

## THE FARM.

### The Cost of Growing and Ensiling Corn.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

I read with interest your article in the issue of October 14, giving the cost of growing and ensiling corn on Weldwood Farm.

I have been cost accounting for some time, and, with your permission, will give this year's figures re-silage. I keep a combination dairy and labor record, and keep count of all hours labor spent on each department of the farm. The rates I charge are: Man labor, 40 cents per hour; horse labor, 15 cents; and tractor, \$1.75 per hour. Instead of charging a straight rental, as you did at Weldwood, I kept track of all overhead expense: Depreciation and repairs on buildings, fences and machinery, taxes, insurance, two-thirds telephone, etc., plus 6 per cent. interest on investment, and my total comes to 9 1/2 per cent. This land is valued at about \$85 per acre, so rental would be \$8.21 per acre.

Your figure of \$4 per acre would not much more than pay the overhead expense without interest on investment.

I had a 10 1/2-acre field of corn this year, part of which was planted with Leaming and the balance with White Cap Dent. Part of it had to be re-planted, thus slightly increasing the cost and, owing to being later, decreasing the tonnage per acre. The field was fall-plowed, and was well worked and planted about the 24th of May. It was cut on the 28th and 29th of September, with the tractor which was also used for filling the silo.

The silo which is 36 feet by 14 feet was exactly filled and nothing over.

paid on boards marketing cheese of an inferior type. Selling on the curb has been one of the strongest factors in weakening the usefulness of some of our cheese boards, while in other cases it is to be feared that cheese of an inferior kind has been marketed under false pretenses, and has been represented as coming from a district with a reputation for a high-quality product. The cheese board is a local organization, the size of the district it serves depending more or less upon geographical location and railway facilities.

We have attended meetings of several cheese boards, and in some cases have very much regretted the apparently unbusiness-like methods which marked the disposal of considerable quantities of such an important agricultural product as cheese. Naturally, therefore, it was with some measure of surprise and a great deal of pleasure that we noted the very business-like and clean-cut methods in vogue on the Picton Cheese Board, on the occasion of a recent attendance at one of these meetings. The outstanding impression we gathered from the character of this meeting was that there were certain rules and regulations of the Board which were being lived up to; and it is the fact that rules and regulations of other boards have not been lived up to as they should have been, that has tended to bring about the condition of abuse and misuse to which we have previously referred.

On the occasion of our visit to the Picton Board, there were 850 colored cheese offered to buyers, of whom there was not a full number present, but who were out in sufficient numbers to provide good competitive bidding. When the offerings of the day had been boarded the President of the board called for bids, and if, say, John Brown bid 25 cents, his name was recorded as well as his bid. Opportunity was then given for other buyers to come in at that bid. Probably a

fifty boxes of cheese at each sale, and if he refuses at one sale to accept the price offered, he must account for one hundred boxes at the next sale. Perhaps a reproduction of the rules and regulations followed by the Board will make clearer the method of operation. They are particularly valuable in this case, in as much as we are informed that they are strictly adhered to. The rules and regulations follow:

1. The name of the organization shall be The Picton Cheese Board of Trade.

2. The following persons shall be eligible for membership of the Picton Cheese Board of Trade:—

All salesmen of the several factories, or their representative, registering on this Board; all buyers who attend regularly for the purpose of buying cheese; and the managers of the several banks of the Town of Picton, or their representatives, on payment of the annual fee determined upon by the Board at its first or second meeting of the year. Members only shall be entitled to vote.

3. The officers shall consist of a president, a first and second vice-president, a secretary, or secretary-treasurer, an auditing committee of two, and a referee, marker and weigh-master.

4. The President shall preside at all the meetings and may require any person present at the Board of Trade to show evidence of membership, and have power to eject non-members for a breach of the rules of the Board.

5. The First and Second Vice-President shall perform all the duties of the President in his absence. The Secretary shall keep the records of the Board, procure telegrams and other informations, and pay all moneys received to the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall receive all moneys from the Secretary, pay all necessary expenses upon the order of the President and Secretary, and otherwise, as the Board by vote shall direct. The referee to settle all disputes between buyer and seller, as regards the quality of cheese.

6. The officers shall be elected to hold office for one year and until their successors are elected, and shall constitute the executive committee to settle disputes and infractions of existing rules, between any members of this Board.

7. The Board shall be opened at two o'clock p.m., on Friday of each week.

All members, or their representatives shall, on each sale, register, or instruct the President to do so for them their factories and the number of cheese, so far as they can, that they intend offering for sale. In the absence of any salesman or his representative, the President shall sell the cheese which he has boarded for the absent member, at the highest price bid on the said cheese on that sales day. And any member getting within 1/16 of a cent of the highest bid on sales day, shall accept the bid he receives, or carry the cheese so boarded until the subsequent sales day; or, if the member does not receive on board day within 1/2 of a cent of the highest bid, or gets no bid at all, he shall be permitted to sell the cheese he has boarded, provided such cheese is to be shipped on the same day as those cheese which were sold on the above-mentioned sales day. All factories not boarding cheese for three consecutive weeks, shall be suspended. Any buyer making a bid to raise the price and followed by a second buyer still advancing the price, shall be permitted to take second place, if he so desires, although he has not called in that turn when the price was advanced.

8. All bids for cheese shall be made openly on the Board. The bids shall be marked opposite the buyer's name on the Board; 1/16 of a cent per pound advance shall be considered a proper bid. A bid for Board or balance of Board shall not take precedence over a selection bid for less than 200 boxes, except otherwise provided.

No buyer shall buy or offer to buy cheese off the Picton Board (except otherwise here provided) of any salesman representing any factory in the County of Prince Edward, or any factory outside the said county that has been registered on this Picton Board, on pain of suspension for four weeks.

9. After all the bids are made, and the bidders have made their selections, the President shall declare the bidding closed and cause the factories to be called, whereupon the salesmen of each factory selected shall accept or reject the offer.

10. All cheese, so far as regards quality, are subject to inspection at the factory, and if the quality be not satisfactory to buyer, he shall leave written or verbal notice at factory to that effect before cheese are removed from said factory. As regards weight, no fraction of a pound shall be considered—one-half pound even weight shall be allowed on all cheese at the point of shipment unless otherwise agreed upon; and no allowance shall be made for Green Cheese, and all inspection as to weights shall be made by an authorized weigh-master and on properly-inspected scales, at the point of shipment, but any salesman may ship his cheese subject to such weight inspection in Montreal, or at said point of shipment.

11. All cheese shall be paid for upon delivery in cash or its equivalent.

12. Any cheese boarded after selections have started to be made shall be opened to all buyers in the order of their bidding.

13. Non-compliance with the above rules shall subject the affected parties to suspension or expulsion at the option of the Executive.



Cutting a Good Crop of Corn on Weldwood Farm.

The expenses are as follows:	
Plowing, 22 hrs., tractor, at \$1.75.....	\$38.50
Seed corn, 4 1/4 bushels at \$3.25.....	13.75
Harrowing, rolling, 35 man hrs. at 40c.....	14.00
Planting, 70 horse hrs at 15c.....	10.50
"    15 tractor hrs. at \$1.75.....	26.25
Cultivating and hoeing, 94 man hrs. at 40c.....	37.60
"    129 horse hrs. at 15c.....	19.35
Cutting corn, 10 1/2 tractor hrs. at \$1.75.....	18.30
Binder twine, 35 lbs. at 20c.....	7.00
Filling Silo, 125 hrs. at 40c.....	50.00
Filling Silo, 160 hrs. at 15c.....	24.00
Filling Silo, tractor, 36ft. at \$1.00.....	36.00
Rental, 10 1/2 acres at \$8.21 per acre.....	86.25
	<b>\$381.50</b>

This brings the cost to \$36.33 per acre or \$3.81 per ton, (the silo holds approximately 100 tons).

This is considerably higher than your figures, but as my yield was 9 1/2 tons, while yours was 13 1/2 tons per acre, my field is probably nearer the average yield.

I would like to see some other farmer's figures, or some criticisms of my own figures, so I can see how far off I am in my estimates.

Lambton Co., Ont.

J. M. LAWRENCE.

## THE DAIRY.

### A Well-Regulated Cheese Board.

Earlier in the season some reference was made in these columns to the fact that time and misuse has brought about a condition in the cheese industry whereby such time-honored institutions as the local cheese boards have failed in some cases to fulfil their proper functions. The primary function of the cheese board is to dispose, by straight auction sale, of the weekly or semi-monthly make of cheese produced within a specified district. It is justly claimed that the cheese board possesses advantages in the sense that it is possible for a certain district to develop a reputation for cheese of the highest quality which will be reflected in the prices paid on that board, as compared with prices

half dozen would do so. When all were in who cared to bid at that price, the call was issued for an advance over the previous bid. Tom Jones might raise to 25 1/16, and others who cared to come in at this bid had the privilege of having their names recorded in the order in which they announced their willingness to pay this price. By a process of elimination, some of the buyers were forced out of the market. By the same process also, bidding was raised to the highest price at which any buyer cared to buy. When this stage was reached and no buyer had signified his willingness to raise the bid still higher, the man who first bid the highest price offered was allowed to call his factories. That is to say, he was allowed to select the two hundred cheese which he committed himself to purchase when he made his bid, from among the factories which, in his opinion, would have the best quality cheese, or for other reasons would make the most profitable purchase. As these factories were called out they were recorded on the blackboard, so that all present might take note of them, in the same manner that the bids had been recorded. When the first buyer was through calling, the man who next agreed to pay the same price was permitted to take his choice from the remaining cheese offered, and so on until the whole offering had been taken up, each man in turn, if there were sufficient cheese remaining, being compelled to call at least two hundred boxes. When this was completed the Board was called, and each individual salesman given an opportunity of accepting or rejecting the offer.

In a general sense this method of conducting the meeting of the Board is much the same as that common to a number of other boards we have visited, but there was a snap and a business-like air to the proceedings in this case that we have missed in other places. It is also important to note that the meeting of the Board opened on time, and that selling did not commence before or after the hour announced, but on the dot.

Perhaps the most striking feature of the Picton Board that we noticed was the fact that close precautions were taken to eliminate street or curb selling. If a salesman refuses to accept within one-sixteenth of a cent of the highest bid on sales day, he must carry the cheese so boarded until the next board meeting; or, in other words, if a salesman is in the habit of offering

### Feed is Popular.

ilt on many farms in this apt, the question of the suit- is class of stock becomes one State of Idaho farmers with ding silage extensively and sirable feed for sheep of all s who have not yet used it, s who have thoroughly sat- any desirable qualities are

of their feeding operations, health, assists in preventing e" when feeding alfalfa or ime, and cause the ewes to ambs.

ke an excellent combination and when properly fed will and bring them out in the ady for the range.

to feeding silage to bred sider it a good feed for them racks and they believe that e racks injure one another em to abort their lambs.

sheep men who feeds about in racks to bred ewes states trouble along this line and a part of the winter ration

as ever fed silage to his ewes praise. It adds succulence en such feed is most needed, us to the milk flow. The e lambs grow much fatter r who has given silage a k of 6,400 ewes is planning to 1,000 tons this year so t to give his ewes all they lamb and the time they go

ell-balanced feed and should hage, either for fattening fed with a leguminous hay, Under no circumstances to sheep.

over four pounds per head and the lambs should receive mbs to be wintered should age to every three of alfalfa ered advisable to feed over ead per day to bred ewes ith lambs at side may be per head per day and all