

We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideas.

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

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To Get the Most Milk from the Feed Available

A Racy Address by Wisconsin's Superintendent of Cow Testing, Mr. Noel Begley, That Makes Good Reading for Dairymen Everywhere

It has been said that "all things are possible to one who believes," but that does not apply to one who believes he can get milk from cows without feed, although the present prices of feed have tempted some dairymen to try it to their sorrow. When feed costs are high, the cow finds it more difficult to make good returns over cost of feed and she is usually further handicapped by the tenderness of her owner to cut her ration. However, she has learned the "Safety First" slogan from her master, and before she makes any of that food into milk, she will see that her own precious body is well provided for, and if you suit her enough to take care of her body, you do not get any in the pail.

Even though we may have plenty of cheap feed at hand, that is no assurance that we are going to make a lot of cheap milk, for some cows convert feed into more or less milk, while others convert it into beef, and others are blessed only to convert it into converted feed at \$50 a ton into manure at \$2 a ton. Yet they are all called "cows," and the three classes are often found in the same barn. So far as milk production is concerned, the last two classes are simply "feed destroying parasites" and they themselves should be destroyed on discovery.

Picking the Winners.

A poultry specialist can tell by looking at the legs, beak, ear lobes and pelvic bones of a hen how many eggs she will lay. One man examined 7,566 hens, discarded 41.5 per cent. of them and lost only 3.3 per cent. in egg production. In one flock of 78 hens he culled out 84 without the loss of a single egg. The fourteen "workers" laying just as many eggs as the other did when in the company of the 64 "losers." While it would be mighty convenient to grab a cow, look at her legs, head, ears, and pelvic bones and tell how many pounds of butter she was going to make, we must yet determine real efficiency by weighing the feed and weighing and testing the milk. Even in Wisconsin in the year 1916 we have many so-called dairymen who claim the ability to tell by looking at a cow how much milk and fat she will make, yet many of our best dairymen seem unable to tell their best cows from their poorest ones unless records of feed and milk production are kept.

The difference in cows is not due to breed, for we find scrubs in all breeds, just as we find scrubs among the Irish, English, German, and Swedish. Nor is it due to color, for a cow that is black can produce as much milk as one that is black and white or entirely white. A short white grade Herman Vetter of Fond du Lac bought a grade Holstein for \$50 from a neighbor who did not like her color and "thought she was not much good anyway." Last year this cow was in an association and was second highest fat producing cow in the state, making 691.7 pounds of fat. John Puls of Hartford bought a pure-bred Holstein heifer because she was not well marked and was "probably the poorest in my herd," but during the past year she produced 778.6 pounds of fat. It seems to me that when men develop such highly refined tastes for color, that it would be to their financial interest at least if they became temporarily color blind.

Scrubs—Men or Cows.

While feed and the kind of cow are very important in the matter of getting profit from the business, the most important factor surely, is the man—who was "given dominion over every living thing that moveth upon the face of the earth." In this matter, the ability is developed to a remarkable degree to sidestep responsibility and shift the blame for low production on to the humble and defenseless dairy cow. The more inefficient he is, the more often do we hear him say: "My cows are no good, they are

only scrubs," when in reality we find his cows to be pretty fair and that it is he who is "no good," for he is the real scrub. Surely when such men claim they are "self-made" men, as they often do, they relieve the Almighty of a great responsibility.

What Made the Difference.

It seems in Wisconsin that our cows are better cows than our men are dairymen. For instance, two years ago one man sold three cows to his neighbor for \$70 apiece because under his conditions they were unprofitable. When the new man got hold of the cows and gave them his usual good feed and care, they more than doubled the production of the previous year. Bessie made 347.29 pounds of fat at a profit over feed of \$72.29, Daisy made 282.8 pounds made 608.3 pounds of fat at a profit over feed of \$142.24. The cows were just as good the year before man to give them a chance, and when they got it the year, and each put \$45 into the pocket of the fellow that gave her the opportunity. So before we look for the mole in our cow's eye, let us pick the beam out of our own.

Burning Corn.

There are still other items in sars which affect profit, such as water, ventilation, and temperature of barns. While feed has practically doubled, water at the same old price—free for the taking. Yet the cows very much of it, but raise halibut about the price of feed which is not of more importance than water. If we had to pay about 10 cents a gallon for water, we would probably try to get our cows as burning corn in your stoves this winter; if so, go ahead and make your cows drink ice water, it is practically the same thing. The cow uses corn,

barley, and other carbohydrate feeds to give her body heat and energy, and if she has to keep her body to a temperature of 101 degrees and warm up 75 to 100 pounds of ice water a day, it takes some feed.

If we are going to burn corn to heat ice water, we might as well burn some more to keep up the warm cracks to keep out the cold. Some people, as quickly freezing point and I know of some barns in which they go even farther and freeze the milk in the tests. I am wondering how many of you would be sitting here if there were no heat. Yet you put a cow on a cold concrete floor, stick her head in an iron yoke from this feed." While she can get away, she has sense enough to know that self preservation body is well warmed before she puts any of that feed into milk for the boss. With the exception of barn equipment, lumber, and other building material as it did before the war, and the fellow that uses keep his cows comfortable and good care to through losses in the business, and further the man to be arrested and fined by the Humane Society for cruelty to animals, and by the Food Administration for wasting human food.

When Buying a Fanning Mill

A Few Hints re What to Look For

CHOOSE the mill that will produce the best grade of seed.

See that the mill is well made, but do not over-estimate the value of its lasting qualities: a mill that will clean and grade well will pay for itself in a capacity or two.

The ease and rapidity with which the amount of grain leaving the hopper can be controlled is an important matter. It should be possible to shut off or regulate the flow of grain to the sieves with one hand while turning with the other. If one must stop turning the mill in order to close the hopper, the sieves become flooded and poor work results. It is an advantage for the person turning the mill to be able to see the work the sieves are doing.

Preference should be given to the mill with the simplest and best arrangement for bagging.

It is a great advantage to deal with a firm who will guarantee to see that the mill is fitted with the proper sieves to handle the grain for which it is required. When you buy a mill give the firm to understand you will send them samples of your seed and cleaning it. If manufacturers would do this, only a few standard sieves need be supplied with the mill, not an advantage unless they are specially adapted for the work to be done.

BOYS AND GIRLS AND FARMING

FARMING is fully as much a boys' and girls' problem as it is a problem of production. If the boys and girls have not been interested in the farm they will likely leave. That means the end of that farm home in 10 or 20 years and a tenant will likely follow on the farm, and the ones who should be on it will likely be in town working for wages. That farm home has in a measure been a failure. Give the boys and girls on the farm recreation; a social centre is one solution. Give them a good consolidated school with its many advantages, and give the boy or girl a chance to learn that the farm produces things of value to them by letting them have a pig or a calf or acre to care for as their own and to market as their own, and then have the proceeds to spend as they choose. This develops the ownership idea and the spirit of independence. When the boy or girl is given nothing to raise and market as their own, the hired man or dependent attitude is too often developed.—W. C. Palmer.