

**Mistakes in Alfalfa Growing**

Mr. William Stewart, Jr., of Menfe, was one of the first farmers to commence alfalfa growing in his township, in Northumberland county, Ont. He has been growing it now for many years, and believes that it is one of the best crops that can be grown on any farm. At the time he commenced growing it this crop was not as well known as it is today, and consequently he made some mistakes that have since been made by many other farmers.

"At first," said Mr. Stewart, to a representative of The Dairyman and Farming World, who visited his place, "I used to crop it in the fall, but I found that this was a great mistake. By keeping the cows off it in the fall, the crop gets a splendid start, and the benefit of this start is apparent the following year. Some farmers tried to grow alfalfa with their corn, and with their clover. It is not a success when grown in this way, as it is a crop that should be grown by itself.

It is a mistake also to let alfalfa grow too long before harvesting. When this is done the crop gets coarse and the cattle do not like it. Many men who have not cut alfalfa at the right time, have become disgusted with it as a crop, when, had they cut it at the right time, they would have been delighted with it."

**Treatment for Flies**

We have been using a treatment on our cows for flies for several years. This year, however, we are not doing so, as we have found it difficult to get a good destroyer that will not affect the milk when in the stable. The remedy we have had the best success with is crude oil—a product of coal oil. It will stay on the cows longer than any mixture we have used, but it is bad for soiling the milk's clothes, and has a very strong smell. It will keep the flies off in dry weather, if sprayed on the cows once a week. With other mix-

tures we have tried we would have to spray every day. We have found that unless you kept the mixture on them all the time the flies seemed to annoy the cattle worse than if they had not been sprayed.—A. Kennedy & Son, Ontario Co., Ont.

**Farming on a Dangerous Basis**

"How many of you farmers can tell me what it costs you each year to feed each of your cows, and how much each of your cows is returning you in the way of profit," asked Mr. N. G. Somerville, of Belleville, Ont., at a picnic held recently at Hartley, in Victoria county, by the patrons of the Eldon creamery. "If you cannot," continued Mr. Somerville, "you are farming on a dangerous basis." "There are a lot of people in Ontario who are not making as much money out of dairying as they might, and as they cannot afford to look so closely at the cheese board prices each week, they forget to watch the production side of their business. They cannot tell what it costs them to feed their cows, or what their cows are yielding, and by this lack of knowledge, they lose more money than they realize. Very few dairy farmers know whether their cows are producing 3000 lbs. or 4000 lbs. of milk a year. A merchant who continues to pay more for his goods than he sells them for, soon fails. The farmer who cannot tell whether he is paying more to keep his cows than his cows are paying him for their keep, is farming in a dangerous manner.

**THEY WERE SURPRISED**

"Two years ago I visited some 75 farmers in Eastern Ontario, and asked them what it cost them to keep their cows each year. Many of them could not tell me. Finally, by picking it out of them, I got their estimates, and they were surprised. One owned by Brown Bros., of Lyn, Ont., averaged 6600 lbs. of milk a year from each cow. The factory returns from each cow averaged \$62 a year. In the same section there was another farmer producing milk for the same factory who, after I had talked the matter over with him, estimated that it cost him \$73 a year to keep each of his cows. When we got his factory returns, we found that the revenue from each cow averaged only \$14.70 a year. That man was astonished when he saw the figures, but he could not dispute their correctness. Many other farmers would be equally

astonished were they to figure out their returns in the same way.

"Our farmers should realize that it does not pay to keep a cow that gives less than five lbs. of milk a day. Some farmers seem to think that if a cow has horns, a tail and a hide, that is about all that is necessary to enable it to be kept with a profit, regardless of the care they give it, and the feed it receives. It is a great mistake. The cow is a great asset that will give returns in proportion to the feed and care it receives. The only way to tell what your cows are doing is to watch each cow carefully. The milk of every cow should be weighed. If you have not been doing this, it is altogether likely that you are keeping cows at a loss. Is it not time for you to look into this matter, and find where you stand?"

**A Source of Bacteria in Milk**

Hay as ordinarily cured and stored in the barn usually undergoes a curing or sweating, which fermentation caused by bacterial activity in the interior of the mass of hay, and if moist enough a mold growth in the surface. The bacterial activity is caused by the increased number of germs present on the grass when cut in the field. Twenty-eight tests have been made of the numbers of bacteria contained on a gram of each sample of hay. The tests were made weekly from October 17 to May 21st, and from all parts of the hayloft, including timothy, redtop, rowen, semi-swallow and swamp hay. The average number of bacteria per gram for all Pesse tests was 16,800,000. In order to compare the number of organisms on hay and on grass from early spring time to the end of the season were made of the numbers on grass in the different stages of development.

The sources of grass were pasture land, semi-fertile fields, and very fertile fields and meadows. Clover and ryegrass were incidentally included. The average number of bacteria per gram for all samples was 16,000,000, a number nearly the same as that found in cured hay. In comparing the numbers of bacteria on hay and on grass, account must be taken of the amount of water lost in the drying and curing of hay. The amount of water dried out of hay was found to be about sixty-seven per cent., which is approximately two-thirds. A gram of hay is equivalent to three grams of grass, in respect to the numbers of bacteria. When corrections are made for this factor, it is found that cured hay has about one-third as many bacteria as grass in the field. Hay cured the best has the fewest bacteria. As the time in storage increases, the number of bacteria decreases. The varieties on the hay when stored largely disappear and only a few varieties grow and increase. The curing of hay in storage the miscellaneous acid bacteria double in numbers, while the ligueifers decrease about one-third. Only one sample of hay had Bacterium lactacidum present, and this was considered to be a chance contamination. From the investigations the conclusion is drawn that hay is not a source of this organism. The enormous numbers of bacteria per gram of hay, which is only one twenty-eighth of an ounce, makes it the abundant source of bacteria that germs from the myriads of organisms settle in a few hours

to be again raised into the air by walking over the floor or by winds and draughts of air. Large numbers of bacteria from hay and hay dust settle on the cow, which fill in among the hair, to be rattled down during milking into the milk pail.—Stora Bulletin No. 51.

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