

FARMING

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Supplementary Feed

Begin to Cut it for the Cows Before the Pastures Get Very Dry

Now is the time to begin cutting green fodder for the cows. Unless there has been abundance of rain pastures by the middle of July will begin to get parched and dry and the grass less succulent. When this stage arrives the dairyman should begin to cut a little green fodder such as peas and oats for his cows. This combination answers well till the corn is ready and the dairyman who has neglected to provide his cows with this supplementary feed will soon find them failing in their milk and his returns from the cheese factory or creamery gradually diminishing.

Many dairymen who grow supplementary feed for their cows fail to get the full benefit from it because they do not begin cutting it soon enough. The practice generally followed is to leave off feeding it till the cows begin to show an appreciable falling off in the flow of milk. This is very poor practice. The cows should be given a little of this supplementary green feed as soon as the pastures begin to look dry and before the cows begin to shrink in their milk. If this is done the flow of milk can be kept up pretty well during the dry season and the cows will be in better shape for milking during the fall months when dairy products are at their highest in price. If, on the other hand, the cows are left without this extra green feed till they have fallen off considerably in the flow of milk it will be very difficult to get them back to their former supply. The only sure plan, then, is not to allow any shrinkage in milk to take place by keeping the cows well supplied with good succulent feed during July and August.

The Export Bacon Trade

The Prices of Danish, Canadian and American Bacon in 1898 Compared

In a recent issue of the *Journal* of the British Board of Agriculture attention is called to the steady increase in the imports of bacon and hams, which have risen from 4,819,000 cwts., valued at £10,856,000, in 1894, to 7,683,000 cwts. in 1898, valued at £14,216,000. Three countries contributed nearly the whole of the quantity imported into Great Britain in 1898. The United States sent 5,939,000 cwts.; Denmark, 1,918,000 cwts., and Canada 653,000 cwt. It is pointed out that the average import value of bacon was only 36s. 2d. per cwt., and at such a price British and Irish producers cannot compete.

The London, England, *Live Stock Journal*, in referring to this statement, says:

"But we find by examining the details that the declared value of the Danish contribution works out at 53s. 1d. per cwt., that of Canada being 37s. 2d., and that of the United States only 21s. 9d. This great difference explains how Denmark can keep on increasing her supply. But why does Danish bacon command more than double the price of American? Mainly because the Danes for years past have been breeding pigs of the Large and Middle White Yorkshire strains, but also partly because they cure their bacon in the English fashion. The Canadians are following the same example, we believe, and they can already

command nearly 70 per cent. more for their produce than the Americans obtain. In the United States the prevailing breed is still the Poland-China, which is better suited for lard than for bacon."

What strikes us very forcibly in looking into this matter, if the figures given by the *Journal* are correct, is the very wide difference in the prices obtained for Danish and Canadian bacon. While it is very gratifying to know that the price obtained for our bacon in 1898 is fully 70 per cent. more than that obtained for American, still it is a matter of some surprise to us to learn that Canadian bacon is nearly 16s. per cwt. behind the Danish article. There is surely something in this that every Canadian hog-raiser should consider and endeavor to remedy. We appear to have started on the right track and to have outdistanced our competitors to the south of the line very considerably; but there is a very long stretch yet before we reach the top and obtain the prices for our bacon which the Danish article commands. According to the above, we are pursuing a middle course and have several strides to make before securing the place which our European competitor now occupies.

While the breed has a great deal to do with the quality of the bacon produced, yet we cannot wholly agree with the explanation given by the *Journal* for this difference in quality. Experiments have shown that the quality of bacon, in a very large measure, depends upon the care and feeding of the hogs, and we have reason to believe that a great many of our farmers have not yet fully learned the real secret of feeding and fitting hogs for making the highest quality of bacon. However, we shall know more on this matter by the end of the year, when the results of the experiments along this line that are now being conducted at the Central Experimental Farm, the Ontario Agricultural College and under the auspices of the Dominion Swine Breeders' Association at various farms in this province, are made known. In the meantime there should be no backward movement, and every farmer should do his best to supply the market with the kind of hog best suited for the export bacon trade.

The following tables, taken from Hodgson Brothers' Liverpool provision market report of July 1st, show the stocks of bacon hams and shoulders on hand at Liverpool, and the prices on June 30th for the last seven years:

ESTIMATED STOCKS IN LIVERPOOL.

| | BACON. Boxes. | HAMS. Boxes. | SHOULDERS. Boxes. |
|-----------|------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1899..... | 16,338 | 1,630 | 1,202 |
| 1898..... | 25,514 | 10,678 | 4,039 |
| 1897..... | 20,939 | 6,316 | 1,897 |
| 1896..... | 13,281 | 1,117 | 1,323 |
| 1895..... | 17,182 | 2,698 | 1,241 |
| 1894..... | 9,707 | 1,315 | 1,033 |
| 1893..... | 5,288 | 3,685 | 1,989 |

COMPARATIVE HIGHEST PRICES PER CWT. ON JUNE 30TH AT LIVERPOOL.

| | BACON. Long Clear. | HAMS. | SHOULDERS. |
|-----------|-----------------------|-------|------------|
| 1899..... | 30/ | 50/ | 33/6 |
| 1898..... | 32 6 | 39/ | 29/6 |
| 1897..... | 26/6 | 47/ | 29/ |
| 1896..... | 26/ | 50/ | 25/ |
| 1895..... | 33/6 | 49/ | 31/ |
| 1894..... | 37/ | 57/ | 37/ |
| 1893..... | 53/ | 64/ | 45/ |