominent pure bred dairy cattle breeder while in conversation recently with an editor of Farm and Dairy. "The trouble with me as they see it," he continued, "is that I haven't got a large bank account. In fact, I sometimes haven't a cent in the bank. A farmer is not supposed to be prosperous in our township until he has two or three thousand dollars in the bank. I have a few thousand invested in my herd and farm and every dollar of it is making me eight to 10 per cent. It is a poor farm that will not pay more than bank interest on an investment."

"One of our neighbors has \$10,000 in the bank. He is considered by all to be the wealthiest man in the section. He and his wife live alone. His one object in life is to add a few more dollars to that precious account. His sons all left for town as soon as they were big enough to get



The Labor Saving Two-Furrow Gang Plow at Work at a Plowing Match

The photo reproduced herewith shows a Beaver Gang (Cockshutt) and some of its work at the Milton, Ont., plowing match last fall. Although the plow was plowing two furrows, each 16 inches wide and 6 inches deep, it was hauled by two horses. Two furrow plows, on account of the scarcity of labor, are becoming very popular.

away. The man is absolutely useless to the community in which he lives, and his life is simply a round of drudgery.

"And even with that large bank account I should consider his life a failure from a purely business point of view. In the 20 or more years that he has been struggling about that \$10,000 he has never taken more than a bare living and never considers such a thing as interest on the investment he has in his farm. Had he and his wife lived as well-to-do farmers should live, and had he to pay for the money invested in his farm at five per cent, he would to-day be a few thousand dollars in debt."

"Fourteen years ago I started in to farm with \$1,000 cash. All of this I invested in four pure-bred cows which had been bred to a good bull. These cows were the foundation of my present herd. I have always lived well and aimed to be of some use to the community in which I live, but every cent other than this has gone into my herd. And the herd has paid for the farm. I don't suppose I have more than a couple of hundred dollars where I could get hold of it on a day's notice, but I think that I am worth at least \$12,000 more than I was 14 years ago and have had a good time as well."

"A man's bank account," our friend concluded, "is a poor criterion of his wealth, even in dollars and cents. If it is large it is a sure indication of poor business ability."

Among the numerous periodicals received at our home, Farm and Dairy is the most appreciated.—M. E. Maybes, Hastings Co., Ont.

Dissemination of Bovine Tuberculosis

The possible means for the dissemination of Tuberculosis are enumerated by the sub-committee on dissemination of the International Commission on the control of bovine tuberculosis, as follows:

1. The introduction into a sound herd of an animal or animals affected with tuberculosis (a) those with open tuberculosis, (b) those in which the disease is in a period of incubation, and (c) those in which the lesions are temporarily arrested. The last group will not transmit the infection speedily and possibly may never do so. The first group is certain to spread the virus.

2. By feeding calves milk, whole or separated, buttermilk or whey, where the milk has come from tuberculous cows.

3. By bringing cattle suffering from open tuberculosis in contact with healthy ones at fairs, cattle shows and other exhibitions.

4. By shipping healthy cattle in cars not thoroughly disinfected, recently occupied by tuberculous cattle.

5. By placing healthy cattle in stables that have not been thoroughly disinfected and which were recently occupied by tuberculous animals, as frequently happens with the change of farm ownership or tenants.

6. Tuberculous animals which do not react to tuberculin, such as those in the period of incubation or latent cases, but which develop active tuberculosis later, are frequently carriers of the virus although bought and sold as sound animals. These cannot at present be differentiated from sound animals. Therefore all cattle coming from herds in which the disease exists should be considered as suspicious. The sound herd is the unit to deal with.

7. Tubercle bacilli may be transmitted by tuberculous cattle running in a pasture to healthy cattle in adjoining pastures where they are separated by a fence of such nature that the cattle may get their noses together.

HOW THE DISEASE OCCURS

8. Tuberculosis in cattle rarely, if ever, occurs through infection from (a) man, either directly or as a carrier of bovine tubercle bacilli, (b) from other species of animals, or (c) by infection from the droppings of crows, buzzards or other birds of carnivorous animals that have fed upon the carcasses of tuberculous cattle.

It is the opinion of the committee that bovine tuberculosis is spread largely through the introduction of tuberculous cattle into sound herds; by the feeding of calves with infected milk, or milk products; by exposing sound animals to infected ones at fairs, or other cattle shows; and by exposing them to infected cars and stables. There are other ways in which now and then it is possible that an animal may become infected but the means of dissemination mentioned in this paragraph are those to be guarded against in formulating efficient methods of control.