

A Dairyman Writes about Summer Feed

T. R. James, Middlesex Co., Ont.

The serious problem of how to keep up the milk flow through the remainder of the season, and until next spring again, now confronts us farmers who milk cows. We may as well expect to get heat from burning coal ashes (as was tried two years ago after the report of a so-called discovery) as to expect a full milk flow from the dried up, hard pastures as are now available.

It seems a hard thing to have to feed our cows extra at this time of the year, but the practice is absolutely necessary if we would make the greatest profits, keep our cows in good condition and keep them milking so that we may have them milk next winter, when, as a matter of course, we will all feed the cows as well as we know how. I know of no greater folly than is the common practice not to feed cows extra at this season of the year, because we are too busy at other things. What is the use of working in the roots and corn, cutting the hay and storing it away that the cows may be fed well next winter unless we feed them now and keep them up to their full production? It will not be possible for the cows next winter to pay as they should for the feed we will then give them. Now is the time to feed, and the progressive dairymen who read this Farm and Dairy paper know as much about it as I do—perhaps more.

PROVISION FOR FEEDING.

I count on making provision every spring for just such contingencies as we now face. My silo is large enough that I have some silage left over. This I find to be great summer feed, and it is relished by the cows. Then I have some oats and peas (these are now just ready to be fed) and together with green alfalfa, or when it is not big enough to cut I have the hay, I can keep the cows milking fairly well in spite of the pastures. Later on, as soon as the corn comes into tassel, then I have lots of feed that the cows like and upon which they milk splendidly.

I have written this letter more for the man who has not made sufficient provision for feeding his cows other than what they can get in the pasture. To those men I would say you can make a better use of some of those oats that are now coming out in head than to cut some each day and feed to the cows, all they will eat. It is better to feed it in the mangers at milking time, although if you do not care to go to this trouble and extra work it will be worth while to feed it just over the fence, should the oat field be alongside of your pasture. Should it not be so convenient, cut it and throw it onto a wagon and haul it to the cows.

FEED HAY IF YOU MUST.

If green feed be not available then take advantage of the hay on hand. It probably would not be worth while to feed the cows now timothy, but mixed hay, or clover, would give much better returns fed now than later if the cows in the meantime have been made to suffer want of plenty of suitable fodder. Grain seems rather expensive to feed just now, as is the case with bran and other milk feeds. A little experimental work and calculating where the milk is being weighed regularly will soon tell how much of these we may or may not use and return a profit.

Now that the flies have become so numerous again and are such a pest to the cattle, it pays to take precaution to keep them off. Several proprietary mixtures are to be had at local stores. Of those I would advise anyone to get only a small quantity at the start and of a brand that is recommended. There is danger in applying some of these, so be careful with them until you have found out the effects of the application.

On dairy farms—real dairy farms—the cows are the main source of income, and on that account they need to be well cared for. It seems as if anyone should know this, in their own best

interests, but how frequently we see dairymen blind to their own best interests and allowing their cows—their main source of income—to suffer! Is it because they think the cows, somehow, will make them profits, or is it because they have never been used to feeding and as yet cannot bring themselves to see the necessity of extra feed and the great profit that comes from it, or, failing profits directly, then the great loss indirectly through having not provided for the cows all they require?

Seasonable Notes about Alfalfa

Notwithstanding severe winter-killing and the dry, hot summer, alfalfa has again this season given a good account of itself, and has again demonstrated that it is the peer amongst hay crops. The first cutting was well ready to harvest by the week of June 12th. In most cases reports to hand state that it was cut in that week and the week following. The yield has been most satisfactory, averaging about two tons to the acre. The alfalfa has since come on in splendid shape in spite of the dry weather and is fast making headway towards a second crop. In a year like this one, with ordinary red clover so scarce—it having in many sections been almost totally winter-killed, alfalfa hay will be, even more than usual, appreciated by those who have it.

ALFALFA FOR SEED

Some farmers are counting on reserving their second cutting of alfalfa for the purpose of obtaining seed. While it is sometimes very profitable as a seed crop, we all should remember that ordinarily alfalfa in Ontario does not produce over two bushels of seed to the acre, and in reserving a piece for seed one loses what hay he might otherwise obtain from the second and third cuttings, and while he may obtain two bushels of seed or more per acre he is just as liable to fail entirely to obtain seed. On this account one is usually ill-advised in trying for seed, and this year particularly when foders, clover especially, is likely to be at a premium, it appears to be a wiser course not to save seed, but to take the second and third cuttings for hay.

Jottings from Farmers

I believe in curing clover as rapidly as possible.
—C. S. Johnson, Huron Co., Ont.

Hay that is cut and then rained on is apt to become affected with mildew. Such hay should be thoroughly cured before being placed in the mow. It would need to be cured much dryer than hay made under ordinary conditions as I am satisfied that mildew and the mold that appears later in stored hay are one and the same.—Henry Glendinning, Victoria Co., Ont.

Farmers have to a great extent given up the summer fallow. They have found there is a great loss of natural food when they summer fallow as the heavy rains carry away with them the nitrogen, and it is lost. Another argument against summer fallow is that the ground will become devoid of humus. Keep the ground covered, and if you have a good summer crop it will conserve all the nitrogen.—W. C. McCalla, Lincoln Co., Ont.

Experience with Heavy Horses

Chas. Groat, Ontario Co., Ont.

Heavy horses have paid me very well in the past. I have sold a yearling filly for \$250 and a two-year-old, weighing 1,930 lbs., for \$550, and a number of others at good prices. The last two years we have been rather unfortunate taking them to the winter fairs. We captured good prizes, but the colts caught colds, and we lost them.

I have three mares in foal this year, two imported ones and a good Canadian mare. I only have a small farm and work the mares.

Most of our neighbors like the Clydesdale. It would be no use to introduce any other breed in our midst. Most of us try to raise two or three



Heavy Hay Right on the Brow of a Hillside

Alfalfa is wonderfully productive, even on clay hillsides, where with other crops we ordinarily would not expect so luxuriant a growth. This photo was taken on June 3rd by an editor of Farm and Dairy, and shows alfalfa, heavy even piece of alfalfa, although quite badly winter-killed in places, gave a cutting of eight good loads from 4½ acres. When seen again last week by an editor of Farm and Dairy this field had developed a splendid second growth in spite of the severe drought, which has burnt other hay plants and caused the ordinary pastures to turn brown and dry. Mr. H. R. Nixon may be seen in the illustration.

colts each year. Foals four or five months old sell from \$115 to \$200, and when old enough to break from \$200 to \$350. These high prices often tempt us to part with our best breeding stock. To improve our horses we should keep the best fillies, not sell them, even though tempted with a good price.

The foals are taught to lead while young. They are taken to the dam and let suck once in the forenoon and once in the afternoon. I would rather handle the foals in this way than let them run with the dam for two months or so and then wean them and put the mare to work, as is sometimes practised, and let the foal out on dry pasture to search for a living and fight the flies.

A little separated milk is a good thing for a foal. The last one I raised when 17 months old weighed 1,530 lbs. He got second in a large class at the Guelph winter fair last winter. There is something in separated milk that makes them grow and keeps them healthy.

A PLEA FOR THE LIGHT HORSE.

The light horse is all right in its place. I believe every farmer needs one. They are just the thing for fast driving. I like to have a horse fitted for this work, but I do not think everyone is fitted to handle light horses. It takes more time and patience to get them trained properly, and a colt must be well trained now—a day to be safe for driving around automobiles, street cars, and so forth.

Every farmer's wife and daughters should know how to drive. It is not only handy, but it is healthy for them to drive, and no one has a better right than a farmer and his family to have a good driving horse and carriage. But for a profitable horse to breed I prefer the draught type.

In my experience of 20 years I have on all reasonably dry soils found that alfalfa winters better than other clovers. I have sowed more than ever to alfalfa this spring.—John Clark, Grey Co., Ont.