

**Dual-purpose Cattle and Basement Stable.**

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have been much interested in two discussions recently taking place in your paper, viz., that concerning a dual-purpose Shorthorn, and that concerning basement stables and methods of ventilation, and as I have derived much benefit from the opinions and experience of others published in your columns, perhaps my own contribution may shed some additional light upon the problems under consideration.

First, as to the dual-purpose cow: With me, and also with a good many of my neighbors, labor conditions are such that one hesitates before extending the dairy industry as market conditions would warrant. In fact, I know some farmers who have gone so far as to let the calves suck the cows, and milk only enough for house use. This practice, however necessitated as it may be by certain conditions, cannot be regarded as profitable, and I am inclined to think that those adopting it, except as a makeshift, might better abandon thus raising cattle to compete with those fed on the ranches of the West. If, however, a strain of cattle can be had, or evolved, which will give a fairly good return in milk and at the same time produce thrifty calves that can be beefed at from one to three years of age, then many of us farmers will have what suits our present conditions. Personal experience is ever the most valuable, and I may be pardoned, therefore, for relating somewhat of my own.

I have a herd of grade Shorthorns, with a slight admixture of Holstein blood. During the last three years I have kept a record of the amount of milk given by my cows, and lately bought a small Babcock tester to determine the percentage of butter-fat. Thus far my records are of comparatively little value, but, in so far as they have a bearing upon the question under discussion, may be of interest to your readers. I select certain of the more important available data, and append below:

Cow No. 5.—One-quarter Holstein, showing Holstein color, but otherwise "beefy"; March, 1904, to Dec., 1904, 6,573 pounds of milk; March, 1905, to October, 1905, 5,557 pounds of milk; tests, April and May, 1906, 3.0 per cent.

Cow No. 6.—One-quarter Holstein, but showing no markings or indications of Holstein blood, either in herself or in any of her calves; big and "beefy," a fine-looking cow; Dec., 1904, to Sept., 1905, 6,442 pounds milk; Jan., 1906, to Sept., 1906, 4,771 pounds milk; tests, April and May, 1906, 3.9 per cent.

Cow No. 7.—Practically pure-bred Shorthorn, though not registered; red, large and "beefy"; June, 1904, to March, 1905, 6,755 pounds of milk; July, 1905, to April, 1906, 5,048 pounds of milk; no tests available yet.

Cow No. 17.—One-quarter Holstein, no color markings, but otherwise rather slim build; calved shortly after age of two years, in Aug., 1904; Aug., 1904, to May, 1905, 4,069 pounds of milk; June, 1905, to April, 1906, 5,686 pounds of milk; test, May, 1906, 3.6 per cent.

Cow No. 13.—A trace of Holstein blood, but no markings; first calf; Aug., 1905, to Sept., 1906, 6,193 pounds milk; tests, April and May, 1906, 3.7 per cent.

The dams of Nos. 5, 6, 17 and 13 are older cows, giving about 8,000 pounds, with characteristic Holstein markings, but only one-half or one-quarter bred, or thereabouts.

During the last three years I have had two pure-bred Shorthorn bulls (one I have yet), obtained, as far as I can understand, from good milking dams and grandams. The progeny from these I have not yet tested, but I purpose doing so.

Whether or not my experiment will be successful eventually, time alone will tell. The attempt to infuse a little Holstein blood and select from the variations thus produced, is perhaps risky. However, I consider that, as I am now getting for my cream the approximate equivalent of 1 cent per pound for the milk, and have all the skim milk for feeding calves and pigs, I have no special grievance to air along dairy lines.

Secondly, as to basement stables. I do not see any advantage in doing away with the basement stable and substituting annexes. It is only a question of light and ventilation, and these can be secured better, if anything, in a basement stable than in an annex. I am at present planning to remodel an old barn 24 x 84, and put a convenient stable underneath the whole of it. I shall widen it to 36 or 38 feet, and use practically all of the old timbers again. There is at present a stone stable underneath about 55 feet of the old barn. This wall I purpose removing as far down as the level of the ground, and using the stone thus removed for completing the rest of the foundation. For walls above ground, I have bought the large hollow brick described in your editorial tour. These, I am quite satisfied, will make a very warm wall. They will, I expect, have to be plastered on the inside, as they are not of a uniform size, some being shrunk more than others in the firing.

As to ventilation, one of your correspondents

was about right when he stated that no system could be worked without intelligent vigilance on the part of the stockman. Entrances and exits must be opened or closed to suit changing conditions of wind and temperature. With proper attention and adjustment, I find doors and hatchways about all that are necessary to secure satisfactory ventilation; and in my new barn I purpose putting a number of tile-brick endwise through the wall near the top, with little doors closing against the apertures from the inside, and controlled by strings, these doors to throw the cold air upwards as it enters. Hay and straw chutes and a hatchway will provide plenty of additional vents. With warm, non-conducting walls and double windows, it is not difficult to secure good ventilation without freezing one's water pipes. As for double windows, a fairly effective method is to put double glass in a single sash, having the heading, which ordinarily turns inwards, cut out to admit the extra glass. The only additional cost is in the glass and putty. I did this four years ago in a horse stable, and shall continue its use in any further window construction.

There seems to be a misconception in the minds of a good many of your correspondents as to solid walls causing dampness in a stable. In fact, they actually dry the air by chilling it down below the dew point and causing the moisture in it to condense. The objection to solid, good-conducting walls is that they transport so much heat to the outside, and, by condensing the moisture in the stable air, make it evident to our senses in a very palpable and objectionable form. This is the only objection to solid walls, an objection, however, which is a sufficiently serious one where we depend upon animal heat to maintain a temperature above the freezing-point.

Brant Co., Ont.

W. C. GOOD.

**Plain Talk from a Hog-raiser.**

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In looking over a recent copy of "The Farmer's Advocate," I noticed an article in regard to the bacon trade of Canada. With my subscription I send you a few ideas as expressed by some of the leading farmers of this vicinity who have been endeavoring to raise a suitable class of bacon hogs for the supply of our local packing-houses. In the first place, the writer calls attention to what he terms as a fact, that the price of hogs has been too high, and out of all proportion to the price of the finished product in the United Kingdom. Now, Mr. Editor, we do not accept that statement as a fact without reservation, nor do we take it kindly, for it is a well-known fact, at least among the farmers, that previous to the last two years the raising of hogs for the supply of packing-houses and for home consumption was in most cases an unprofitable business. It was just about all the farmer could do, at the best, to get out even, saying nothing about profit, for he never had the satisfaction of knowing he had a profit to his credit.

I do not know the writer, nor yet his views of the farmer, but I would judge from the drift of his writing that he must consider them a class of beings who can live on wind and water, and work for nothing, to supply a few packing-houses with hogs, not only at cost, but often below cost. Now, some time ago the packers raised a great cry for a better class of hogs for the trade; in fact, they said the future success of the bacon trade depended on an improvement of the class of hogs coming into the market, and so strongly did they dwell on this particular point of the farmer receiving an advanced price that a great many Ontario farmers took them at their word, thinking probably they meant business; and no doubt

they did mean business, but of another sort, and not to the profit of the farmer. Therefore, with the hopes of increased prices, a great many farmers spent considerable money in securing pure-bred stock from the best herds in Canada—and there are no better in the world—and many of them went into the business on quite an extensive scale, considering their capital, and, of course, it is a well-known fact that there has been a great improvement in the bacon hog of Canada, and our hogs have been pronounced by expert judges, not only at home, but in the United States, as equal if not superior to any produced in the world. What was the result. We went into the business more extensively, and sent them lots of hogs, but the promised prices did not materialize; at least they did not cause the farmers to sew another pair of pockets on their pants, and they came home with about the same-sized wad every time. Still, that was not the only discouraging feature of it. We would go to market with one load of nice, long, trim bacon hogs, and the other fellow with his load of short, thick fats would drive up, and, like the laborers of old, every man received a penny—they got the same price that the man with the bacon hogs got. Well, we stood that about as long as we could, and when we saw ruination staring some of us in the face, a great many said, "Here, I've had enough of this sort of thing," and the result was that two years ago this winter hundreds of good brood sows were slaughtered and put on the market, a great many not keeping more than one or two sows, where they formerly kept seven or eight, and the result has been a scarcity of hogs for a couple of years. There being a few of us who were fortunate enough to stick to it, we have for once been able to see and feel rewarded for our labors.

Then, again, he advises the Canadian packers to combine in a friendly way, and arrange to pay only such prices as would insure them a reasonable probability of making a profit on their product, and then, he says, the industry would assume a healthy state of affairs once more. Well, if they haven't had their heads together for the last few years, and, for that matter, ever since there were enough of them to combine, and have been shunting the prices around whenever they liked, would the writer please inform us who the guilty one is. Surely it is not the farmer, for he has been slaving along, raising some hogs, and



**Darling of Haynes 2nd.**

First-prize Aberdeen-Angus cow and champion female, Royal Show, 1906. Property of W. B. Greenfield.

**The Calf as a Milker.**

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I enjoy reading the different discussions on the basement stable, manure, horses and cattle. I would like to see some one take hold of this question: Is it possible to make as much profit out of cows by letting the calves suck as by hand-milking the cows? Some say it is. How about the pure-breds, which cannot be raised any other way to be good enough to attract attention of the buyers?

I think the basement stable is certainly a success, and can be ventilated. Ours has small holes above the doors which the track for litter carrier passes through, and the holes for shoving feed down from above can be left open when it is too warm. We never had frost on the walls this winter, nor saw much sweat on the cattle. When there is a mild spell there is a dampness, but in steady weather there is none.

"STEADY READER."

**Periods of Gestation.**

In the horse and ass the gestation periods are about the same, or eleven months each; camel, 12 months; elephant, 2 years; lion, 5 months; buffalo, 12 months; in the human female, 9 months; cow, 9 months; sheep, 5 months; dog, 9 weeks; cat, 8 weeks; sow, 16 weeks; she-wolf, from 90 to 95 days. The goose sits 30 days; swans, 42; hens, 21; ducks, 30; peahens and turkeys, 28; canaries, 14; pigeons, 14; parrots, 40.