

or other of the dairy breeds at the head of his herd. These bulls were from dams having large records. Three successful farmers have no use for scrub or inferior bulls.

PURE BREED STOCK MOST PROFITABLE

Every competitor had at least a few pure bred females and was getting into pure bred stock as fast as possible. Those farms on which were found pure bred stock only, gave evidence of the greatest prosperity, thus proving the money-making propensities of pure bred dairy cattle.

Every farmer was raising his own stock. The competitors, one and all, expressed the opinion that it was impossible to buy milk cows year after year, to the neglect of breeding, and maintain a profitable dairy herd.

Every herd visited was kept tall on by milk records of some kind or other, either daily, weekly or three times a month. These successful dairy men recognized that it was the quality of the individual cow that determined the profitability of their whole herd.

The cows were milked 10 months a year. The competitors did not believe in maintaining an expensive plant for 12 months when the cows were producing but half that time. Of course suitable provision was made for the production of winter milk.

Well lighted, well ventilated and clean stables were the rule. In almost all cases water was before the cows all the time, and everything was done to further the health and comfort of the dairy herd.

WHERE LABOR WAS SCARCE

Like all of the rest of us, these prize-winning farmers had their troubles in securing efficient laborers. It was noticed, however, that those dairymen who provided work the year round and furnished their married men with cottages in which to live had the least trouble in securing help.

And perhaps more important than all the others in accounting for the success of the competitors in our competition was the spirit of sympathy and cooperation that was observed between all the members of the family on each of the prize-winning farms. A pleasant home is the greatest driving power that a man can have, and without it he is not apt to attain any great success, particularly in farming, where there is such a close relationship between the work of the home and the work of the farm.

THE WINNING FARMS

A splendid herd of Ayrshire cattle that has probably no superior in the world, a large number of cattle when the size of the farm is considered, excellent buildings conveniently and beautifully situated, crops such as would do any farmer's heart good to see, an excellent system of management, and evidence everywhere of attention to those small details that make a farm score well were the points that influenced the judges in giving the farm of Mr. R. R. Ness the first position. Mr. Ness had neither orchard nor swine, but so high was his scoring in all other departments he well merited first place.

Mr. J. W. Richardson, who headed Ontario in the Interprovincial, and wins the award in the

Provincial Competition open only to Ontario farms, had splendid cattle, good crops that were particularly suitable to the production of milk, good buildings, a splendid home, and there was lots of evidence of good business management at "Riverside Farm." But Mr. Richardson's farm lacked in the perfection of small details that in close competition puts a farm on top.

Mr. W. A. Paterson, whose farm secured first place in District Number four last year, was a very close second to Mr. Richardson in Ontario,



Taking it Easy—Their Work Completed

The judges of the farms entered in the Interprovincial Farms Competition conducted by Farm and Dairy are here seen "taking it easy" on the lawn of W. A. Oswald, Two Mountains Co. Que. Mr. Oswald's farm was the last visited. Prof. Barton, Macdonald College, Que., may be seen to the left. Mr. E. Terrill, Wooler, Ont., is occupying the hammock. —Photo by an editor of Farm and Dairy.

being only nine points behind him with a possible maximum score of 1,050. Mr. Paterson had a neat, well kept farm, with excellent crops and stock. Had he had a more up-to-date house it would have been difficult to decide whether he or Mr. Richardson were entitled to second place. R. E. Gunn and S. A. Northcott were very close competitors for third place in Ontario, there being only a few points of difference in their scores. These scores will be published in full in a later issue of Farm and Dairy.

FINE FARMS NOT ENTERED

A regrettable feature of the contest was that the farm of Mr. R. A. Penhale, St. Thomas, Ont., which secured first place as the best dairy farm in Ontario in the farms competition of two years ago, was not entered this year. Mr. Penhale recently met with a serious accident that almost cost him his eyesight, and necessitated his going to the hospital for some time. Hence he was not in a position to enter his farm. Mr. Penhale's fine farm has already been illustrated and described in Farm and Dairy. His entry would have made the competition even more interesting than it was. Mr. Isaac Holland, of Brownsville, whose farm was announced as in the competition, withdrew at the last moment.

In justice to Mr. W. A. Oswald, whose farm secured ninth place, the judges of the competition wish to draw attention to the fact that Mr. Oswald had greater natural difficulties to overcome than any other competitor. With equal natural opportunities, Mr. Oswald would have taken a much higher placing than he did. The fact that Mr. Oswald's farm secured a gold medal in the Farms Competition conducted by the Quebec Government shows the high quality of the farms entered in the competition conducted by Farm and Dairy.

In Farm and Dairy of August let the judges of the competition, Messrs. Terrill and Barton, will tell of what they saw on their trip and their impressions as to the farm practice of the competitors. Watch for this.

Experienced Alfalfa Grower Talks

J. L. C., Waterloo Co., Ont.

I have been growing alfalfa for almost a score of years now. The first year that I had any experience with crop I did not cut it until it was well out in blossom. The next year I cut it a little earlier, and of late years I have come to the conclusion that a person cannot make much of a mistake in cutting alfalfa too early. My first cutting of alfalfa this year was made before there was a single blossom in evidence, and I have a much more valuable and more palatable hay than I would have had I waited until the crop started to blossom. My rule is to look for the second growth starting around the base of the plants, and as soon as those little shoots are half an inch to an inch long I start the mower without further delay. Anything that I might say about my methods of harvesting alfalfa will be of little use this season, as the first cutting is already in the barns, or at least should be. But my suggestions may be of value to young alfalfa growers for the second cutting this year and for next year.

I keep two objects in mind in the curing of alfalfa. First, to preserve as many leaves as possible; and, secondly, to have all of the sap removed from the plants by the natural method—evaporation through the leaves. According to Coburn, whose book on alfalfa is my guide, 70 to 80 per cent of the protein of the alfalfa plant is found in the leaves. The value, therefore, of their preservation is evident. I find that when the alfalfa is so worked that the leaves never scorch, and evaporation continues after cutting that the hay may be put in the barn looking green, and yet keep well all winter without mold or must.

WORK THE TEDDER OVERTIME

We usually start the mower just as soon as the dew is off in the morning and clip down about three acres at a time. A couple of hours later the tedder is run over the swaths. If it is a scorching hot day such as some we have already had this summer, I start the tedder one hour after cutting. If necessary, I ted a second time just about noon, but if the sun is not particularly hot the second tedding can wait till after dinner. At three or four o'clock in the afternoon I run the alfalfa into windrows with a side delivery rake. If the day has been particularly favorable I would put the alfalfa up in neat coils the night. Next morning I turn the coils out in good sized flakes and haul to the barn by noon.

When the weather is only moderately favorable for curing I leave the alfalfa in windrows all night and ted the windrows early next morning. This one tedding is usually sufficient, but sometimes a second tedding is necessary about noon to put the alfalfa in the right shape for storing.

LEAVES ARE NOT KNOCKED OFF

A frequent objection that is made by farmers to whom I describe my methods of harvesting alfalfa is that such frequent tedding will knock off a large proportion of the leaves. There is bound to be a small loss in any case, but I find that the tedder method is no more destructive of leaves than any other method where the sun has not been allowed to scorch the leaves. It is the scorched leaves that the tedder plays havoc with.

Others have objected that such frequent tedding means too much labor in the busy season of the year. We only ted two or three times at the most when we have to cover the entire field. The rest of the tedding is up and down windrows containing two to four swaths. And horse labor is much cheaper than man labor, and a good active walking pair of horses will soon cover two or four acres of alfalfa land.

The feeding value of alfalfa is so much in advance of other crops that I do not count extra tedding when the superior alfalfa hay is compared with other crops.

In at all cases average four to five tons of alfalfa hay is worth as much as one ton of dairy cattle and from practice that costs are about the same as \$26 a ton of alfalfa hay at an ordinary price. We can save a great deal in curing such a big saving.

Long

Wm. J. "I would not be held of yours," says one evening I over a large field of mangels and corn.

I need a root field something done. I work half a day to the other. No lot.

To like to see natural. But it is with efficiency in I have found by the work done on that are long and one-half less time

size but nearer the all other operation and cultivating. I to calculate that a good horse and

rows, a man should rate eight acres a with a single-horse tractor (which we now use), while in of the same size shorter rows, five or

acres seemed to be maximum.

NO MACHINERY ADAPT Long fields also encourage one to use

ger machinery. No wants to be both with a big implement a small field.

I have found it comparatively easy to range a rotation as whole farm is divided into four fields of approximately the same size. Where one has noticed that the rotation is extremely irregular; it is.

Short rows are apt to be a waste of land. One of the field in which our last year. Therefore rows in half a day would

would not look so big as they really get the work done a little bit disappointed to get the same results.

It is a bit disappointing to get the same results. It is a bit disappointing to get the same results. It is a bit disappointing to get the same results.