

## Fitting and Feeding for Test Work

Fitting is Important and a Good Start is Half the Battle—A. D. McDannell, Mgr. Dodge Farms, Conn.

THE man who is hoping to make large records must first of all have a cow with productive ability, capacity and dairy individuality. Feed, time and patience are essential, but above all is the ability to understand limb animals with their likes and dislikes. I think all feeders will agree that cows differ as much physically, and in disposition, as do people. If a cow is at all thin, as the good ones are likely to be, three months will not be too long for proper fitting for the seven-day test, yet some cows will get in much less time. It is sometimes difficult to dry up a cow so long before freshening, and lack of care at this time may cause undue troubles that will produce permanent effects.

The most important part of test work is in the fitting, and the essential thing here is proper feeding. Care must be taken that a cow does not get too much feed, for a cow once "off her feed" never quite comes back. Still she must be fed to full capacity. If the best results are to be obtained. The rest from feed which she gets while drying off, followed by a few days of light laxative feed and perhaps a few small doses of salts, will be beneficial. When they are dry, begin feeding a light ration of grain, consisting of equal parts of bran, ground oats, hominy and oil meal. Begin with 8 or 10 pounds daily, gradually increasing the amount till she is working at full capacity. Here is where the feeder must use his judgment. Watch her closely and do not wait till she refuses feed before cutting down on her grain. A look at her eye will tell the experienced feeder whether or not she is feeling right.

### Quarters for the Cow.

A roomy box stall with plenty of clean bedding, sunlight and fresh air, with water and salt always at hand, are all that a cow needs. The best advantages does not need much, if any, outdoor exercise. It is the general opinion that she will put on a softer fat without the exercise. Remember to water the cow. Just as too much grain reduces the milk flow, so will it interfere with the laying on of fat and, besides, it may overwork the digestive machinery and cause a setback in the normal and consistent improvement essential to success. As a rule, salts and tonics are unnecessary, and used indiscriminately are useless and even harmful. Powdered charcoal is often helpful, but not necessary. If a cow needs a tonic and can be kept going with its help, by all means give it. Epsom salts is always a safe prescription, and should be followed by a veterinarian's prescription for that special cow.

### The Last Month Before Freshening.

The last month before calving feed her four times daily. Before any signs of serious inflammation of the udder show, change her feed to a mixture of bran, oats and oil meal. Watch her more carefully than ever taking particular care to keep her appetite good. Keep her out of drafts at calving time and blanket her if the weather is at all cool. Let her have all the water she wants and as hot as she will drink it. Give her bran mashes the first three days after calving, then a few of the bran, oats and oil meal mixture. She will tell you how much and how long to feed before changing to the ration to be fed during the test. Do not make this change too suddenly, and be guided by the condition of her udder, her appetite, amount of milk given and general condition.

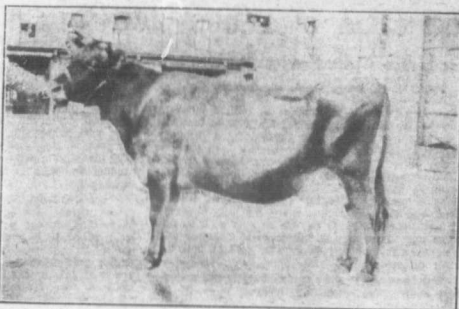
### For Yearly Work.

For semi-official work, give a cow considerable outdoor exercise while fitting and feed any good dairy ration, varying it, of course, as the individual demands it in the preliminary preparation. The idea is not to get so much soft fat as for a seven-day test, but to get the cow in a strong, vigorous and hearty condition as possible. Remember she has to run 305 or 365 days and not for seven only. The same treatment applies at calving time as for the seven-day test, except that a little more time can be taken in getting her on full feed. A big start is a help, but, like driving a race horse, a cow must not be pushed too fast at the beginning for there is danger of overdoing it and losing out later. The

cow on semi-official work will need her feed very carefully analyzed all through the year. And again: watch her.

### An Example of Overfeeding.

I could give several examples of overfeeding. One cow in particular was nearing the finish of her year's work. She was cleaning up 18 pounds of grain daily. The amount of milk varied from one pound to as much as 12 pounds a day, so I knew something was wrong. After trying different feeds with no good results, she was given the original feed and the amount reduced one-half pound daily, till she was getting only 14 pounds a day and giving more milk than when eating 18 pounds of grain. Feed was



Mabel of Edgeley, First in her Class at the Ontario Provincial Winter Fair. She is owned by J. H. Rogers & Sons, Ealing, Ont. During the three days of the test she produced 184.4 lbs. of milk, testing 4.8 per cent butter fat, and scored 239.241 points. She is a strong, deep bodied cow with a well balanced, capacious udder—the kind of Jersey from which one would expect Jarze production.

carefully increased to 16 pounds a day, when she gave 52 pounds of milk a day. She did not vary a pound a day for the rest of her year, and finished up giving 52 pounds a day.

If too much feed affects a milking cow this way, it seems reasonable that too much is also bad for a cow being fitted. Enough, cow, enough appetite. Finally, let me say to the young breeder: get at it. It pays—Addus delivered before Western Connecticut Holstein-Friesian breeders.

## Experience With Fertilizers

A Quebec Farmer Has Found Them Profitable

John W. Alexander, L'Assomption Co., Que.

MY first experience with commercial fertilizers dates back to the memorable year of 1914, when I was persuaded by a representative of the "German Polish Syndicate," of Toronto to try

an experiment with an artificial fertilizer. The company was to supply the amount of fertilizer needed free of cost, and I was to follow out directions as to the amount of land to be divided into three equal plots of a third of an acre each, and the three plots were to receive the same amount of manure, and also the same cultivation during the season. About 10 spreader loads of 40 bushels capacity were applied per acre.

Plot No. 1, no fertilizer applied.

Plot No. 2, complete fertilizer consisting of 120 lbs. acid phosphate, 40 lb. nitrate of soda, and 55 lbs. sulphate of potash.

Plot No. 3, acid phosphate and nitrate of soda in same proportions as No. 2, but no potash.

Although the season

was unfavorable, being very dry and hot, which affected the sprouting of potatoes, the results were surprising. Plot No. 1 yielded 54 bushels, most of which were unmarketable as they were small and scabby. Plot No. 2 yielded 75 bushels of fine large-sized tubers with very few small ones. Plot No. 3 yielded 57 bushels not much better than Plot No. 1.

This experiment showed me very conclusively that fertilizers pay if you use them in an intelligent way and that for potatoes it takes a fertilizer high in potash content.

In the same year I determined to discover how effective a cheaper grade would be for corn, and accordingly purchased a 2-5-2 fertilizer and applied 350 pounds per acre when planting the corn. This was put on with the fertilizer distributor attached to the corn planter and dropped right in the drill, but not touching the corn. A light dressing of manure had been put on the land and well worked into the soil.

The results were very satisfactory. Some few drills were not fertilized and they were noticeable all through the season, and when the corn was cut there were from 8 to 10 bundles less per drill than where the fertilizer had been applied. Although prices of fertilizer have advanced very much I always make it a point to have it on hand when corn planting time comes as I always find that it shows up on the yield and hastens growth; also you are fully assured of a good catch of clover when that field is seeded down.

I would advise every farmer to make a trial on his own farm and find out the grade best suited to his particular soil. Our soil varies from heavy clay to sandy loam and wherever I have used it the results have been satisfactory.

## Alfalfa Growing in Quebec

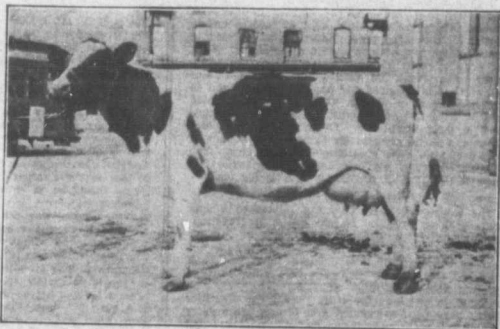
Success With the Grimm Variety

A GROUP of dairy cattle breeders of the Province of Quebec were discussing with an editor of Farm and Dairy the suitability of alfalfa to Quebec conditions at the time of the last Ormstown show. The general verdict seemed to be that alfalfa was not a suitable crop for Quebec farms. When the group had dispersed, a stranger who had overheard our discussion came forward and offered his experience with alfalfa. He proved to be K. McRae, manager of the big farm owned by L. J. Carte, south of Montreal.

"Two years ago this spring," said Mr. McRae, "we seeded a considerable acreage to Grimm alfalfa. It was sod land not properly prepared and we used barley as a nurse crop. Last year we cut two crops of alfalfa, running about four tons of hay to the acre and pastured the last crop with the calves. The crop came through this last winter in excellent condition, except where some grass had crept in. I am convinced that under our conditions at least, alfalfa can be grown successfully in Quebec."

"And how about the feeding of the hay?" Mr. McRae was asked.

"We fed it principally to the calves," said he. "Some of it we ran through the straw cutter, mixed with bran and fed to the chickens. Two brood sows also got liberal rations of alfalfa hay. In all cases it proved the best roughage on the farm. In fact, our calves got no grain at all, just alfalfa hay, corn ensilage and roots and they are well grown and thrifty. We think so much of the crop that we seeded down more this spring, but this time without a nurse crop."



She did the Best of any Pure Bred Holstein in Quebec.

Rosa Mercena DeKok, owned by H. C. Hanmer, Norwich, Ont., was first in the Holstein cow class. Her production for the three days was 211.1 lbs. of milk and her score 252.814 points. For her breed she is not a large cow, but she is of good type and conformation.

Photo by an editor of Farm and Dairy.

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