

HAY-MAKING NOTES.

No specific rules can be laid down for making hay. There are so many conditions to be considered, such as the weather and the heaviness or lightness of the crop, that no definite plan can be adopted throughout. One of the chief points in which many farmers fail is in not commencing to cut hay soon enough, especially when there is a large area to be covered. If a large crop is to be taken off, cutting should be commenced soon enough to enable the whole lot to be cut before the last field is too ripe. Very often the fall wheat harvest comes on before the hay is all cut, with the result that a field or two have to be left till after the wheat is in the barn. When such is the case, this over-ripened hay is not of much more value than good straw as a food.

Clover should be cut as soon after the full bloom as the weather will permit. It is much more difficult to cure clover than timothy hay. Clover should never be cut when wet or when the dew is on, as it will dry off better standing than when cut down. The time required for curing clover will depend largely upon the weather and the condition of the crop. A writer in *The Rural New Yorker* gives his method of making clover hay as follows:

"Supposing the weather promises fair and all is in readiness, I start the mower after the clover has become dry in the forenoon, if I am likely to be rushed, if not, I do not start till the afternoon, and cut until night. The next day, about 11 o'clock, I start the tedder with the rake, and cock up in not very large cocks; I let these remain the next day, while I repeat the operation of making more. The next day I simply turn over the cocks so that the air may circulate and dry the bottom of the heap, and haul to the barn at once. Just here, many make a mistake. This hay that I have so made does not seem dry, but sticky; but, never fear; haul it in to the mow, tramp solid, and it will come out ideal hay, not being discolored—purple blossoms and green leaves adhering to the stems."

This plan should work well only there seems to be extra labor involved in putting the hay in cocks. It may be wise in the case of clover hay to do so, especially if it is to be stacked, but farmers having hay loaders would not care to take the trouble to put the hay in cocks and then spread them out for loading on the wagon.

There are differences of opinion as to the best time to cut timothy. Some authorities claim that it should be cut when in the first bloom and others not till after the second bloom has appeared as then there will be more light and greater bulk. But bulk or weight is not the main thing. The chief thing in hay making is to get as palatable a food as possible. And this can be better secured where the timothy is cut a little on the early side.

DO NOT STOP THE CULTIVATOR.

As a rule, as soon as hay-making and harvesting begin, the cultivator is thrown aside, and the roots, corn, etc., are left to look after themselves. True, the bulk of the cultivating and weeding should be done before the harvesting or haying begins; but the cultivator may be kept going till nearly the end of harvest, and it may pay to lay off from harvesting half a day in order to run the cultivator through the corn crop. Corn is one of the most valuable

fodder crops on the farm, and its value will depend largely upon the degree of maturity it has attained when the autumn frosts appear. Cultivation and loosening the soil around the corn plant assists its growth and gives it a better chance to mature. Corn should be cultivated, if possible, once a week, with a light cultivator, at least, until the tassels begin to appear.

Roots will also thrive better under frequent cultivation. A loosening of the soil around the plant enables it to take in nourishment and moisture from the atmosphere, and especially is this true of the corn plant. And so, though haying and harvesting is a busy time, the farmer cannot afford to stop the cultivator altogether. Neglect at this juncture, when the plants may need attention, will materially lessen the value of the corn crop for ensilage or feeding purposes.

THE KIND OF BUTTER WANTED IN ENGLAND.

The following letter to the Elgin, Ill., *Dairy Report* from Hodgson Bros., Liverpool, England, will be of interest to Canadian dairymen:

We have pleasure in acceding to your request, and if you can persuade the farmers or factorymen in your centre, or where your paper circulates, to adopt our suggestions, we think they would find the result in the end very satisfactory. In the British market there is an almost unlimited outlet for dairy produce, especially butter. In latter years Denmark has been the chief source of supply for finest qualities, augmented by shipments from Australia, and by the home make in Ireland, and—to a smaller degree—by imports from Canada. The Canadians, during the last few years, have been specially catering for this trade, and they have had a large measure of success. They are learning the lesson that if they are to gain the top price they must send their produce forward week by week, while it is strictly choice and fresh. The package that is most in favor is the square box containing fifty-six pounds net, and the butter should be put up parchment lined, lightly salted (just sufficient to preserve the butter), and of *very pale color*.

The great objection to States butter, especially for finest grades, has been the large percentage of coloring matter, and we cannot too strongly impress upon Americans that the English public must have pale butter, the paler the better, though not dead white—and, of course, must have it perfectly fresh. We are so well looked after here that we can afford to be particular, and will only have the best of goods, for which we are willing to pay. Butter that is held over, and when it arrives here shows any staleness in flavor, is at once depreciated in value 10% to 20% per cwt. from the price of absolutely fresh-made goods.

At the present moment values are low. Fancy Danish quoted only up to 90s. to 92s. and Canadian up to 84s. Of course, later in the season better prices will prevail.

For medium-grade butter we have learned to look for a large source of our supply to the States, and it looks as if we shall have to continue importing from there for some time to come. Most of this undergrade butter is used for confectionery purposes, such as biscuit and cake making, and large quantities can be taken. It is a matter of indifference whether the goods are put up in boxes (as mentioned above) or in the tub containing from sixty to sixty-five pounds net. This grade of butter can take a little more salt, and the color is not a matter of so much importance, although on the whole the pale butter is the more saleable, but people on your side must learn to make an article containing less water. The authorities are becoming more particular here, and look like fixing a standard as to the percentage of water that butter will be allowed to contain. The great thing is to send the butter sweet and solid. These are two points to remember, solidity and sweetness, and the man who pays attention to them is the one who will get most for the article he puts up.

There has been considerable outcry lately in this country as to the use of preservatives in butter, and it looks as if we are likely to

have shortly a law passed which will prohibit the use of preservatives altogether, and the use of boracic acid will have to be discontinued.

There is a demand here for medium-grade butter from 50s. up to 70s., with an almost unlimited outlet. The chief place for the trade is the port of Liverpool, which is in close touch with all the large manufacturing districts and the great centres of population, and is far and away the best place for the distribution of the goods.

If you can induce the dairymen of your district to pay attention to the points to which we have referred, we have little hesitation in saying that the result will more than pay them for the extra trouble in putting up a first-class article suitable for the requirements of the English market.

HODGSON BROS.

Liverpool, Eng., June 1st, 1898.

TESTING MILK AT THE FAIRS.

During the last few weeks we have given considerable attention to the question of "Milk Tests at the Fairs." In this connection it will be interesting to note the methods of conducting tests in Great Britain. At a recent meeting of the British Dairy Farmers' Association the following scale of points was adopted for awarding prizes at the milking competition to be held at London, Eng., on October 18th, 19th, 20th, and 21st next:

"One point for every ten days since calving, deducting the first forty days, with a maximum of fourteen points.

"One point for every pound of milk, taking the average of two days' yield.

"Twenty points for every pound of butter-fat produced.

"Four points for every pound of 'solids other than fat.'

"Ten points shall be deducted each time the solids other than fat fall below 8.5 per cent.

"Ten points shall be deducted each time the fat is below three per cent."

This scale of points is practically the same as that used at the milking tests here with the exception of deducting ten points for each time the percentage of solids not fat fall below 8.5. The maximum allowed for days in milk is lower. This method of awarding the prizes in a milking competition seems to meet the wishes of the English dairy breeders, as with slight modification this scale of points has been used for years. At the Provincial Fat Stock and Dairy Show, to be held in Brantford this fall, the pounds of milk will not be considered in making up the total score, excepting in estimating the pounds of solids in the milk.

Another interesting feature of the London Dairy Show will be a test of cows for butter production, and which might be copied by some of the exhibitors here to advantage. It would be a great educational feature of a show to have cows milked on the spot and the milk separated and made into butter in the presence of the visitors. The farmer would better understand the value of a cow, if he saw how much butter she made per day, than in knowing what percentage of fat she gave. Such a feature could be made an object lesson, not only in showing the value of different breeds of cows for butter making, but in showing how milk should be handled and worked in order to make good butter. The following is the scale of points for awarding the prize in the butter test:

One point for every ounce of butter; one point for every completed ten days since calving, deducting the first forty days. Maximum allowance for period of lactation, 12 points. Fractions of ounces of butter and incomplete

periods of less than ten days to be worked out in decimals and added to the total points.

In the case of cows obtaining the same number of points, the prizes to be awarded to the cow that has been the longest time in milk.

No prizes to be given in the case of:

(a) Cows under five years old failing to obtain 28 points.

(b) Cows five years old and over failing to obtain 32 points.

NORF.—In Mr. George Rice's letter in last week's issue the clause, "testing 2.5 per cent. of fat and 9 per cent. of solids not fat" should have read "testing 3.5 per cent. of fat, etc." Owing to a typographical error the mistake occurred.—EDITOR.

FEEDING MILLET TO HORSES.

Two tests have been made with horses at the North Dakota Station to study the effect of feeding millet as a coarse fodder. In the first trial two geldings in good health were fed hay and grain for about two weeks. Millet was then substituted for hay for about ten days. The same ration as at the beginning was then fed for four days. The temperature of the air, the temperature of the horses, the amount of food and water consumed, the weight of the horses, and the amount of urine excreted were determined. During a number of days the specific gravity, and in some cases the total solids, nitrogen, and ash in the urine were determined. All the horses were driven daily for exercise.

The second test was similar to the first, and was made with two mares. One of the mares became very lame and could hardly stand, and suffered from time to time from retention of the urine. She was killed and a post-mortem examination of the carcass was made. The other mare did not show as marked symptoms during the test. However, when fed millet for about three months, she would become so lame in the joints of the hind legs that it was almost impossible for her to walk. When feeding millet was discontinued she would recover. The lameness was again produced by millet feeding. After about two years of alternate periods of millet and hay feeding she became practically worthless. Circular letters were sent out to farmers asking for information concerning millet feeding for horses. A number of replies were received. The following conclusions were arrived at: Feeding millet alone as coarse fodder is injurious to horses. It produces an increased action of the kidneys and causes lameness and swelling of the joints. It causes an infusion of blood into the joints and destroys the texture of the bone, rendering it soft and less tenacious, so that the ligaments and muscles are easily torn loose. The experience of many farmers confirms the experiments.—*Exchange*.

CARE OF YOUNG LIVE STOCK.

There is not enough thought given to the young things on the farm. It is considered that they should grow without care. In too many cases the weanlings are almost as wild as though they were not included among domestic animals. In the case of pigs, lambs and calves it is advisable that they should be given a little meal or small grain, such as oats, rye and corn mixed, as soon as they will take it. It is surprising to note the avidity of pigs with sweet pure slops made from meal