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DAIRY FARMING vs. EXCLUSIVE GRAIN GROWING

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Dairying helps to solve the weed problem and takes little from the soil compared with grain growing. The Farmers engaged in Dairying are the most prosperous.

THE advantages of dairy farming over exclusive grain growing are numerous. With dairying you do not have all your eggs in one basket, so to speak. If your grain crop is a failure you have nothing to fall back on, and as a result, you are very often put to your "wits end" to meet obligations until an-



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other season comes round. People who have experienced this, well know what it means. It practically takes two seasons to make up and should further misfortune overtake him, it may mean his complete ruin: He then becomes discouraged, quits in disgust and says that farming does not pay. We have seen this thing many times over in Manitoba. In passing through some districts we come across homesteads that have been vacated for no other reason than that exclusive grain growing has been practised and failure of the crop put their owners out of business. Places having become mortgaged for all they are worth, are left to the loan companies or speculators for disposal to some one else.

It is to be hoped that the second owner will go in for mixed farming, which is the best and least expensive to start up in as less machinery is required and fewer horses are needed.

SOLVING THE WEED QUESTION

By following mixed farming or dairying, a system of rotation of crops can be followed and hood crops can be introduced. By so doing, the land can be kept free from weeds, and what is most important of all, the fertility of the soil can

be retained. At the present time, farmers here are "up against" it owing to slipshod methods of farming that have been followed by some of those exclusive grain farmers. I refer to the weed question. As you are aware, the Government has taken this in hand and has passed a very stringent Weed Act, which, if put into force, will mean the destruction of the whole of some crops because they are so badly over-run with weeds. Some of the worst weeds that we have to contend with are the sow thistle, the Canada thistle, wild mustard, wild oats and stink weed. There are others but they are not as numerous at present nor do they require our attention as much as the foregoing. These conditions can be overcome if the farmers will only make up their minds to follow more intensive farming. They will have to get away from the old style of doing things, by farming less, and farming better. They will have to pay more attention to the destruction of weeds by doing more surface cultivation, in fact by doing everything more thoroughly than they have been doing heretofore.

GRAIN vs. DAIRYING

Farmers must also follow a system of rotation and the growing of clover and grasses. By doing this more cattle will be kept to which the roots and ensilage can be fed. If more cattle are kept, the manure will be returned to the fields, thereby retaining the fertility. If you grow clover, you will return that most valuable of all constituents—nitrogen—to the soil. Nitrogen is taken from the air by the leaves of the plants and stored in the roots. A crop of clover plowed down is of great manual value and will put another good constituent into the soil in the form of humus, which will tend to hold the finely powdered soil

together and keep it from blowing away from your seed. A crop of wheat will remove about \$6.25 worth of plant food per acre from the soil; a crop of barley, about \$6.70, and a crop of oats about \$6.85. A cow giving about 6,000 lbs. of milk will take about 64 cents worth of fertilizing constituents from the soil; 240 lbs. of butter will take from the soil about five cents for every 1,000 lbs.; a fat animal, \$4.50 per 1,000 lbs. increase in weight; and hogs, \$3.10 for every 1,000 lbs. increase. Eighty-five per cent. of this plant food, however, is returned to the soil in the manure. Then the shipping rates on dairy products are less than the rates on grain because

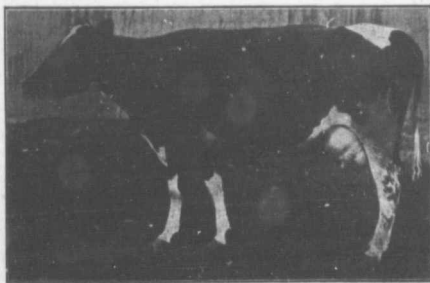
they are a finished product. A ton of wheat at 75 cents a bushel will sell for \$25; a ton of hay, \$10; a ton of butter at 25 cents a lb., \$500; a ton of cheese at 12 cents, \$240; and the shipping rates are nearly the same on all. Where a variety of crops is grown, there is less danger of failure than where only one crop is grown.

Dairying also distributes the labor throughout the year, and this labor can be hired for less when engaged by the year. Labor is a great problem in this province at the present time and it is difficult to secure suitable men when most required. If farmers would hire by the year they would then have their help when the harvest time came and I am certain that if such labor is properly directed, it will be profitable to its owner.

DAIRY FARMERS PROSPEROUS

In many cases, however, the dairy farmer has great difficulty in obtaining men to carry on his business properly, because the men are compelled to work in the fields until sunset, and then are obliged to milk cows and do any other chores that have to be done. As a result some dairymen are without help for a great part of the year and they must get along as best they can. It is no wonder they find dairying unprofitable, when they are bound to neglect some of their work, and as a consequence become discouraged and say that dairying does not pay. These are some of the facts concerning the business that are working against our interests to-day. A man who carries on dairy farming successfully will have good returns from it and will have a source of revenue the whole year through. We have good illustrations of this in Manitoba. In passing through some of our best dairy districts, we see fine houses, fine barns and farms well fenced, and in fact the farmers have everything that they require, and are in good circumstances. This is all due to the dairy industry and its co-industries or side lines, such as the raising of hogs, and poultry.

Especially is it profitable to raise hogs and poultry as we are obliged to import great quantities of both, which is not valid reason why our



Madam Dot 3rd's Princess Pauline DeKol (3708).

The second cow to qualify for the Holstein Record of Performance. Owned by Dr. Bangster, Ormstown, Que.; mature cow. Number of days in milk 303. Total lbs. milk, 1151.7; total lbs. fat 438.974. Average per cent. of fat 3.80. Production required for registration 10500 lbs. milk and 387 lbs. fat.