

# THE O. A. C. REVIEW

" THE PROFESSION WHICH I HAVE EMBRACED REQUIRES A KNOWLEDGE OF EVERYTHING."

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## Milk Production in 1916—And After

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THE principles of dairying are the same the world over and will be similar for all time. Climatic and other local conditions may cause a variation in details, but the general rules are the same in all places and for all dairy-men.

These principles centre around three points—the Dairyman, the Dairy Cow, and Feed for the Cow.

Since dairying is as old as the human race and has been carefully studied by some of the best minds interested in Agriculture, it is difficult to say anything new on the subject. However, there are a few outstanding features with reference to milk production which may be briefly noticed at the beginning of another dairy season. It is a compliment to the Dairy Industry that the Editor of the O. A. C. REVIEW should have conceived the idea of devoting a special number to this one branch of agriculture. The field of a College magazine is so wide, that to restrict its pages, even for one number, might look like showing partiality. Readers interested in Dairying will appreciate the compliment paid them.

### DAIRYING LARGELY A SUMMER BUSINESS IN CANADA

Winter production of milk is gradually increasing in Ontario, but the bulk of milk is still produced in the "good-old-summer-time." For many years it was thought necessary to have the cows dry nearly all winter. Farmers, at that time, who kept twenty-five

or more cows on the farm, frequently had no milk for home use during winter. Or, if they had milk, it was got from a "stripper" or two, probably milked once a day. Frequently this milk had such a bad flavor, due to feeding turnips, or advanced lactation, that when placed in hot tea or coffee, it was impossible to drink it.

Dairy-men are gradually getting away from summer-milking cows only, and are increasing the number of winter milkers. This is a commendable change for the reason that winter milk is worth more money and costs no more to produce, on high-priced land where corn and clover can be grown successfully. The farmer has more time to give to the stock in winter and with the right kind of feed, and stabling, and fresh cows, the greatest profit results from winter milk. In spite of the foregoing, we are safe in saying that seventy-five per cent of the annual milk production of the Province of Ontario takes place in the summer months. Cows naturally freshen in the spring of the year and "go dry" in the autumn. The unthinking man is inclined to allow nature to take its course. The thinking man is ever trying to improve on nature's methods. The "let-well-enough-alone" policy, is a poor policy for a progressive people. The poets have held up nature as a model in all ages, but the poets, as a rule, have been unprogressive farmers. Poetry and farming do not harmonize.