

FARM AND DAIRY

& RURAL HOME

The Recognized Exponent of Dairying in Canada

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land — Lord Chatham

VOL. XXXV.

PETERBORO, ONT., MARCH 16, 1916

No. 10

The Feed To Grow and How To Grow It*

An Outline of Methods Particularly Applicable To Eastern Ontario Conditions

BY J. H. GRIDALE

FOR the most part the dairy farmer has to depend on what he can grow on his own farm to feed his stock. His success or failure, therefore, largely depends on the way he handles his land, and the cause of most failures among farmers is they have not made the best use of the land which they worked.

In Canada we fall down as a rule when it comes to yields. Last year was an exception for, owing to the rainfall, our yields have been away and beyond anything we have ever heard of before. In the West I saw fields of wheat last fall that yielded 75 bushels per acre, and fields of oats which ran over 150 bushels per acre. In Ontario forage crops have yielded in proportion.

These exceptional yields were due largely to weather conditions, but the fact remains that our best farmers have excellent crops every year. There is no reason why our yields should not be in the aggregate 50 per cent. better than they are at the present time. We have too many men who are only half farmers, who are willing to handle the land along the same lines of ordered method as their fathers and grandfathers. They do not realize that changed conditions such as depleted fertility, the weed nuisance, and altered market demands require a corresponding change in farming methods. What is needed to increase our total yields is more care, more thought, more intelligence and a little more labor in our farming practice.

Ticking the Cow's Palate.

We must have in the feed of the dairy cow something that will make her consume a lot of it, and one of the first considerations in growing the feed is palatability from the cow's standpoint. If a cow eats 100 pounds of feed, giving therefrom a certain amount of milk, the chances are that if she can be induced to eat 150 pounds of it you will get more than a proportional increase of milk. Palatability in the feed is what will induce her to eat the extra amount.

Another important consideration is the cost of the feed. You may get 10,000 pounds of milk from a cow, but if it takes \$100 worth of feed to produce it you may not be making much money on the transaction. The objective should be to get that 10,000 pounds of milk from \$80 worth of feed or from \$60 worth. In all feeding operations, consider the cost.

Where Corn is King.

Of all succulent feeds corn ensilage is the most acceptable to the farmer and is as acceptable to the cow as any. It is already one of the principal crops in Ontario and Quebec, and can be grown successfully all over Canada. Its principal recommendations are its succulence and the large amount of it that can be grown per acre. Last fall we harvested 1,200 tons of silage from 85 acres at the Experimental Farms at Ottawa.

Besides a succulent feed dairy cows demand a

dry food rich in protein. For this purpose alfalfa is very suitable. We grow it in our hay mixtures, but there are various objections to growing it alone. It requires special preparation of the soil and makes necessary the setting apart of certain areas on which to grow it. Unless a field is set apart for it, it disorganizes a farmer's rotation. The common clovers, red and alsike, have the advantage that they are more easily grown than

alfalfa is as good as any. Besides furnishing the cereal part of the cow's rotation, the oats furnish the straw so necessary about the cow barn. These crops, corn, clover, and oats, together with the straw, are the main ones to grow. Eliminate one of them and there is a lack as far as the feeding of dairy cattle is concerned. They have the additional advantage that almost every farmer knows how to handle them.

Increasing the Crops.

For centuries it has been recognized that certain crops do better after certain others. From this observed fact has arisen the practice of rotation, and all experience tends to emphasize the great importance of rotation in farming practice. Corn never fails to grow on spring plowed sod or pasture which is properly prepared. A light coat of manure should be applied on the surface of the sod, after which it should be plowed to a depth of about four inches. The roller should follow the plow immediately, the soil should be very well cultivated, and the corn sown right away. Where this procedure fails it will be found to be generally due to not rushing the work through as fast as is consistent with thorough cultivation. Wisconsin No. 7, White Capped Yellow Dent, or Early Learning are suitable varieties. The corn should be sown in rows three and one-half feet apart with a wide grain drill. One advantage of seeding in rows is that it can be done more rapidly; another is that if the drills are kept straight a great deal of labor will be saved in the summer cultivation. Then, when it comes to harvesting it is easier and more satisfactory to cut corn that has been sown in drills rather than in hills. For summer cultivation there is nothing to equal the two row cultivator, but for its satisfactory use it is absolutely necessary to have the rows straight. Neglect in this matter at the time of seeding will be a cause of worry the whole year through.

Growing Three Crops a Year.

Each year the farmer should make provision for the growing of at least three crops, that is, the crop under cultivation, and the crops which are to succeed it in the two following years. For this reason corn should be kept as free as possible from weeds, and should be handled with a view not only to yielding a large corn crop, but also to harvesting maximum yields of the crops which are to follow it.

Do not disturb the soil too deeply after the corn is harvested. If plowed, it should be plowed very shallow, but we have not the best results by simply using the double line harrow. The disadvantage of this method is that it leaves the corn stubble on the surface, but otherwise it gives the best results.

*A synopsis report of an address delivered by J. H. Gridale, B.A.S., Director Dominion Experimental Farms, Ottawa, at the E.O.D.A. Convention in Belleville.

Wages of Farm Help

THE wages paid for farm labor in Canada in 1914 fell to a lower point than in any other year. The causes for this decrease were the small crops of 1914 for the gathering of which fewer hands were required, the release of other laborers on the outbreak of the war and the increased cost of board. In 1915, owing to the abundant harvest and the effects of recruiting for the army, there was some reaction, and the average wages paid were more than in 1914, if not quite equal to those paid in 1910, the date of the previous inquiry. For the dominion the average wages per month during the summer, including board, were \$37.10 for male and \$20.20 for female help, as compared with \$35.55 and \$18.81 last year. For the year, including board, the average wages were \$341 for males and \$200 for females, as compared with \$323.30 and \$189.75 in 1914. The average value of board per month works out to \$14.57 for males and \$11.45 for females, the corresponding figures of 1914 being \$14.27 and \$11.24. Average wages per month were lowest in Prince Edward Island, viz., \$26.67 for males and \$14.59 for females; in Nova Scotia the averages were \$32.95 and \$18.85; in New Brunswick, \$33.73 and \$16.11; in Quebec, \$33.08 and \$16.44; in Ontario, \$31.09 and \$17.12; in Manitoba, \$45.16 and \$27.59; in Saskatchewan, \$42.22 and \$23.81; in Alberta, \$44.02 and \$24.25; and in British Columbia, \$49.37 and \$31.21.

alfalfa. We all know how to handle them, and they fit into our rotations splendidly. With the average farmer they yield almost as much as alfalfa.

For the cereal part of the food grown on the farm nothing can equal oats, and of these the