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Issued  
Each Week

# FARM AND DAIRY & RURAL HOME

Only \$1.00  
a Year

Vol. XXXII.

FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 14, 1913

No. 33

## THE MANAGEMENT OF THE DAIRY FARM AT "DUNROBIN," No. 1

R. E. Gunn, Prop., Dunrobin Stock Farm, Ontario Co., Ont.

The First of a Series of Two Articles Descriptive of the Management of One of the Largest Dairy Farms in Ontario. These Principles of Successful Management May be Applied to the Smallest Dairy Farm.

THE title of this article might as well have been "The management of the whole farm at Dunrobin," for everything is made to serve the end of the dairy, as it is the business of the farm at present. I say at present, for when the dairy has built up soil fertility sufficiently it is the intention to go into some side lines that suggest the possibilities of good profits.

Dunrobin Stock Farm was started in 1836 on its present site by the great-grandfather of the present owner, who hewed the most of it out of the virgin forests that stood on the shores of Lake Simcoe. The father of the present owner left the farm to found Gunns, Limited, or rather the firm that has grown to be known by that name, in 1873. He always kept his connection with the old homestead and showing that interest in a practical way, added to the original 100 acres from time to time, till at one time he had 600 acres.

### FARM CROPPED FOR 50 YEARS

This acreage has been slightly reduced, but the acreage now operated includes the old homesteads of three families and the land has been constantly under crop for 50 years at least. The land was good clay loam. The natural result following on continuous cropping is that to-day the soil is undergoing a treatment of rejuvenation in regard to fertility and weed filth.

The father of the present owner, the late Mr. Donald Gunn, of Toronto, started to operate the holdings personally in 1900. The system of farming followed was more fashioned to give pleasure than profit. In 1903 the present owner, who had lived in the city till 1900, came into the joint management fresh from the Ontario Agricultural College. The system in vogue was not changed until the commercial instincts of Mr. Donald Gunn would no longer permit him to lose money on fancy horses and pure bred Short-horns.

### DAIRYING AT LAST SELECTED

To men, like many that can be mentioned, who have founded celebrated herds and who live practically with their charges, Short-horns may be made to pay handsomely. But for the present manager of Dunrobin there was nothing in it. A change was made in 1908, and a dairy herd established. Up till this time almost every kind of farming had been tried and discarded, but to-day, after a trial of over four years, the herd has been increased until to-day 100 cows give their milk to help keep the pot boiling.

The methods of operation employed have varied slightly as time has passed, but the fundamental idea of milking only cows that were giving a good return for the feed consumed has

been followed. Weighing the milk has been carefully attended to until now we have a herd that, though not phenomenal, still graduates from the 6,000 pound per cow class and enters the 7,000 pound class for aged females. As to the amount demanded from heifers, we are coming to the conclusion that a heifer of proper conformation may do so much better the second year than in the first that it if pays for its feed,



A Silo That is Giving Satisfaction

Mr. A. J. Emmett, Welland Co., Ont., constructed this concrete block silo 40 feet deep by 11 feet six inches in diameter for \$350. He writes: "I am feeding out of it now and the silage is grand."

care, insurance, and rent, we give it another trial, and then in the second year if it does not come mighty near the 5,000 pound mark we can be persuaded to part with it for a consideration.

### HOME HERD STUFF PREFERRED

As we utilize the milking machines, and as heifers accommodate themselves more readily to that form of milking than do older cows, we strive to raise our own altogether. Following up this method we will be able each year to sell by public auction at least 25 or 30 cows that are getting on to eight years old. This will prevent us having to dispose of cows at a loss as usual.

As the herd is tested twice yearly for tuberculosis we do not fear any laws that may be enforced in this regard. Our herd now is clean, so with our satisfactory ventilation we can, I hope, keep it that way. Such being the case, we can at any time tender on a milk contract demanding milk from healthy cows. This fact alone means increased revenue from this branch of the farm.

### ACCURATE MILK RECORDS

With the milking machines, special sheets were procured that have enabled the management to see how the different cows are coming along in regard to their strippings. Naturally some cows hold back more milk than others on the machines, so we put the weights of the milk procured from the machine in one column and that of the strippings are put in their special space, so with a minimum of detail the records are kept correct. In this way fluctuation caused by a cow's sickness or any other cause is instantly noted. The effects of the milking machines warrant their use in saving labor and permitting the cheap production of clean milk.

The herd, calves, hogs, and the cutting feed, grinding meal, washing cans, machines, etc., are looked after by five men. When there are some 30 men to wash and deliver to the station for one man, the others have enough to do to look after the hundred mark, etc., when we are milking around the hundred mark. The cattle are clipped every month through the winter, around the udders, hind quarters, and up over the back, neck, and head, with the \$8.50 Stewart horse clipper. It is a short job to run over the cows with the vacuum cleaner to groom them every day or two. This care more than pays for itself in the comfort of the animals. The cowbarns in the stable are kept swept down and the ceilings are gone over twice a year with whitewash applied with a sprayer.

### THE VENTILATION

The barn is kept airy and fresh by shafts or air vents running up to the roof here and there, of a size that does the work, usually about two feet square. The doors of the barn, of which there are four pairs nine feet wide in the length of the building, 135 feet, are half open, the upper halves having frames in them on which is stretched thin cheesecloth as an added ventilation. Two winters ago, with a drop to 34 degrees below zero, we had practically no trouble with the cold. We have as many windows as the construction of the building will permit.

The milking is done each day regularly, commencing at 5.30 a.m., and then again at 3.45 p.m. The cows are fed just before milking time, and the hay and straw, or roughage, is all cut and fed mixed with the ensilage. The meal is fed on top of the ensilage and hay.

### FEEDING PRACTICE

Rations are a thing that can not be definitely stated in such a way as to be profitable to the

(Continued on page 9)