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### THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

# Questions and Answers.

**JANUARY 18, 1917** 

## Miscellaneous.

#### Farm Problems.

1. Explain the best way to farm 50 acres successfully as a dairy farm. Mention what to sow for pasture, for grain crops, and number of cows that can be kept. How many acres of ordinary corn

will fill a silo 10 feet by 25 feet? 3. Which do you think best, a small farm and one man or a large farm and

chance getting help? 4. What kind of corn grows the most and best ears for silo purposes? 5. Can a man move oat sheaves off

a rented farm either cut or in the sheaf without it being in the lease. The oat sheaves were moved on the place when the tenant moved on.

How long will it take to get purebred stock from good grade cows by using a pure-bred sire each year? E. P. F.

Ans.—To explain a satisfactory method of working a 50-acre dairy farm, without being familiar with the type of soil, lay of land, etc., is a difficult problem. The variety of crops to grow depends a good deal on the nature of the soil. Consequently, in order to arrive at the number of cows which could profitably be kept, it would be necessary to know the amount of roughage at least that the farm would produce in an average season. The general concensus of opinion is that all roughage should be grown on the farm, and if anything must be purchased let it be the concentrates, and if possible some of them should be grown. The crops should be rotated so as to work in a hoe crop, hay, pasture and grain. The grain will be the least profitable, but it is necessary to grow it in order to secure straw. There is no crop that will yield the amount of feed per acre equal to corn, and for feeding dairy cows a legume hay should be grown. If alfalfa does well it will possibly give the heaviest yield, although cows do well on red clover. Legume hay and corn silage make a very good dairy ration for cows giving a medium flow of milk. The amount of grain to feed will depend on the milk flow. Oats, cottonseed meal, linseed meal, brewer's grains, are all good and feeds of this nature, high in protein,

should constitute the concentrates. A few mangels might also be grown. Summer feeding will be found the most difficult, as the ordinary pasture is about the most expensive form of feed. It becomes parched during July and August and it requires, as a rule, two or three acres per cow for the season. Here is where a saving could be made, so as to enable the carrying of a larger number of cattleonthefarmand reduce the acreage devoted to pasture. This may be done in several ways. We have known dairymen to give their cows all the hay and corn silage they will eat in the stable night and morning, but allow them to run on pasture. They do not eat much grass, and a small field is all that is required for a large herd. This method necessitates harvesting the crop and feeding in the stable, which is considered by some to be an expensive way. How-ever, ten acres will furnish more feed in corn or clover than in pasture. Pasture should have the same amount of attention as spring-sown crops, in order to get the most out of it. Instead of leaving a large acreage in grass, break up part of it and sow with one bushel each of wheat, barley and oats, and 6 or 7 pounds of clover in the spring. This will be ready for pasture by July, and it is claimed that one acre will supply an abundance of roughage for a cow from July until the snow flies. The success depends on having a thick mat, and in turning the cattle on before the grain heads out. Clover sown in a spring pasture seldom fails to catch, and will give a crop of hay the next year. By growing this crop for pasture, a greater acreage can be left for grain, hay or corn. Do not keep any more cows than you can grow roughage for. As previously men-tioned, the number will depend on what the land is capable of producing. It is not out of the way to suppose that 50 acres of good land should carry 20 or 25 head of cattle. It will depend largely on the bulk of hay and corn that can be produced. It will be a matter of intensive farming and making every acre produce. Possibly the farm is well adapted for wheat; if so, a certain acreage could be grown, as it furnishes a lot of straw and the grain could be sold to buy

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