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## HOW TO OBTAIN LARGE MILK YIELDS\*

George Rice, Tilsonburg, Ont.

HOW shall we get a better cow? I fancy the cow says, get a better man to care for me. It should seem to some a very simple thing to feed a cow. And so it is if one simply throws the feed into her. That, however, is by no means all that is required.

A man wishing to become an engineer must learn the business. He must become familiar with the different parts of the mechanism, and know where the power comes from. He must see that the machine runs smoothly and that all parts work in harmony. A nut loose or some little thing wrong will lead perhaps to very serious results.

If a man would be an expert cheese-maker he must learn the business. Theory alone will not suffice, he or she must learn from actual work. There are many things that need to be known in order to meet different situations in the process of manufacture. Indeed practice gives one a sort of intuition. By practice one learns just what to do, at different stages of the operation.

### AN INTRICATE MACHINE

The dairy cow is more intricate than any machine. Man has invented many wonderful machines, but never anything that will make milk or take the place of the cow.

We cannot understand the exact processes of the cow's system. By careful study of her habits and characteristics, however, we can provide pretty well for her needs. It is only from actual practice that a man can gain the knowledge necessary to successfully care for the cow. We may talk about balanced rations and all that, but we get the cart before the horse. What we want is a balanced man to feed the ration, one who is interested enough in what he is doing to study the cow, and learn to know her likes and her dislikes, or as we might say, know cow language.

Every stockman knows that it takes a lot of knowledge and experience to get the best results from stock. This being true with other stock, it is much more applicable with the dairy cow, she being a harder worker than any other animal, and a greater food producer. It is reasonable to conclude then that there is a heavy tax upon her.

### COMPARED WITH OTHER STOCK

The machinist takes his machine apart to learn about the various parts. We cannot learn very much about milk production from dissecting the cow. If we will go by deduction, first we will see

what she produces as compared with other stock in order that we may know why we must give a cow good care if we expect large results.

A good cow can produce milk containing 2.3 and even 4 lbs. butter fat in 24 hours. That is no great weight is it? But, how much essence of energy does it represent? Compare this with the production of a beef animal. We find that the cow can produce more butter fat than the other can beef, whilst each pound of her product is worth more by five times than the product of the beef animal. Place on top of that the skim milk, containing more actual food value than the butter fat and where does the dairy cow stand?

A cow produces 1,500, 2,000, and even 3,000 lbs. of milk in a month more than her own weight.



Is This Scene a Familiar One on Your Farm?

The barn yard is a good place for dairy cows for short intervals in fine weather in the winter time. Unfortunately many cows get too much of this treatment and are obliged to obtain much of their sustenance from the straw stack. Dairy cows, in order to do their best, must be well cared for, kept from exposure and never as a rule had to stand in the open. Read the adjoining article, a "square deal."

Sometimes a cow will produce more than double her own weight. You may say there is quite a bit of water in it. Well there is water in her own carcass, and for that matter in yours. There is water in beef and in almost all things water has its place and its value.

We will call upon the man of science (who analyses all things and tells no lies). He tells us 2½ lbs. of milk is equal in food value to 1 lb. of beef. Therefore, 2,500 lbs. of milk is equal to 1,000 lbs. beef; 5,000 lbs. of milk represents 2,000 lbs. beef; 30,000 lbs. of milk represents 8,000 lbs. beef; 25,000 lbs. of milk represents 10,000 lbs. beef.

Cows have produced these various amounts of milk and more, in a year. Over 27,000 lbs. milk has been produced by a cow in one year. It would be a wonderful beef animal that would weigh 30,000 lbs. Even then it would have to be a calf, or at least not over one year to produce the same value of food as the dairy cow.

Speaking of calves. The dairy cow has also to produce a calf as well as give the milk. What a

demand maternity makes upon her strength! Is she fed whilst dry sufficient to recuperate her strength which has been drained from her from previous production? Also to strengthen her for the work which lies before her? The unborn calf is made or marred by her vitality and vigor. It is taking strength from her. Do we give her enough nourishment before freshening, so that when she has gone through all the stages of maternity there will be enough left to carry her through the heavy work that faces her, if she is to produce large quantities of milk? Going further back, has she been fed and cared for, for several generations to produce a vigorous animal.

It does not take much reasoning to see that if a cow is to produce large quantities of milk, she must have great powers of endurance as well as ability to concentrate her energies to that purpose. Our aim in breeding the dairy cow should be to give good care and feed, and thus build up a strong vigorous animal.

### HISTORY OF OUR COWS

What has been the history of the cow in this country. I remember the old settlers telling how, when feed got scarce the cattle were driven to the wood to eat the browse from the felled trees. Later the straw stack and barnyard were considered plenty good enough for the cow. And, even yet in the twentieth century, with fine buildings, it is far, far from what it should be. Is that the way to develop the dairy cow for heavy production? No. "We might as well try to take the hump off the back of a camel with a poultriee."

The dairy cow has been as a rule had as a "square deal." Whilst the hogs eat the corn, the horses the hay and oats, and the steer the hay and chop, the dairy cow has had to take what she could get. It is a wonder indeed that she produces as much as she does; or for that matter any milk at all.

Some people indeed seem to think it does not pay to give the cow good feed. Ye Gods! And yet we are able to show that she can, when treated right, when used "white," produce milk in one year equal in food value to that produced by 12 or 15 steers. Could she eat as much? As a matter of fact it is possible to get the beef animal to eat as much as the cow. It is also possible to get a poor milker that will eat as much as a large milker. Therefore, it follows that the large milk yields do not depend upon the food alone. Other factors must influence the yield.

Food is important. The food fed whilst the cow is dry has as great an influence upon her pro-

\*Extracted from a paper read last week at the Provincial Winter Fair, Ouelph.