

Better Cows Needed

"Our Canadian farmers should endeavor to develop cows that will give greater results at the pail," said Mr. C. F. Whitley, of the Department of Agriculture, at a dairy meeting held recently in Peterboro county. "In Denmark, the Danish farmers in a few years, increased the milk produc-

Push Cow Testing Associations

The following is a copy of the resolution relating to the work of the cow-testing associations that was passed at the recent convention of the Eastern Ontario Dairy-mens' Association:

Moved by Senator Derbyshire, seconded by Edward Kidd, and carried unanimously, "That this association, recognizing the great value of the present campaign instituted by the Dominion Government in favor of a large milk yield from better cows, urge upon the Dominion Minister of Agriculture the great need for a rapid extension of the work of the cow-testing associations."

tion of all their cows by 66 per cent. This means that all Ontario cows now giving 5,000 lbs. milk could be induced to give 8,300 lbs. a year.

"In Peterboro county alone, there are about 21,000 cows. Were the milk producing qualities of only half these cows increased, not by 66 per cent. but by only 50 per cent., it would mean that the Peterboro farmers would receive \$165,000 more for their milk than they did in 1908. This shows us what it would mean were the farmers throughout the dairy sections of Canada to increase the milk producing qualities of their cows in the same proportion. We must feed more corn and grain, and grow more soiling crops for summer feed. We must also use sires bred from cows having records as large milk producers.

"Our average Canadian dairy farmer with a herd of 20 cows has at least three in his herd that do not produce enough milk to pay for their keep. Were he to test his cows regularly, he would soon find which ones were not paying their way. By getting rid of them, he would make more profit from 17 cows than he now does from 20. This would save the labor that is now expended in looking after these three poor but costly cows, which would more than off-set the labor required to weigh the milk after each milking.

"One of our cow-testing associations showed that one man who had 28 cows, was keeping 11 that were not paying their way. After he got rid of these cows, his net receipts were larger from 17 than they had been from 28. That is why cow-testing associations are being formed in all parts of Canada, and why one should be formed in every section where there is none now."

An Ice House and How to Fit It

John Beemer, Brant Co. Ont.

An ice-house 12 x 12 ft. outside by eight ft. high would be ample for the needs of the average farmer. Such a house with a gable roof would require 2 x 4 scantling for studding. This should be boarded up both inside and outside with inch lumber, leaving an air space between the boards. The ice-house must have good drainage. To secure this necessary drainage raise the floor about six inches above the level of the surrounding ground with good gravel.

Before filling the house, place at least one foot of good saw-dust on the bottom, leave room for about ten or 12 inches of saw-dust between the ice and the boards at the side. This must be filled in as the ice is stored with either good saw-dust or cut straw. I prefer good fresh saw-dust if it can be got. If straw is used it must be well packed. After the ice is in, cover it over with ten or twelve inches of dust.

Occasionally after storing and frequently

throughout the summer months, the saw-dust or straw, between the ice and the outside of the house, should be well tramped to prevent the air from circulating through and thus melting the ice. Where it is possible, I much prefer to have the ice-house on the north side of some other building, thus having it protected from the direct rays of the sun. The cost of the ice-house of the size described above, using all new lumber at \$30 a M. with shingle roof, and counting the labor and time of building should not exceed \$60.

Harvesting ice should be begun when it is from 12 to 14 inches thick. Cut it 18 x 24 inches square and put in the house in good cold weather. All ice should be well packed to keep the air from circulating through it and thus insure its keeping. A small door should be placed in the gable of the house for ventilating.

For the average farmer it is much better and cheaper for him to buy his ice already cut than for him to cut it himself. I have proven from long experience that the best way to harvest the ice is to plow it one way and to saw it in the other, splitting off the blocks at the plow cut with a flat-pointed crow-bar. This is the only satisfactory way to get ice out and have it cut square. When cut by this method it will pack easily and at a minimum cost of labor.

Sanitation in the Stable

Dr. H. G. Reed, V. S. Halton Co. Ont.

Next to the plentiful supply of good food there is no more potent factor toward the maintenance of good health in farm stock, while in winter quarters, than an abundant supply of light and plenty of fresh air.

Many barns—especially those erected in the side of a bank—have been constructed without any adequate precaution to insure either light or ventilation.

Some think that cows will thrive and do well in dark, poorly ventilated stables, but while they will withstand such conditions better than horses, yet it will pay the stockman well to see that even his cows are not deprived of those two very important adjuncts of good health.

It is well known that all forms of germ-life will thrive better in darkness, while sunlight will destroy many of them. Cattle consumption (tuberculosis), is a germ disease and consequently is contagious, but while it is contagious it is not

highly so. A consumptive cow might herd with healthy animals all summer while at pasture without much danger of the healthy animals becoming infected, but if kept tied up in a dark and poorly ventilated stable during the winter, some of the healthy animals would be in grave danger of contracting the disease. In fact, even a well-kept stable is a favorable medium for the propagation of germ-life and in the case of a dark and poorly ventilated one the danger is intensified to a very great extent.

While cattle will withstand unsanitary stable conditions but poorly, horses will do even worse. An ordinary attack of strangles or influenza among horses in such a stable often develops into serious complications. A veterinary surgeon called to treat any disease of the respiratory system of a horse confined in such quarters will always see that his patient is removed to some place where he can get an abundant supply of fresh air because he understands the difficulty of successful treatment without it. And if pure air is a necessity in restoring a sick animal to health it must also be very needful in maintaining healthy conditions in animals which are not sick.

One of the strongest reasons for the fact that we have more serious cases of pulmonary diseases in the winter than in the summer is that the ordinary stable is very deficient in ventilation and the farm stock are compelled to breathe foul air altogether unfitted to maintain healthy conditions.

The question of light in a stable depends altogether on the window space and can easily be arranged, but in the matter of ventilation the remedy is much more difficult. Some sort of shaft or tube should extend from the stable to the external air, at least an opening should be made into the loft above and even this simple precaution is wanting in many barns. Ventilation, although a difficult problem is well worthy the attention of every stockman and the man who has mastered it has gone a long way toward the maintenance of good health in his barn.

When not working our horses we make it a practice to see that they are turned out each day for exercise. With collars it results in a better quality of bone, increases their lung capacity and keeps them in better condition.—A. G. McKenzie, Oxford Co., Ont.



A Familiar Winter Task on an Ontario Farm

In these later days of high-priced labor, all progressive farmers haul their farm yard manure to the fields as common use it is popular to haul the manure to piles, from whence it can be readily spread when the snow disappears. This illustration was taken on the farm of Mr. Kerwin, Huron Co., Ont.