

The Pros and Cons of Winter Dairying

D. A. MacFarlane, *Huntington Co., Que.*

The only place where winter dairying is profitable is in those sections conveniently situated to ship milk to cities. We do not believe in winter dairying when milk has to be sent to the creamery. The prices usually paid are then not enough to recompense us for the extra expense of producing milk in winter.

A number of years ago our Government made an appeal to us farmers to try winter dairying. We, along with many others, gave it a thorough trial in an up-to-date way, feeding silage and clover. We found it unprofitable at creamery prices. The building up of our farms with the larger quantity of better manure was the strongest point we found in favor of winter dairying.

For a few years the larger number of our local factories were kept open throughout the winter months. With the exception of a very few, all are now closed in winter. A large condensery was started in our nearest town. The prices paid by the condensery are found to warrant winter dairying.

CITY AND CONDENSERY PRICES

Prices paid by Montreal city are, net, \$1.20 for five months; \$1.70 for seven months. Condensery prices are, net, \$1.00 for five months; \$1.40 for four months; \$1.50 for one month; \$1.70 for two months. Creamery prices on an average do not come nearly up to these quotations, even counting skim milk, which cannot be fed to hogs as successfully in winter as in summer.

The yearly average yield of milk is larger from cows that freshen in the fall if properly housed in winter and fed a sufficient quantity of suitable feed. We find that November is the best month to have them freshen. If fed properly when stabled, cows will do well throughout the winter, and, on going to grass in the spring, will increase in quantity of milk again what they had decreased the latter part of the winter.

In this way milk on an average can be produced as cheaply when cows freshen in fall as in spring, where pasture is not abundant. We certainly think it advisable, however, for the farmer sending his milk to the creamery to have his cows freshen in the spring, as most farmers have a run of rough pasturage, therefore cheaper feed and less outlay. Our own experience in sending milk to the creamery in winter was that we had nothing left with an average price of \$1.15 a cwt. of milk; it takes that much to keep cows up and cover expenses.

CAN ALWAYS GET GOOD HELP

We consider winter dairying an advantage in that we are able to hire help by the year. We have a number of married men having houses on the farm, and have no trouble to get sufficient help at all seasons. By profitable winter dairying, i.e., milk for the city trade, we are able to give sufficient wages to hire experienced farm help; experienced help we find cheapest at a high wage.

Calves can be raised profitably during the winter season, and being ready to put on grass in spring, we consider that they have an advantage over spring calves.

We, however, have not raised our calves for a number of years, buying our cows when needed for the keeping up of our stock. This plan seems to suit us, as we are then able to keep a larger number of milkers, having no young stock. On an average, one-third of our cows are sold for beef throughout the year when, for different reasons, they are not profitable to carry over. A cow that will not milk 10 months in the year is unprofitable.

Attention should be given to the feet of the colt in the winter, especially during the first winter. The growth of hoof is very luxuriant and where the animals are running in a barn yard

or other place covered with straw there is no wear on the feet. The result is that the wear is not at all equal to the growth and the foot grows out long sometimes, almost like a man's foot. This formation will tend to throw all the tendons and ligaments of the limb in an unnatural position and is a fruitful cause of blemishes.—Dr. H. G. Reed, *Halton Co., Ont.*

A 60 per cent. Increase in Production

J. Austin, *Norfolk Co., Ont.*

My experience as a member of a cow testing association extends over but one year. Our society was organized a year ago, under the direction of Mr. P. L. Angle, our district representative.

Prior to the organization of the association we had been weighing the milk from our cows, but had not tested them regularly for butter fat. As we were then patronizing a cheese factory,



A Stable Such as This is Conducive to Cow Comfort and Greater Production

Light, sanitary, well ventilated stables such as those at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, an illustration of which appears herewith, are a profitable investment in our cold climate. This is particularly true where winter dairying is practised. Most of our farmers could not afford such elaborate stable equipment as is here shown, but the principles of sanitation and ventilation can be applied equally well by the humblest of us.

the quantity of milk was the main object, and we had already sold one or two cows that did not produce a paying quantity of milk. About 18 months ago the cheese factory was converted into a butter factory, and it then became necessary to know which cows were paying on a butter fat basis.

SOME OF OUR DISCOVERIES

One cow that we had thought of selling has proved to be the best paying cow in the herd.

The appearance of the milk is not to be relied on as a test of the quantity of fat it contains. The milk of No. 1 in our herd tested 4.7 per cent fat. Her milk was not rich looking; in fact, it was rather blue in appearance. Cow No. 2 gave a larger quantity of milk, and if appearances went for anything, should have tested at least one per cent higher than cow No. 1, but her average test for the year was less than four per cent.

In the three years that we have been testing our cows the average quantity given per cow has increased 50 per cent. More interest is taken in keeping up the flow of milk, the scales showing the least shrinkage in quantity. The time consumed in weighing and taking samples for testing is scarcely noticeable.

It is remarkable how rapidly in recent years what at one time were thought to be conveniences only for those who dwell in cities are now being installed in farm houses. We refer particularly to the matter of bathrooms, fully equipped and connected with sanitary systems to dispose of the sewage.—T. R. James, *Middlesex Co., Ont.*

Stable Accommodation For Dairy Cattle

Along with increased interest in winter dairying, farmers are taking more interest in better stable accommodations for their dairy cows. In the vicinity of our Canadian cities many first class dairy stables, fitted with all modern conveniences for producing sanitary milk with a minimum of labor, have been built. In some cases, notably around Ottawa, such stables are made necessary by the regulations of the health inspectors. In most cases, however, dairymen have improved their stables on their own initiative. They have found that it pays.

The hired help do better work when they have a bright, cheerful stable to work in.

Pure air, dryness, light, cleanliness and moderate warmth are the factors to keep in mind when building a stable for winter dairying.

Pure air and dryness are both secured by proper ventilation. A system of ventilation used

by Mr. Henry Glendinning, Ontario Co., Ont., has been giving excellent satisfaction for several years. The system used by Mr. Glendinning is commonly known as the King System. On one side of the doorway, between the jamb and the stone wall, is a shaft about one foot square, and extending from the floor to the ceiling. The air enters this shaft from the outside at the floor level, passes up through the shaft and filters through down into the stable. Foul air is removed by shafts extending to the roof.

The number of inlets and outlets will depend upon the size of the stable. A stable large enough to accommodate 20 cows and the necessary young stock would be well supplied by two inlets and two outlets.

In cold weather the air will circulate more rapidly than in warm, and slides should be arranged over the inlets so as to regulate the air current. Any sign of dampness in the stable means deficient ventilation.

Light and cleanliness also go hand in hand. It is easy to slight dirt in a dark stable, but most of us would be shamed into cleaning a light stable. A good rule for lighting the stable is to have one-third of the length of the walls in glass. The windows should be placed well up to the ceiling so that the light will shine over the cows and make all parts of the stable bright. Light is our best germicide, and is conducive to the health and wellbeing of the dairy herd.

Cows will milk better in a dry stable at 45 degrees than in a damp one at 55 degrees. Many of us in our endeavors to keep the cow stable warm neglect ventilation, whereas the cooler, ventilated stable is best suited to milk production, to say nothing about being more healthy.