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# FARM AND DAIRY

&

## RURAL HOME

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### ROUGH FORAGE FOR THE DAIRY COW\*

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#### How and What to Grow and How to Use It—Specific Information About Crops of Vital Importance to Every Dairyman.

OUR keenest rivals in dairying are Holland and Denmark. These two small corners of Europe are blessed with soil and climatic conditions not better than maintain in Eastern Ontario. When it comes to buying feed the Dane and Dutchman must come to us, pay our prices and then transport 4000 or 5000 miles. We, Canadians, are usually satisfied with 20 to 25 cents to the 100 acres. The Danish and Dutch farmer wants from 75 to 100 head. They feed all these much letter than we do our few. They grow all the roughage. We naturally ask how they do it.

The answer is simple. In the first place these men cultivate their farms. We usually make but a feeble pretence therat. In the second place they grow the right crops and grow them well. We grow similar crops but handle them badly. The crops these men can grow most advantageously we can produce in even greater abundance and with greater certainty. Besides, we can grow cheaply, easily, a crop that never fails, corn.

We could grow clovers, grasses and all other forage crops as well as any Dane or Dutchman, but we don't. We should. Until we do we are not going to make the mark we might in milk production.

#### SADLY LACKING IN CULTIVATION.

So much for crops. Of cultivation I may not speak. One would think that we would all know enough to do that well. Well, we don't. We are sadly lacking. Every Canadian farmer interested in dairying should for patriotic reasons, if for none other, try to beat these Danes and Dutch at their own game. This would be one case at least where patriotism would pay dividends in dollars and cents. Let us consider the matter of producing better forage and more of it on our Eastern Ontario farms.

In the first place, we must do our work better. Every extra hour's work spent upon the field pays high wages. This is true of course up to a certain point. I have never yet been able to determine just where that point was. It has always seemed to me that I might profitably have gone on a little longer. I believe the last extra hours of the most profitable hours spent on the field.

#### AN EXTRAVAGANT METHOD OF FEEDING.

As probably the most important crop for the Eastern Ontario dairymen stands pasture. Pasture grass at the right stage and in abundance has no superior as a dairy ration. But at best, it is expensive, while generally it is a ruinously extravagant method of feeding. However, we all use it more or less and much may be said in its favor, so what we cannot stop let us try to mend. Leaving rough lands or permanent pastures aside, not one farmer in a hundred in my experience makes the least effort at special preparation for pasture. The results are quite up to the pro-

\*An address given before the recent E. O. D. A. convention at Belleville.

portion, the cows starve, and the farmers blame the weather.

Permanent pastures on arable land are not practicable, much less profitable. Hence a combination of meadow and pasture preparation seems really the thing. Good meadows and rich pastures are not spontaneous. Besides, the good meadow does not necessarily lapse into the good pasture in a year or two.

A great variety of grasses might be used for either hay or pasture. I have noticed that the more complicated is any plan offered for improvement the fewer farmers pay any attention to it. I personally have the same disinclination to follow any scheme that looks complicated, and I don't do it if anything simpler can be devised. Let me give you my plan for securing a good meadow, and later a first class pasture.

#### HOW TO SECURE A GOOD MEADOW.

Prepare the land. Begin to prepare the land the year before seeding down. That is, manure

#### Should be in Every Home

I am pleased with Farm and Dairy. It is improving every year. Its editorials are fearless and to the point. Farm and Dairy is a journal that should be in every farmer's home.—A. Hector Cutten, Ingewood Farm, Colchester Co., N.B.

and grow a hoed crop if possible. If a hoed crop is out of the question and manure is scarce, then plow from sod with a shallow furrow in late July or early August. Work well with roller, disc harrow and cultivator. Do not hesitate to work it often. Do not forget to work it well. Do not fail to work it at frequent intervals all autumn. Replow with a slightly deeper furrow, or better still, ridge up with double mould board plow in October after sod is well broken down or rotted. Leave thus all winter.

Prepare for seeding by levelling with spring tooth, stiff tooth or disk harrow. Smooth-harrow and roll. Sow two bushels oats, one and a half bushels barley or one and a quarter bushels wheat per acre. Sow grass and clover seed at the same time or the same day. If land is very dry harrow grass seed in with very light harrow and roll. If land is moderately dry roll only after seeding. If land is moderately moist neither roll nor harrow at the time of seeding but leave till grain covers the ground, then roll in fairly dry time.

#### DON'T FORGET.

A very important consideration is not to forget to sow the grass and clover seed. Very few of us forget entirely. The great majority of us forget about half or more and very many of us forget very nearly the whole thing. It costs quite a bit

to remember in this case. I have a suspicion that this is why we so frequently and so easily forget. Forgetting is really more expensive if we would only stop to think or watch results.

The common grasses and clovers are the best to sow. Timothy, bromes grass, cocks foot or orchard grass, rye grass, mammoth clover, red western clover, alsike clover and alfalfa are all suitable. The soil, the field and the purpose in view should influence the choice. Thus little use sowing cocks foot on light soil, no use trying alfalfa on badly drained land, and mammoth clover is rather unsatisfactory for late summer and fall pasturing. For average conditions, timothy, red western and alsike clovers will give best results.

Sow enough seed. Sow 12 to 20 lbs. timothy, three to five lbs. alsike and eight to 12 lbs. red clover an acre. If you hesitate about sowing so much sow a little more. If your soil is fairly rich and well drained add a few pounds of alfalfa per acre, say five or six pounds. A couple of pounds of mammoth in place of a much of red clover might be advantageous. In heavy clay soil four or five pounds orchard grass would do good.

#### THE MEANS OF SOWING.

The average seed drill grass seeding attachment won't sow this much seed. Sow it by hand or by means of special grass seeder. Divide the grass seed mixture into two equal parts. Sow each part to entirely cover the field. Sow the first half of the seed lengthwise, then, sow the second half crosswise, the field. The first half might be sown from the grass seed attachment on the grain drill, the second half by hand across the seeder rows.

The expense may seem prohibitive and does, I know, usually deter from this style of seeding. Such a seeding, leaving out the alfalfa, might cost from \$2 to \$3 an acre. The returns will be from \$10 to \$20 an acre in hay or in pasture each year better than from the average seeding. I have tried both ways for many years. I know. Try it. Then, when you have the pasture, use it wisely. Pasture down fairly well but not close. Give it a chance, either by having enough pasture for the whole herd, or divide the herd, or else divide their attention by giving the pasture a few days off now and again as needed.

So long as we continue to practice summer dairying almost exclusively as we do at present in Eastern Ontario, methods of summer feeding must be more important than methods of winter feeding. Good pastures are of value, but even the very best of pastures run short in times of drought. Then how shall we supplement? First and best, by the summer silo. Cows always welcome good ensilage. Or, next best, by various soiling crops.

#### AN ECONOMICAL FORAGE CROP.

The summer silo means corn for ensilage. Corn for forage is easily the most dependable, the most profitable and the most economical forage crop in Eastern Ontario. Growing much corn means good farming. Good farmers are sure to grow corn abundantly.

Growing corn well means a number of things. Foremost, a well drained field is necessary. This field is likely to give best results if it was in