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AGRICULTURE

SOME PRECAUTIONS TO FOLLOW IN PURCHASING DAIRY CATTLE

(By W. B. Richards, Prof. Animal
Husbandry, N. D. A. C.)

The demand for all classes of cattle by the farmers has been unprecedented during the past winter. The demand for dairy cows of all descriptions has been especially strong, and promises to continue so for some time. This demand has been difficult to fill without paying a big price for them. Under these conditions the buyer is more liable to be deceived than when the market is normal. The temptation to practice fraud is much greater under these conditions.

If one desires to buy pure-bred dairy cattle or good grade cows, and is not familiar with the characteristics or points of the breed or what constitutes a good milking type, it would be advisable and profitable to have the services of some one who does know, to help select the stock. There are all degrees of merit among the individuals of all the dairy breeds, and there also is a wide variance in the quality and the merit of grades. If this is impossible, try and buy from breeders of good repute. Make careful inquiries as to

the reputation of the breeders from whom you buy pure-bred cattle. Buy off a breeder rather than a dealer. There are a large number of dealers in the business of vending pure-breds who cannot be relied upon as generally as the breeders.

Tuberculosis is quite prevalent in all dairy cattle sections and great care should be exercised not to buy cattle infected with the disease. A good method to follow to make sure that the cattle are clear is to have them removed at once after purchase to some central point where you can test them yourself or have a competent veterinarian of your own selection do it for you. Purchase them on the condition of acceptance if they pass the tuberculin test. Removing them from the premises of the seller at once will help obviate the seller from injecting tuberculin into them which interferes with the reliability of the regular test. Do not accept a certificate covering the tuberculin test for any animal even though it is made within 30 days, unless it is accompanied with a guarantee, or unless you know the veterinarian who issued the certificate to be absolutely reliable.

Contagious abortion is also very prevalent in most of the dairy districts of this country, consequently the cows that are infected or have been exposed to the disease should be avoided. There is no practical test for this trouble, so one is largely at the mercy of the seller as to whether he gets cattle clean or not. One way to avoid it is to find out how many heifers the seller has in his herd; demand to see them. If there are but few on hand in proportion to the number of cows in the herd, it is wise to draw the conclusion that he has not been able to raise any because of contagious abortion. Few good breeders of dairy cattle sell their heifers before they test them out for production.

My advice to farmers, under present conditions, is not to buy any more cows than necessary to make a legitimate start, but make the best use of the cows they have on hand. Keep every cow that is capable of raising a calf. Rather, inferior cows bred to a good pure dairy sire will produce some heifers that will make as good grade cows as can be bought at the present time in the dairy districts unless an exorbitant price is paid for them.

FARM HELP SUPPLY

(Canadian Farm.)

The spring season has shown that the farm help problem is still one of the biggest that the farmer has to contend with. The immigration department and other sources of supply report a large number of laborers coming into the country. Still the scarcity remains, and especially of men competent to do farm work. It is just a question whether all this help that is being directed in channels where the best kind of help can be secured. A few years ago C. C. James, the deputy minister of agriculture for Ontario made a trip to Europe at his own expense. During

that trip he visited Holland and some of the countries in that section of Europe and made a study of a possible source of farm help. He found that on his return he made some suggestions as to the feasibility of securing farm help from other countries than the British Isles. But his suggestions were never acted upon, although he was convinced that the countries visited could supply a large amount of the kind of help wanted on Canadian farms. It is not too late yet to act upon his suggestion, and it might prove to be the real solution of the farm help problem as we have it in this country. As the writer gathered from Mr. James, in discussing the

matter with him, recently, the men he had in view were those working on farms. While farming as conducted in these European countries may be different from farming as we have it in this country, yet the men would have some idea of what it means to work on the land, and should be able to adapt themselves easily to farm conditions here. The difficulty with the farm help supply is now getting is that it does not understand life on the farm. The whole bent of previous training has been in another direction, and the men are brought under conditions entirely new and which a great many of them resent, and thus become dissatisfied.

PRACTICAL MILK RECORDS

(Canadian Farm.)

Almost every dairy farmer who commences to weigh and sample his cows' milk individually says at the end of a few months, "I find some in my herd were kept at a loss." Some men find only one or two cows that state that they have found too many in the herd play a losing game. "What does this mean?" Just this, that despite all the experience gained from years of practical dairying, the farmer finds that in order to become

thoroughly "practical," he must requisition the aid of dairy records. Neither the cow's appearance, nor the owner's knowledge of some short period yield of milk (extraordinary as that yield may have been for a day, or one week, or a month) will testify with certainty to the individual cow's ability to pay her way for the whole year. Cow testing provides a simple and enduring practical way of discovering not only if each cow pays, but which cows pay the most profit on the twelve months' transaction of feed consumed,

and milk and fat produced. These large-profit cows are revealed only by practical cow testing. Cows are apt to cheat the unsuspecting dairyman unless he keeps tabs on the performance of each one. Many dairymen have found this out to their utter astonishment and regret. Don't let this happen to you. Get a practical way of discovering not only if each cow pays, but which cows pay the most profit on the twelve months' transaction of feed consumed,

RETIRING ON THE FARM

(Canadian Farm.)

Next to the young people leaving the farm, the most regrettable thing is to have the old people leave it. As President Creelman, of the Ontario Agricultural College is in the habit of remarking, there is no man more unhappy than the "retired farmer," idling away his latter days in the foreign element of town life, despised by his fellow townsmen, and as incapable of adapting himself to the surroundings as a fish out of water. A better way of arranging matters when the young man living with his farm is described by the Breeder's Gazette, Chicago.

A farmer had worked hard and acquired a good farm. Under it he had laid titles, and upon it he had sown wide swaths of clovers and planted fine breadths of corn. His barns were modern; his feedlots had the habit of fat cattle. A son came home from an agricultural college, eager to take hold. While the father was not old nor worn out, yet he had deserved rest from strenuous toil. The unfortunate American thing to do in such cases is to move to town, giving the farm over to the care of the boy. This farmer loved his land too well and had too clear a perception of what town living with its narrowness and stagnation meant for him.

On this farm, among some trees on a little hill, he built a little bungalow for two. There he and his wife "retired," on the farm, and yet they were partners in the place, and interested witnesses of its activities. The young son took hold. He married. Children came and grandmother was just across the way. The old man and his son were two interested men; often the older man could give good counsel; sometimes in emergencies his services were in demand. He did not rust out in town, but remained young in the country where he belonged. It was far cheaper than living in town.

SALARIES OF SCHOOL TEACHERS

(Canadian Farm.)

The "Journal of Agriculture" stands for the betterment of rural conditions in its widest sense. For this reason we advocate better farming, to which our columns are chiefly devoted. For a similar reason we are urging the women to organize into institutes, for they are capable of bringing about many improvements which the men are too apt to overlook. For the same reason we are trying to bring about a renewal of interest in the rural schools, for we believe very strongly that so long will rural life be unsatisfactory and the young men and women will make their way to the cities. There is an intimate and close connection between the state of the schools and country, and the sooner we realize the connection the better. If the school-boards engage poorly paid teachers they must expect correspondingly poor results.

The boys and girls committed to the charge of such teachers do not get the training they should get, and when they leave school are not prepared to take their rightful places as citizens of the community. The school should be the place of greatest interest in a district for the boys and girls, the most valuable thing in the district, get their preparation for their life work. Why then should we neglect it? Should we not

try and give the children the best possible chance of making the most of themselves, for most of us will grant that we live mainly for the sake of the children? It is in sympathy with that our children have as good opportunities as we had; we want them to be better equipped than we were. Our earnest plea then is: get the best equipped teacher you can find and pay him or her a good salary. Get a teacher who is sympathetic with country life, and who is willing to spend his life in the country. If he turns out well, make it worth his while to remain by giving him a good salary. In doing so you will be helping up treasures for your children and for the community.

THE HOUSE FLY

(Canadian Farm.)

Remember the House Fly. It is responsible for many troubles and every precaution should be taken to prevent its multiplication. It breeds fast, and now is the time to stamp it out. If breeds in manure and garbage, and farm buildings are suitable places for its increase. Perhaps a little computation will make it clear how a few flies in May will produce millions by August and September. Each female lays about 400 eggs, and these will produce maggots which will again lay the eggs, and as it takes about twenty-five days

for a generation, there are probably six generations between May 1st and October 1st. We have worked the sum out. Supposing all the females of each generation live to lay eggs, the progeny of one female laying eggs on May 1st would be 64,000,000,000,000 flies on October 1st. Of course on account of the high death rate the actual number would not be so large, but when we consider that there are many flies, instead of one, ready to lay eggs about the first of May, we can account for the plagues of flies in late summer.

What should be done to prevent the increase of flies? Clean the stables and closets regularly, and put some lime in the manure. Look after the garbage thrown out from the kitchen, and have it similarly treated. Place screens on the doors and windows, and have fly-traps in the kitchen. Since it is the women who are most deeply interested in this matter, we would urge them to take up the question of fly control. We feel sure that if they took charge the fly nuisance and danger would be to a large extent done away with.

(Canadian Farm.)

ARRANGING THE BRIDAL VEIL

Wedding veils are very difficult to arrange becomingly, simple as it seems to drape the soft tulle about the face, says the Washington Herald. In the first place, they must be so arranged that they can cover the face before the ceremony and fall back gracefully after the service, and as this is rather difficult, it is wise idea to arrange the veil falling down the back, and then have a separate straight piece of tulle for over the face, fastened with a couple of pins that can be quickly taken off by the maid of honor when the time comes. The most popular fashion of arranging the wedding veil this year is in the form of a quaint little mob cap with

a tiny wreath of orange blossoms, the veil being fairly short toward the front, but reaching to the end of the train in the middle of the back. If the mob cap effect is not becoming, the tulle may be gathered in a little fan-like effect on top of the head, which may be folded and held down closely with a jeweled pin and a spray of flowers.

A WOMAN'S HAT.

A woman cannot stick a hat on her head as you stick a stamp on a letter. There is an ingenious machine that sticks stamps on letters at the rate of several thousands an hour. But nobody has invented a machine for sticking hats on the heads of women. A man can buy a hat in five minutes, but no woman would dream of buying a hat in less than an hour. Often a woman will acquire a splitting headache in the attempt to find one hat to suit her out of a hundred, and not seldom she carries away the headache without a hat on it. The hat hunt is only a small part of the daily agony of shopaholics, and yet a man would rather cut his throat than engage in a hat hunt as a dispassionate spectator. Men prefer to hunt the fox or the stag, the tiger or the lion, the grizzly or the grouse. A tiger hunt is not nearly so perilous as a hat hunt.

Teacher—What is meant by the autonomy? Pupil—The ones who own autos.

North, South, East, West

men and women are subject to the numerous ailments caused by defective or irregular action of the organs of digestion and elimination. Headaches, lazy feelings, depression of spirits are first consequences, and then worse sickness follows if the trouble is not removed. But thousands have discovered that

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But Bread.

Two cups flour, one half teaspoon salt, two teaspoons baking powder, one cup finely chopped peanuts, 1 cup milk, one half cup sugar, two eggs, one teaspoon butter. Sift the flour, baking powder and salt into bowl, add the peanuts, which have been put through meat chopper, the sugar. Beat the eggs and milk together, add to the flour and mix well. Put in brick pan; bake in moderate oven 30 to 35 minutes. This is best when a day old, cut in thin slices. It makes very good sandwiches.

The Same Result.

Mike came to the doctor about nine o'clock with the information that their month-old baby would not sleep a wink. The doctor gave Mike sleeping powders for the baby. The next day he met Mike on the street. "Well, how did the powders work?" inquired the doctor. "Them powders, Doc," answered Mike, "sure did the trick. The baby slept all night." "No, that they didn't Doc. We gave the darlint a dose, just as you told me, but it wouldn't sleep at all; so we just took a dose of 'em powders ourselves, we did, and went right off to sleep, and never heard the darlint cry one bit any more."

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