

Issued  
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## THE FEED AND MANAGEMENT OF A HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE DAIRY HERD\*

Edmund Laidlaw & Sons, Elgin Co., Ont.

**How Cows are Cared for on a Prize Farm. A Remarkable Record Secured from an Old Cow. The Secret of Handling Cows to Get the Best Results. Profit Derived from High Feeding.**

WE try to give the cows in our herd it possible from six to eight weeks' rest before freshening. We do not expect them to live this length of time on straw. If a cow ever wants good wholesome food it is while she is dry. She has her progeny to support and also to recruit the energy expended in her last year of work and to get ready for the coming year. We do not mean that she should have a lot of heavy grain; but she should have a small ration of five to eight lbs. a day of bran and oats, equal parts, with a little oil cake, until she comes near freshening. Then we would give her mostly bran until she has gotten straightened up after calving. This ration with a good ensilage and clover or alfalfa hay will put the cow in good shape for the work of the following year.

### FEEDING THE FRESH COW

After the cow has straightened up ready for work we would increase her grain ration up to from 12 to 18 lbs. a day according to the cow's capacity. A man who starves his cow six or eight months of the year can not afford to feed like this at any time. We always make the cows clean their mangers of ensilage and hay. If one leaves a little we give her a little less next time.

We hear on every side that it does not pay to feed as we have mentioned. This last fall we had the four-year-old cow Molly of Beyham, third under official test, out of all she could digest. We thought this a good opportunity to see whether or not it paid to feed as we had a man here to see what we were doing. In two months we fed her 1,240 lbs. mixed grain at \$1.20 a cwt. Taking her ensilage, roots and hay as they figure it at Guelph, it cost \$24 to feed her.

### HEAVY FEEDING PROFITABLE

This is a lot of money in the eyes of many men. We will see what she gave us in return. The 5,025 lbs. of milk which she gave sold at the Aylmer Condenser for \$72.86, leaving a net profit of \$48.86. This is only an illustration of what can be done with a little care and feed, fed in proper quantities and at the proper time.

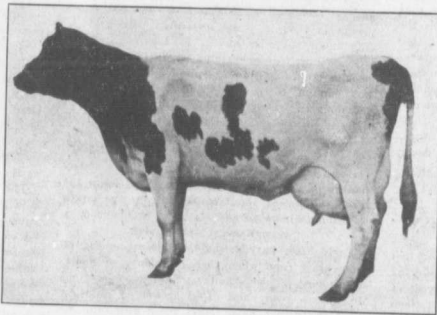
The best way to determine whether or not it pays to feed is to weigh the milk from each and every cow at every milking and keep a record of the same. At the end of the year the feeder

\*This article is part of an essay prepared by Mr. Laidlaw, as required of him by the rules of the Dairy Farms Competition in which competition Mr. Laidlaw's farm secured a high standing last year. Part of this essay appeared in Farm and Dairy last week. Another part illustrated by one of his grade cows, which sold for \$125 by public auction last spring, will appear in the Third Annual Exhibition Number of Farm and Dairy next week.

will know where he is at. When the only grade cow that we now have on the farm was in her milk for the season. She was the best cow in the herd. We fed her fairly well and she gave 9,001 lbs. milk in 10 months. We thought this was a great record when we heard about the cows in Ontario averaging from 2,000 to 3,000 lbs. of milk in the season.

### AN INCREASE FROM GOOD FEED

We started to take better care of our cows, and in her 15th year this same cow gave us 13,155 lbs. of milk in 10 months, giving in one day, 77½ lbs. of milk. At her prime she never reached 60 lbs. in a day. When this cow was



A Fifteen Year Old Cow with a Remarkable Record

During her time, the grade Holstein cow illustrated, which is owned by Edmund Laidlaw & Sons, Elgin Co., gave 9,001 pounds milk in 10 months. This he considered to be a great record. Since then, Mr. Laidlaw has become con- fiding in her fifteenth year, this same cow produced 13,155 pounds of milk in 10 months. Read in the adjoining article how Mr. Laidlaw made care of his cows, and become convinced that it pays to feed.

young neighbor told us she would not last to be over 10 years of age. She looks like a five-year-old yet. Does it pay to feed?

Of course the rations we have been talking about in this article are winter rations. In the flush of the grass we do not recommend feeding so heavy. However, we like to feed a little grain the whole season through, the amount varying according to the milk each cow is giving. It holds their flesh to tide them over a dry spell.

Water is as necessary to the dairy cow as it is to all other animals. The water should be where she can get it whenever she wants it. We have water basins in front of all the cattle and have often noticed the cows each over and take a drink while they are eating. They never miss taking a drink when through eating at night. If they had to be turned out to a trough to

drink they would not get their evening drinks.

We had an incident come under our notice regarding the water question which we will mention. The man who bought the four best cows at our sale in March, 1910, on taking them home found that they did not come up to his expectations. On looking into the matter we found that he had no water system. He said the cows would not drink and consequently would not feed well. We told him that they had been used to having the water in front of them and they missed it. As soon as they went to pasture where they could get water whenever they wanted it two of them went up higher in milk than they ever did with us. It has been a great object lesson to him.

Another necessity is plenty of salt. Keep it in a box where the cows can get at it in summer. Put it in their feed when in the stable.

Cows cared for in the way we have outlined that do not prove good should go to the butcher, and the quicker the better. The only way to

find out which ones they are is by the use of the Babcock tester and scales. The dairy business is improving, but the average of the dairy cows in Canada should at least reach two and a half to three times what it is at present. To show you that we practise what we preach we may say that at every milking the milk from the individual cows is weighed, and recorded so that we know what we are doing.

### NO SECRET IN LARGE RECORDS

People in general think that large records are made by some secret process. On the contrary there is nothing more to it than merely what we have mentioned. Our grade cow Victoria, milked twice a day, did not give 81½ lbs. milk a day and 16,500 lbs. in 10 months by a secret way of handling. Neither did she give it without feed. It was just a case of good care in the way we have outlined. The sires we have used have all been good ones, and the consequence is we have not get a rough animal in the stable. All are good ones at the pail.

The dam of our first bull gave 14,000 lbs. of milk in the 10 months and was a first prize winner at Toronto. The next sire was Schuiling De Kel, who was also a first prize winner at Toronto, London and Ottawa and whose dam was a first prize winner in the dairy test at Guelph. The next was Lord Roberts De Kol whose dam made 18.28 lbs. butter in seven days as a three-year-old and whose sire was also the sire of Tidy Pauline De Kel whose seven day A.R.O. record was 28.44 lbs. of butter. The present stock bull is Dutchland Colantha Sir Aberkerk, whose dam's record is 28.44 lbs. butter in seven days and whose sire's dam is Colantha 4th's Johanna, 35.22 lbs. butter in seven days; 138.54 in 30 days and who holds the world's record for the year with 1,247.82 lbs. of butter and 27,432.50 lbs. of milk.