

# The Farming World

## And Canadian Farm and Home

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### Skill Counts in Farming

**T**HERE are not a few who still believe that skill counts only in business, in manufacturing or in the professions, and that the farmer has not any great need for this quality in pursuing his calling. There is no greater fallacy than this. Of the different callings we have named, we would place farming at the top of the list of those requiring the highest skill and intelligence in its successful operation. To practice soil cultivation so as to obtain a maximum return, to breed and raise stock in a way to reap the greatest reward, and to carry on the business of farming in the most profitable manner, requires no mean skill and intelligence. For this reason the cleverest boy should be kept on the farm. Educate and train him for his work and, other things being equal, he will have a greater chance for success than his competitor who has not been so trained and educated.

### Show Condition

An exhibitor is neither fair to himself nor to the exhibition at which he exhibits if he does not endeavor to have his animals in show condition when brought into the ring. Hundreds of excellent animals have failed to land the ribbon, just because their owners have either neglected to or have not tried to make them show up the best that is in them by proper and judicious fitting for the ring. Unless the exhibitor is prepared to do this it is a waste of both time and energy to enter the ring in any live stock competition, especially at the larger fairs.

In selecting an animal for the show ring, whether it be a horse, a cow, a sheep, or a pig, see that the animal conforms as near as possible to the standards of quality set up for the particular breed or class to which he belongs. While they may differ upon some of the minor points, all good judges practically agree as to the essential points of quality required for any particular breed or class. The exhibitor, therefore, should make a study of these and endeavor to select an animal for the ring with these essentials strongly marked. Keep the ideal in mind, and although it is practically impossible to get an animal that some judge will not find some fault in, make the very best selection possible, remembering that others have the same difficulties to overcome in making their selections as you have.

With the animal selected the work of preparing for the showing is only

well begun. The chosen animal must be taken in hand and the exhibitor's best skill and judgment used in fitting him to make a proper appearance before the judge. Show condition does not mean over-fitting. It means, as we understand it, the obtaining of such a condition in the animal that his strong qualities will be brought to the front and his weaknesses, if he has any, kept in the background. A skillful feeder who understands his business can accomplish a great deal in obscuring or strengthening the weak points, and in making the essential qualities prominent. This cannot be learned in a day. A great deal of time and patience are required, but perseverance will eventually win.

Over-fitting or over-feeding that will permanently injure the animal for breeding, is not necessary to secure success in the modern showing. There was a time, not so very many years ago either, when show condition meant an unfitting of an animal for breeding and the loss of vitality and strength. But to-day the demands of the showing are not so exacting and any exhibitor who has the skill and the knowledge can put his animal in ship-shape for the judge without injuring his breeding qualities in any particular. Why should an animal be weakened in any way if he is merely in condition to show off to the best advantage all that is in him? Should it not be the ideal and therefore the normal condition for the animal to be in, whether he is to be shown or not? This is all the modern showing demands, and all that the exhibitor is called upon to supply. Fitting for the ring should not go beyond that. When it does, the animal starts on the down grade, becomes less prepotent and less fit to perform its proper functions.

### Dirt and Dishonesty

It is most encouraging to find, as noted elsewhere in this issue, that the cheese made so far this season is of so fine a quality. The plodding, persistent and efficient work of the instructors year after year is having its effect. The highest standard of excellence cannot be reached in one year. Progress must of necessity be slow, as the field is large and the work to be done far-reaching, but it is none the less valuable on that account, and dairymen may well congratulate themselves on the progress made and the improved quality of the product resulting therefrom.

But it is not all smooth and lovely. The instructors report extreme carelessness on the part of many patrons

in caring for their milk, and what is, perhaps, worse, an all too prevalent desire to get something for nothing by adding water to or taking the cream from milk supplied to the factories. Like the poor, we seem to be destined to have the careless and dishonest patron always with us. Perhaps, when the new sanitary inspectors get rightly into harness they may have something to say to the "barnyard milk-stand" patron that will induce him to mend his ways. It is hard to understand why a patron will deliberately keep milk over night amid such filthy surroundings, when by the exercise of a little forethought he could just as well keep the product in a proper place without any extra care or cost to himself. There are many ruts which people get into, but they seem to stick to none with more persistence and obstinacy than to this "rut" of dirt and uncleanness. If the instructors and sanitary inspectors can, either by persuasion or force, get some patrons out of this "rut" the dairymen ought to raise a monument to their memory.

As to dishonesty in supplying watered or skimmed milk, the effects upon the industry as a whole are not so serious as supplying unclean or bad flavored milk. While the former only robs the other patrons of the factory of their just due, the latter robs the industry of its good name, by causing inferior cheese to be put upon the market. However, the watering and the skimming of milk supplied to cheese factories is serious enough, and should be stopped in some way. As its effect is purely local, it should be stamped out by the local authorities, and not by the instructors. One way to do this is to apply the law. Another way, and it is much the better one, is to remove the temptation to "water" or "skim" by paying for milk for cheese-making according to its quality or fat content. Why this system of paying for milk is not adopted is generally seen a mystery. In the face of reports in recent years of much "watering" and "skimming" there is not the least excuse for continuing the "pooling" system of paying for milk for cheese-making. The honest patron should be paid for his honesty. And what is more, the patron who supplies milk testing 4 per cent. fat should get more for it than the one supplying milk testing 2 per cent. fat. Experiments, almost without number, have proven the correctness of this statement. Then why should dairymen hesitate to adopt it? This is a question we would like some of our dairy friends to answer.