

### Providing Fodder for the Dairy Cow

J. H. Caldwell, Carleton Co., Ont.

The provision of fodder for the dairy cow is a much more difficult problem than providing the cow, and one which every dairyman must solve largely for himself, as conditions are seldom alike on different farms.

There are, however, certain principles that we all should strive for. One is to provide suitable goods as cheaply as possible and on our own farms. "Corn is King." It stands pre-eminently at the head of the list as a food for the dairy cow. To all persons engaged in dairying, a silo is a prime necessity. We have found that two small silos are much better than one large one, as more can be taken off daily, keeping the ensilage sweeter.

Next on the list come roots, turnips and mangles. Turnips take the lead. Mangles are more suitable for dairy cows, but it is much harder to get a good crop. Turnips can also be sown much later than mangles, about the 10th of June being considered the best time to sow. This gives us time to prepare the soil. Where turnips are fed immediately after milking we have noticed no ill effects.

We believe every dairyman would be wise to sow a sufficient quantity of peas and oats to provide against the shortage of pasture before the corn is in a condition to be fed. When this mixture is not needed we cut and cure it as hay. It makes a most excellent fodder.

Clover hay is our best fodder for the dairy cow, the late red standing first on account of the pasturage it gives in the fall. We believe that it is seldom out in time to secure the best results, as it is generally mixed with timothy, and many hesitate to cut till the timothy is fairly well matured. This is a great mistake, as a few days' delay in cutting lessens the feeding value appreciably. We have found that a light coat of manure applied with a manure spreader will assist very materially in getting a good catch of clover, especially on lands that are worn out. We sow on fall plowing, and we sow early. We do not loam the soil too deep, but work the surface fine.

We find that on account of the difficulty in securing suitable help on the farm, that some of the largest dairymen are cutting out the roots as they involve too much labor and are growing more corn. Some are growing as much as 40 acres for ensilage.

#### THE BEST YET SEEN

We value highly a small pamphlet issued by the Ontario Agricultural College, Bulletin 138, on "The Composition of Ontario Feeding Stuffs." This is the best thing we have yet seen on the subject of feeding. One of the chief attractions of this pamphlet is the concise form in which it is arranged. Tables just suitable for busy readers are arranged with results so tabulated that one can look them over in a few moments. The table on page 26 is of particular value, as it deals with comparisons of the different foods which nearly all dairymen have to purchase at times. This bulletin should be in the hands of every farmer in Ontario. If you haven't one, send for it. It will pay you well for the trouble.

The lessons of the past three years have been very valuable to farmers who were willing to learn the lesson of the value of corn. If one is thinking of sowing six acres let him sow nine. Let him double the acreage of peas and oats and sow more clover.

As a food for dairy cows I find that alfalfa works in well with even ensilage, and gives excellent results. Alfalfa is high in protein, while the ensilage is low, and the two go well together.—S. A. Northcott, Ontario Co., Ont.

How much finer it is to go out in the woods and lift up your voice in song, and be a child,

than to fight inclination and waste good God-given energy endeavoring to be proper.—Eibert Hubbard.

### Future of Pure Bred Stock

By "Dairy Instructor"

"This bubble will burst some of these days just as all other bubbles do."

This remark came to my ears as I was leaving the ring side at a recent sale of pure bred Holsteins. I supposed that it applied in some way or other to pure bred stock. I was interested and drew a little nearer. I heard the usual talk about the high prices realized and how they made it pos-



One of Graydon's Premiums

This three-year-old pure-bred Tamworth was won by Graydon Knowles as a premium for securing subscriptions to Farm and Dairy. For a boy of 31, Graydon shows lots of enterprise, and, as his father says, is "making good."

sible for the purchaser to make any money on his deal. I have heard so much talk of this kind that I think it is time that we were looking at this matter in a strictly business-like manner.

In the first place, the value of pure bred stock at the present time is not based entirely on their value as milk producers, but on their value as stock getters. A dairyman might be foolish to pay \$300 for a pure bred cow if he intended to get his money back out of the milk she would give. He will get his money back, however, in the superior kind of milking daughters that that cow will produce, and in the superior prices for which he can sell his stock. I don't believe that the market is overworked. I am told that in Canada only one cow in every 1,000 is a pure bred. This would seem to indicate that we are just beginning to touch the possible market for pure bred stock.

#### THE VALUE OF A BULL

"One hundred and fifty dollars for that bull calf! I should say of the man that paid it that 'a fool and his money are soon parted.'" Such was another remark that I heard at the same sale. Of course the speaker went on to reason that as milk production is the characteristic of the mother and not of the sire, that it is the mother that determines a heifer's value at the pail. We know as a matter of fact, however, that the sire has more influence on milk production than the dam.

Suppose that the increase from the first cross is only five pounds of milk a day, or 1,600 lbs. a year, or \$15 worth of milk. Suppose there are 10 cows in the herd. This means an increase of \$150 in the value of milk produced during the first milking period. The average cow has at least seven milking periods. Hence, that investment if \$150 in a pure bred sire is almost certain to return the investor \$1,050 if he has only 10 milk cows. This is not pure theory. I know farmers who have done even better in practice.

I have noticed that almost invariably when a man uses a pure bred sire for a time and sees the splendid results attained, that he soon wants a few pure bred females also. Hence it is that the market for pure bred stock is ever growing and the bubble will not burst, in our generation at least. I don't believe it ever will.

### Mortality in Horses Due to Silage

To lose a good horse is a serious setback to the average farmer. To lose three horses right in a string would mean disaster to many. And few of our wealthiest farmers can afford to regard such a loss with equanimity. Such a case recently came to the attention of an editor of Farm and Dairy when visiting a farm in York Co., Ont. Just previous to our visit three horses of the heavy Clyde type and about three years old had died with influenza—so their owner said. From the description of the symptoms, however, we hardly credited the influenza theory, or if it was influenza, we decided that it must have been of a very peculiar type. Where the horses were down they were not able to get up. The owner ascribed the cause of the disease to the fact that there was no partition between the horse and cow stables, and that the "cow odor" did not agree with the horses. We learned that this farmer had been feeding ensilage, and decided that this might be the real cause of the disease. Accordingly, we wrote to Dr. J. H. Reed at Guelph for his opinion. His reply, which follows, will be of interest to every horse owner:

"This is a mistake of diagnosis. Influenza does not cause paralysis except in very rare cases; of course, the disease is liable to almost any complications, but paralysis is very, very rare, and not at all probable to occur in three horses in the same stable. Neither would air from a cattle stable cause either influenza or paralysis.

#### SILAGE PROBABLY RESPONSIBLE

"As silage has been fed, there is little doubt but that the horses suffered and died from a disease known as cerebro-spinal meningitis. This disease is caused by a germ found in water or food containing diseased or partially decayed animal or vegetable matter. Silage is a prolific cause of the disease in horses. Silage of first-class quality will not cause it, but when there is even a little mould or partial decay (as there often is, and especially this year) it is very dangerous for horse food, even in small quantities. The disease, while sometimes killing very quickly, usually first causes an inability to swallow. An affected horse will, when offered water, apparently drink heartily, but if he be drinking out of a pail it will be noticed that while he is apparently drinking and making the normal noise, the quantity of water is not diminishing. In eating he masticates properly, but cannot swallow, and the food is either quitted or becomes masticated between the molars teeth and the cheeks. Paralysis appears sooner or later, and the horse usually dies in convulsions. No successful treatment has been discovered, and prevention consists in giving pure food and water."

### 100 Pounds More Butter a Year

Horatio Webb, New Westminster Dist., B.C.

I tested my herd of 15 cows some years ago, doing all the work of taking samples and testing myself. My herd averaged 292 lbs. of butter fat in a year, and my best cow made 305 lbs. butter fat. My three poorest cows together only made 300 lbs. of fat, thus showing the difference that I found between my best and my poorest cows.

I went on improving my herd until I sold my farm at \$500 an acre. My cows I disposed of to the purchaser, the price set being the value of the butter fat produced by each cow in the previous year, according to the records of the Dominion Cow Testing Association. I had received 30 cents and a fraction for butter fat from my creamery, and my cows realized me \$87 a head in testing. When I sold out the average production of a head was nearly 100 lbs. of fat a year greater than when I started to test.