

The farms of at least three of the breeders we visited we found to be exceedingly rough. Two of them were very stony. They were such places that, without good cattle, they would not render a man and family a decent living. These men are becoming exceedingly prosperous, and well-to-do. Their experiences demonstrated to us, as indeed we have noted it in Farm and Dairy many a time before, that good stock is of prime importance.

The fact of the great value of starting right with the best class of individuals, and breeding the best procurable, was much in evidence at all of the places we visited.

Individual articles covering the experiences of a number of these breeders will be published in subsequent issues of Farm and Dairy. In these articles special attention will be given to the methods followed, and particularly to the matter of feeding for records. Amongst the breeders visited were Mr. J. W. Dimick, of the Woodcrest Farm, Rifton; Jno. Arfmann, Middletown; Harry Davis, Chester; Stevens Bros. Co., Liverpool; Moyedale Farms, Syracuse; B. B. Andrews, Woodport; and E. H. Dollar, Heuvelton. —C. C. N.

Experience with Alfalfa Seed Production

Jno. Harcourt, Lincoln Co., Ont.

We have been growing alfalfa about 15 years, and for a few years during the first part of that time we grew seed, but of late years we find the seed crop a little uncertain and the hay so valuable that we prefer the hay, and have done very little with the seed.

The first crop is always heavy and produces a great weight of good hay; far too valuable to think of leaving for seed. It is difficult to say when is the best time to cut the first crop so as to insure the best yield of seed. So much depends upon the weather at the time the pods are setting. As far as I have been able to observe, those who have been the most successful have not cut the first crop until well in bloom. This holds the second or seed crop back so that the setting time comes after the hottest weather is over. The great heat seems to blast the pods and they drop off.

We cut and handle the seed crop much the same as red clover. We cut when the pods are mostly brown, and thrash with a clover huller.

I cannot see that seed cropping injures the plants if they are not pastured too close in the fall. Close pasturing will do more damage than anything else.

Silo a Success in Manitoba

Jas. Glennie, Portage La Prairie Dist., Man.

We have experience to back up our assertion that a silo can be used successfully here in Manitoba. We run a small dairy of about 15 cows and send our milk to Winnipeg. We bought our silo from the Do Laval Dairy Supply Co., of Montreal, through seeing their advertisement in Farm and Dairy. It is supposed to hold 50 tons. We filled it from a little over two acres. The balance of the crop was stooked in the field and fed during the winter. And a most laborious work it was. The stooked corn was frozen to the ground and drifted full of snow and dirt. We got more value from the amount put in the silo than from the rest left in the field, over four acres.

Our only trouble with the silo corn was freezing. During the latter part of January and February, when the mercury stood at 30 to 40 degrees below for weeks, the ensilage froze solid to the depth of two feet all round. We had to leave it for a few weeks. When we started to feed again the freezing did not seem to have hurt it a bit. Next fall we will put a light framework around the silo and fill with hay. We have to stack our hay somewhere, and may as well

stack it round the silo. We did not have a roof on the silo, which allowed all heat from the ensilage to escape. We will roof it before next winter.

We put the corn in just as it was cut. For a week or more after filling a great deal of water ran from the bottom, flooding the ground all round. This water must have carried away much feeding substance. Would it not have been better to have let the corn lay a day or two and allowed this water to evaporate? The corn was the variety known as Compton's Early. It was planted on May 12th. About midsummer it was badly battered with a hailstorm, and again a few weeks before it was ready for cutting it was so badly broken down by a windstorm that it had to be cut by hand. The corn was well eared, had reached the dough stage, and must have yielded round 25 tons to the acre.

[Note.—When corn is in the dough stage it will make good ensilage, but only has about two-thirds the feeding value of matured corn. It would be wise for our Manitoba correspondent to risk having his corn frosted in order to get greater maturity. If this course, due to local conditions, is not considered advisable, the corn would improve if allowed to stand in the field a few days after cutting. Surplus moisture would evaporate and Letter ensilage result.—Editor.]

The Hired Help Problem

Walter Elliott, Halton Co., Ont.

I am now going at the hired man problem on the approved and up-to-date plan. I have built



To Attract Hired Help

Mr. Walter Elliott, Halton Co., Ont., finds a married man the most dependable employee. He erected the cottage here illustrated, this spring for his hired man. Read Mr. Elliott's ideas on this subject in the article adjoining.

—Photo by an editor of Farm and Dairy.

a tenant house on my farm. I will fix it up well. I will give the man half an acre of ground. I have not yet completed all of my plans, but the illustration reproduced herewith will show that I have made a start.

A good comfortable house is a great inducement to the married man, and once he is installed he will be slow to leave a good home. Married men are the only ones we can depend on anyway. Single men drift easily. They get particularly restless about the time the harvesters' excursions start for the west. But the married man stays right with you, and farmers can well afford to give them a house and treat them right.

Early after harvest cultivation is good practice in keeping the Canada thistles in check, but it will not kill them out effectually. Continued cultivation of the soil from the middle of May with a broad shared cultivator will also do the trick pretty well if kept up faithfully until the first of July and then sown with buckwheat, millet or rape; or cultivation may be kept up until the last of August and the field sown with rye or fall wheat. The Canada thistle handled in any of these ways is now one of the least of our troubles.—T. G. Raynor, Seed Branch, Ottawa, Ont.

Hot Weather Comfort for the Cow

Geo. Annear, Oxford Co., Ont.

Our best friend during the hot days of summer or corn hoep is always that pail of cold water that we keep tucked away in the shade in a convenient place. If water is so necessary to us in our work, how much more necessary is it to our dairy cows, which, in addition to supplying the wants of their bodies, must put 30 to 40 pounds of milk each day. When we consider that about 85 per cent of milk is water, the importance of a good supply is evident.

I was recently visiting the farm of one of our largest breeders of dairy cattle. We could hear his cows bawling almost half a mile away. When we got there we found that the trouble was that the well had run dry and the supply of water was exceedingly limited. He informed me that while the cows could get all of the water they wanted by walking half a mile, so great was the energy wasted on that trip that the milk flow from his entire herd had decreased 35 per cent. He was just finding out how valuable it was to have a supply of water right in the pasture where the cows could get it without travelling any great distance. We are not favored with a running stream on our farm, and as we rotate the pasture the cows are frequently pastured at quite a distance from the buildings. A couple of summers ago we ran a pipe out to the further pastures and now they can get all the water they want without trouble. It isn't hard to see the increased returns in the milk pail either.

COMFORT BY FLY SPRAYING

We are particular to spray the cows for flies at this time of year. The mixture that we use is 100 parts fish oil, 50 parts oil of tar and one part of crude carbolic acid. The cost of this mixture comes to 30 or 40 cents a gallon. We apply it with an ordinary hand cow sprayer every day before the cows go out to pasture after the morning milking. This mixture is a fairly efficient fly preventative, and ensures comfort for the herd. Likewise it ensures comfort for us when milking time arrives.

On the very hottest days when the pastures are dry, we believe that we obtain better results by keeping the cows stabled during the day time, turning them out only at night. The great difficulty here is to keep the cows clean, but it is dollars and cents we are after, and the extra labor of cleaning the stables is more than repaid in the extra milk yield. The feeding expense is not much greater as we practice supplementary feeding anyway, and depend very little on the bare pastures at this time.

THE FREDS WE USE

Corn ensilage, when we have it, is our standby for summer feeding. With the ensilage we feed a little chopped oats and cotton seed meal. As a general rule, however, we have to depend on soiling crops grown this season, a mixture of peas, oats and vetches—one and a half bushels of peas, three pecks of peas and a peck of vetches—being sown to the acre. This mixture is sown first in the early spring and then at intervals of two or three weeks, and enough is sown to keep it going until the corn is ready in the fall.

There is one mistake which I believe is being made by half the dairymen in Oxford county and we presume in the rest of Ontario as well, and that is, the feeding of corn too green. We used to wonder why, when we started to feed green corn to the cows, they dropped in their milk rather than increased. We now know that green corn at tasseling or slightly past it is almost a fact, corn is in the dough stage before it can be fed economically at all. These are some of the things that we do to make our dairy herd more comfortable and profitable in hot weather.

Observation

T. G. Raynor,

Not long ago a man with who works on a 200-acre farm usually to secure time. If he runs farmers meet in the morning to bring in some and offered \$500. They wouldn't do it. Well, I have a will harvest what

The same farmer attempt to get it if it could be had throughout the county, perhaps not only this Lanark county makes farming at the life out of a life as a same man. Despite the effort are at work at a habable farm help, a Ontario farmers, yet.

Why is it any one goes up the way farms that are not what they could be solved. In these days are possible your new affairs. Yet relief. So long as other big bite they do, so long men gravitate the regular hours farm conditions made to imitate pushed? First: should manage to a man the whole months. This me stock to care for a wood-eating are

AN ADVANTAGE Dairy farming is this employment, a Stock raising of all and surely expansion in most farms, so employed to live in the year around.

ing man is a most and may be banked Second: The hired a human being, by adopting regular half holiday now day afternoons, when and prepare himself worship.

It is my conviction played were to go into the true words "Come unto me, all laden and I will give long way in solving days between capital expressions in misconception of the "Marx farmer and hired n wonderfully on the doesn't the church go along these lines.

Third: The farmer