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Each Week

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Only \$1.00
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FOR WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 24, 1910.

No. 8

THE GENERAL MANAGEMENT OF A HIGH PRODUCING DAIRY HERD

C. E. Moore, Peterboro Co., Ont.

Possible to Double the Production of the Average Herd. Twenty-three Cows Average Over 9,000 lbs. of Milk per Year. The Management of the Dairy Cows on a Prize Winning Farm.

FROM time to time through the columns of Farm and Dairy we hear of large milk records of dairy herds and of individual cows. How are these records possible? Are they obtained by chance? Or, is there some important factor in their realization?

Follow up any of these records and we always find some good reasons why the cows have done so well. In the article by Mr. A. J. Davis of Oxford Co., Ont., which was published in Farm and Dairy Dec. 30, one thing stands out prominently, i. e., the amount of feed he gave his cows in order to obtain his high milk records. Our experience has been similar. The year which has just closed shows an average production for our herd of over 9,000 lbs. of milk and 300 lbs. of butter fat per cow. In three years we have raised our average production per cow nearly 2,000 lbs. of milk and over 50 lbs. of butter fat.

FACTORS IN PRODUCTION.

In accomplishing this, a large factor has been the feed we gave our cows. Other things, of course, are necessary also in the production of milk. The use of pure bred sires descended from the best milking strains, the weeding out of the poorest cows, aided by means of the scales and Babcock test, are all necessary in the production of large yields.

In feeding, we aim at all times to feed our cows all they can consume. We commence to stable at night early in October as soon as the nights get chilly. At that time we feed ensilage night and morning with some chop or roots. The chop, which we feed, is chiefly a mixture of wheat, oats and barley which we grow. As the fall advances the cattle are kept in longer each day until some time in November, when they are stalled for the winter.

At this time we make a change in the feeding time. We feed twice a day only from then until spring. A cow fed all she will eat in the morning and again at night will consume less than if fed three or four times a day, will be content and will rest more, which is very necessary in the production of milk; feeding twice a day occasions less labor, which is another advantage in favor of the practice.

CHEAP AND PALATABLE FEED.

By growing plenty of clover, alfalfa and corn for the silo we have a form of roughage that is both acceptable and cheap for the filling up of the capacious frame, which every good dairy cow should have. Our method of feeding is to give all the cow can eat of ensilage each morning, say from 40 to 60 lbs., with what chop she requires in proportion to the amount of milk she produces.

After cleaning this up and having a drink from their basins, they are ready to lie down and groan with contentment for the greater part of the day. And here is a point, which is often overlooked. A cow when on grass will always eat until satisfied before resting, so if we want them to rest contentedly in the stable, then they must have all they desire or there will be a restlessness on the part of the cow which is not good for the production of milk. In the evening we feed hay if the cow is milking, straw when she is dry. With both the hay and straw, we again feed some chop.

COWS FRESHEN IN SPRING.

Being a patron of a cheese and butter factory, we aim to have our cows all freshen in the early spring and milk until about the following Febru-

times a week is both necessary and useful to cows in the winter time; useful because it relieves the cow of a certain amount of itchiness and also saves some feed in the keeping of the cow in a thriving condition.

We do not turn our cows to pasture in the spring until the grass has had a good start. Then they get nothing but grass until the last of June. This past season for the month of June from 22 cows in the first half and from 23 in the last half of the month we obtained an average of 1,000 lbs. of milk a day; (seven of the cows were heifers).

SUMMER FEEDING.

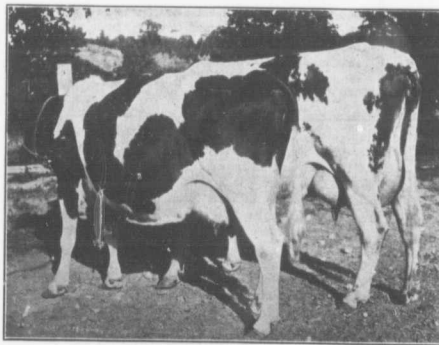
As soon as the pastures commence to dry, we start to feed them a little chop or green feed in the stables night and morning. About the middle of July we commence feeding out of the silo a mixture composed of wheat, oats and peas cut and put in when green. This feed makes an excellent substitute for the grass and helps to fill up the cows and insure contentment—one of the keystones to successful dairying. This feed lasts us until the field corn is matured, when we again commence feeding ensilage.

In the months of June, July, August and September our cows are sprayed lightly each morning as an aid in keeping away the flies. Last summer when the cows were tied in to feed in the morning we found that our 28 cows could with a large sprayer be gone over easily in three minutes. This is a small loss of time, and it greatly adds to the comfort of the cows. Since we have a large run of pasture for our cows, we do not stable during the summer at all. On a small farm stabling would be profitable both as regards the amount of land required for pasture and the comfort of the cows. Pasturing is an expensive way of producing milk, in that it prevents us from obtaining the best yield per acre from our farms.

BE UP AND DOING.

To obtain large yields from our cows we must breed, weed and feed, and if we do this intelligently, in a few years we, the dairy farmers of Ontario, will double the average production of our cows. Let us all strive for better things along this line and not let the people of smaller countries lead us in this respect as we find some of them to be doing.

There appears no record of a time when alfalfa was not in some portions of the world esteemed one of Nature's most generous benefactions to husbandry, and an important feature of a profitable agriculture. Its beginning seems to have been contemporary with that of man, and, as with man, its first habitat was central Asia, where the progenitors of our race knew its capabilities in sustaining all herbivorous animal life.—From Coburn's "The Book of Alfalfa."



Two of the grade cows in a high producing herd

The smaller cow in the foreground gave 13,000 lbs. of milk in a year; the other cow is a close second to her. These two cows are members of the herd of 23 cows owned by Mr. J. K. Moore & Son, Peterboro Co., Ont., that averaged during the past year over 500 lbs. of milk and 30 lbs. of butter fat each. Read the adjoining article in which Mr. Moore tells how he manages his cows. Photo by an Editor of Farm and Dairy.

ary. So we do not aim to feed as heavy for milk production as the winter advances, as we would if our cows freshened in the fall. As the cows freshen in the spring we start to feed in conjunction with the ensilage, hay and mixed chop, some oil cake, feeding from two to four lbs. per cow. In the feeding of chop, we give one lb. of chop to every four to six lbs. of milk produced by the cow. We feed, as a rule, throughout the winter at six a. m. and at five p. m. Our period of lactation averages about ten months; some of the cows milk longer, some less. We like to give at least six weeks to the cow in which to recruit herself for the next season's work.

GROOMING PAYS.

We have found that a good grooming several