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A SUCCESSFUL DAIRYMAN DESCRIBES HIS METHODS

D. J. McClure, Peol Co., Ont.

A Man Who Has Made a Success of Dairying Tells How He Did it.—Cream and Hogs the Profit Makers—Good Cows, Good Feeding, and Attention to Details the Secrets of Success.

WHETHER or not you will derive a profit from feeding grain to dairy cows depends on whether or not you have cows that will respond at the pail for a little extra feed. Some cows will shrink in their milk and commence fattening if fed an extra amount of grain. This is because they are not of a dairy temperament. They have too much leaf or dual purpose blood in them. It takes a cow of decided dairy temperament to digest a strong feeding of grain and not divert it from milk to flesh production. This is one of the advantages that result from special dairy breeding.

If a man has well bred dairy cows that milk for only three to six months, he is short sighted if he does not give them a good grain ration. Prices of products are much higher in proportion than are the prices of grain. All that should concern us in feeding grain is the question, "Have I the kind of cows that will make the best of it?" When a bushel of oats, for instance, worth say 40 cts., is fed to a good cow it will produce three pounds of butter worth 90 cts. He would be a foolish man who would withhold the oats.

THE ONLY TRUE TEST.

The question arises: "Can you tell by the appearance of the animal whether or not she is a dairy cow?" The only sure way to find out is to weigh and test the milk for a year and so know what each cow will produce. In this way you can select your best cows and reject the poorest ones.

A 6,000-LB. STANDARD.

Our standard should be not less than 6,000 lbs. of milk, or 300 lbs. of butter a year for each cow. Our herd averaged 6,800 lbs. of milk last year and over 300 lbs. of butter fat. My cows have averaged me in money for the last seven years \$88 a cow. Last year they produced \$97. This was the amount received for cream shipped. It does not count what cream was used at home, or the skim milk for feeding hogs and calves, which would make the average over \$100 a cow.

VALUE OF DAIRY PAPERS.

I can attribute much of my success in dairying to reading dairy papers, and in always having good, efficient help, enabling us to carry on our work methodically. I have taken a dairy paper ever since I began the work. I would not think of doing without one, especially since I have found a friend in Farm and Dairy, which comes so brimful of helpful thoughts every week. One cannot work out all the ideas that are presented, yet it stimulates us to fresh effort every time. Though our buildings are not modern, they are

* Mr. McClure was one of the prize-winners last year in Farm and Dairy's prize farms competition, and he has entered his farm again this year in the final competition that is being held to determine the best dairy farms in Ontario. This article is one of the essays that the rules of the competition required Mr. McClure to write.—Editor.

comfortable and as handsy as we can make them. The stables are kept clean and everything is done in an orderly manner. After all, it is the workmanship that counts in dairying, as in everything else.

OUR AVERAGE TOO LOW.

As I have stated already, our standard should be not less than 300 lbs. of Lutter a cow. No dairyman should be satisfied with anything less than this amount. It seems, however, that a majority of the farmers are satisfied with 150 average yearly production per cow and some with less. The neighborhood of 150 lbs. This, at 30 cts. a lb. of the butter, makes a difference of \$15 a year between the 150 and the 300 pound cow.

Necessity demands that if we are to get the greatest returns possible from dairying, we must engage in it on an intensive scale. We must give it our best thought and attention. Some of us

Tell Your Neighbors

Perhaps some of your neighbors are not subscribers to Farm and Dairy. If not, they can become a subscriber for the balance of this year, or until January 1, 1911, for the small sum of 40 cts. No better way to get acquainted with the best, and most up-to-date farm and dairy paper in the Dominion. Balance of 1910 to NEW subscribers for 40 cts. Send to-day. Old subscribers who have not yet renewed their subscriptions are urged to send in renewals AT ONCE.

can remember, when we were kids, chasing two or three old, skiny cows around the straw stack Those cows gave a few pounds of milk a day for about six months in the year.

CREAM SOLD, NOT GRAIN.

All this has changed. To-day, we feed all the grain and convert it into cream, which is the finished product of the farm. Formerly it was the reverse; sell the grain and let the cows shift for themselves. In this part of the country we have our large stables filled with choice dairy cattle, which are a profit and pride to their owners.

What has dairying done for us? There is no better evidence of the results achieved than right on the farms where dairying is a specialty. Here we find substantial buildings, attractive homes and all the evidences of prosperity, which come from successful work. Financial gain is not the only profit to be derived from farm life. A business that gives interest and pleasure and makes life worth living is profitable.

PLEASURE AND PROFIT.

No other calling has such a variety of interest, so much spare time and gives such a sense of independence as farming. I am satisfied that,

since I began dairy farming nine years ago, I have saved more money in one year than I did in three at mixed farming. I have not had to work harder, for I have been able to afford to keep good help.

Sweet corn on our city trade and hogs are the profit makers for our farm. For nine years I have sent all my cream to the City Dairy, Toronto, and in all that time I have not had one can of sour cream. This is a record of which I feel somewhat proud.

THE DAIRY WORK MOST IMPORTANT.

We consider our dairy work the most important work of the farm. It gets first attention. We begin milking every evening at five o'clock, winter and summer, and get all work done for the day at six. We feed three times a day. The feeds are silage, some straw, clover hay, mangels, chopped oats and oil cake meal. I have sold enough grain in the last seven years to buy what bran and oil cake has been used.

DAIRYING MORE PROFITABLE.

When I began dairying, some of my neighbors thought it would not pay me and that I would soon give it up. Those very men are now in the same business themselves. They found that there was more profit in dairying than in mixed farming. I would suggest that all my fellow farmers, who are not satisfied with their present success, should begin and specialize. Develop a good dairy herd and subscribe for Farm and Dairy.

Unjust Taxation

P. P. Farmer, York County, Ont.

The present system of taxation has a very disastrous effect upon the development of Ontario. This is evidenced by its effect upon rural conditions—rural population in Ontario has decreased in the past 10 years by 62,000. Why should such a depopulation occur? Simply because our system of taxation encourages the increase in the size of the farms and discourages the increase of improvements. It discourages the introduction of proper methods of farm management which would farm more intensively, add population per acre, and add to the income per hour of labor on the farm.

Under proper conditions of production, one-fifth of the acreage would produce the present value of farm produce. If this land were to lie adjacent it would mean a saving of four-fifths the cost of freight for your goods, a saving of four-fifths the railroad fares when travelling on business or pleasure, a saving of four-fifths the cost of express, of telephone and telegraph messages and of postal service. A similar saving in all costs of transportation and communication. Such is the tremendous economic waste, much of which would have been saved had taxation not been placed upon improvements. Ontario rural districts would have had more people and shorter distances between them. Remove this taxation on improvements and start to reclaim this waste.

Corn is a gross feeder and a rapid grower and wants what it requires without delay, nitrates more especially.—H. D. Matthew, Essex Co., Ont.