

### Does it Pay to Groom Dairy Cows?

E. W. Bjorkland, *Mgr. Stoneycroft Stock Farm*.  
The essential factor in pure milk production is health. It follows that every precaution must be taken to maintain the herd in good health. The pores of the skin must be kept open to assist respiration in order to maintain a free circulation of blood to all parts of the body, more especially to those delicate organs where milk secretion takes place. Health and filth do not thrive together and as a highly developed dairy cow cannot do her best as a milker without a strong and healthy constitution, it certainly pays to groom the cows daily for the increase in quantity of milk.

Milk of superior quality is obtained only from clean cows in a clean stable and this alone should prove the necessity of daily grooming. Milk is used in one form or another in every household. Should we who are engaged in milk production not do our utmost to guard against deadly bacteria and try to lessen the mortality among those who depend on our milk for their diet? We should take all precautions without arguing, "Does it pay?"

Briefly, our system followed at Stoneycroft is: Stalls are cleaned first, after which a sprinkling of sawdust and land plaster is used for deodorizers. Cows are fed a light feed to keep them standing. The udders of all the cows are wiped with a damp towel after which the milkers put on clean suits (we use white linen suits). Each milker carries a dry towel to wipe udder, teats and the parts of the cow's body with which he comes in contact, before he proceeds to milk. Each cow's milk is weighed and emptied in the receiving can from which it is immediately taken to the aerating or cooling room. The milker's hands are washed after milking each cow and are dried on towels kept for that purpose only.

The feeding is done as soon as possible after milking. Then the stables are cleaned and the stalls bedded, after which each cow is well groomed with a stiff dandy brush. The afternoon work is the same, only the feeding is done before milking and there is no grooming. We do not clip the cows, only a little on head and neck, but depend on brush and bedding to keep them clean. Our object is, "Pure milk from healthy cows."

### Field Bindweed or Wild Morning Glory

Recently while taking a holiday on my farm a neighbor on the adjoining farm said to me, "I have got a weed in my garden I simply can't get rid of. I have summer-fallowed it and hoed it persistently"—and I know he did—"but yet it crops up and is spreading." I asked him to describe it, and bring me over a sample. From his description I told him I thought he had the genuine article all right and a sample of the weed confirmed my convictions. It was the veritable bindweed and while he had kept it pretty well in subjection, yet there were small leaves which were feeding the too lusty underground stems.

On a great many farms all over Ontario I have learned, through enquiry and sample brought to meetings I have attended, that this weed is in evidence more or less in nearly every locality. This fall while plowing along a ditch, on a piece of low land which had been summer-fallowed, I was surprised to see in a spot about one rod long by two feet wide a large number of the white brittle roots in the soil. I remembered noticing some years ago in a piece kept in sod on the other side of the ditch a few plants of this weed. It didn't seem to spread there, but some how it had got located in this summer-fallow and it was luxuriating through the cultivation, which wasn't thorough enough, or of the right kind to kill the plants.

Before I plowed it, from what I could see on the surface, only a few plants existed. So I filled my pockets with salt intending next morning to

put it on the few plants and kill them. On turning up the soil I soon saw I had reckoned without my host and that those plants at least needed watching. I pulled out a large number of the white root stalks after the plow had loosened them, as they were making ramifications in all directions and threw them on the sod to dry out and die. Our intention is to seed the piece down in the spring and I have asked the man on my farm to keep close watch that it doesn't spread. I may use some tar paper over it next season and try to smother it at once.

Without doubt it is one of the most persistent weeds we have. Fortunately it doesn't spread much by seed, although possibly most of what has come to this country, is through seed coming in the foreign bought manure seed. It spreads more or less rapidly by trailing the underground root stalks with the implements of cultivation used. Wherever a bud is found, and they are frequent even on a short piece of stem, that piece has power under favorable conditions of starting a new family.

Small patches may be smothered by piling over them a good depth of stable manure, or covering with tar paper, salt or anything which will prevent air and light getting to it, both of which are essential to growth. Care must be taken to use the material far enough out over the borders of the plots infested to catch those plants which would flourish on the edges of places so treated. Keeping infested places in sod will

quite insufficient to cope with this most persistent of weeds.

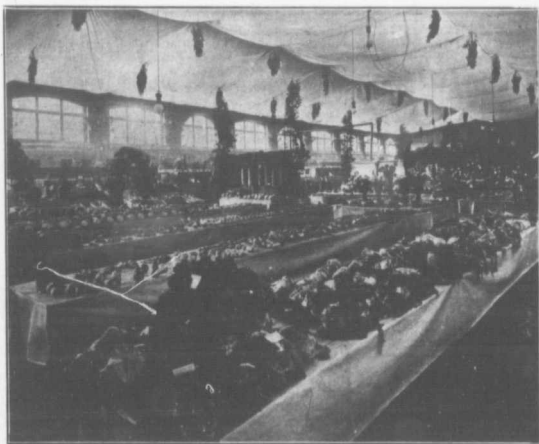
Anyone who may suspect they have this weed, but do not know for a certainty, should consult the recent bulletin on the Farm Weeds of Canada, copies of which may be found in the rural school or nearest public library. Plate 37 gives a good illustration of it in natural colors.—"Weed Fighter."

### Views of an Old Fair Director

In your issue of October 21st, I notice an editorial commenting on the number and usefulness of Agricultural Societies. As an old fair director, I send you my views on the subject.

Small fairs are useful only when confined to township boundaries, and absolutely closed to all outside competition. When left open, they at once become a prey to the professional exhibitor, who travels from fair to fair with his load of produce, which, in nine cases out of ten, he neither bred, raised, nor manufactured. They should be local fairs for local people; fairs where the residents of the district could meet in honest and healthy competition at a small expense. Carried out in this manner, and held early in the season, they would act like a primary examination to the larger fairs. Inferior exhibits would be culled out, thus improving the quality of the exhibits at the large or distributing exhibitions, much to the advantage of intending purchasers.

As to the Government increasing the grant to



The Products of Ontario Gardens Were Displayed to Great Advantage in Toronto Last Week. Vegetables of all kinds were exhibited at the Ontario Horticultural Exhibition. A portion of the display is shown in the illustration. It was a credit to the growers and to the province.

prevent their spread quite largely; then effective methods may be used for extermination, but it is easier said than done.

#### DIFFICULT TO EXTERMINATE

In my judgment we have no weed so hard to exterminate as the field bindweed. Often ordinary summer-fallow will not kill it, in fact it helps to spread it. It is an extraordinary plant and will require extraordinary methods to kill it. If cultivation of the right sort is persistent enough it may be killed in one season, sometimes it will take two. It may be summer-fallowed first and the cultivation done with a broad shared cultivator which if used frequently enough will prevent any leaves forming to give the plants lungs and perpetuity. If the bare-fallow is followed with a live crop well cared for it should exterminate the field bindweed quite effectively. Ordinary methods of cultivation are

Agricultural Societies from \$70,000 to \$100,000, I am most decidedly opposed to it. A fair held in a good locality and properly managed does not require any more assistance than it now receives. From the interest taken in, and the success which has attended the introduction of field grain and root competitions throughout the province, I feel convinced that any additional grant which the Government may make towards the cause of agriculture, would be more profitably expended along these lines than in raising the grants to agricultural societies.

Prizes offered for the cleanest farm, the best fenced farm, the best equipped dairy for a small herd of eight or ten cows, vegetable garden, poultry yard and so on, would tend more to raise the standard of general farming than a like amount offered in prizes at agricultural exhibitions.—Jos. Hudspeh.