

Little Trouble to Keep Milk Records.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":
In 1903 I saw that blank forms for keeping milk records would be sent free to any one who would fill in a monthly report and return it to Prof. Grisdale, Experimental Farm, Ottawa, so I started, and have kept on ever since. I keep it about six or eight months every year—just in cheese-factory months. I test about twice in the summer—just enough to weed out the poor cows. We are paid by the hundred pounds in our factory, so the test doesn't amount to much so far as the factory is concerned. I don't find it much trouble weighing the milk since I have got used to it. I don't miss the time. I have a shelf for the milk about the center of the stable, and at the end of this shelf, only 18 inches higher, I have a little desk, with my blank form on it, with an elastic around it to hold it. I have my spring scales hung from the ceiling with a little chain. I have the tinsmith make my pails to the even pounds' weight with solder, and I know at a glance how much milk there is. I also have the lead pencil hung on a string, so it is always ready. I think about one minute to each cow every day is about all the time it takes. The hardest thing I find about it is making out the monthly report. I think about one hour each month will make it out. Some think it would do to weigh it three days in a month and take the average, but I don't take the same interest in it that way; I would rather weigh every milking. I think it pays in two or three ways. You take more interest in the good cow and feed her better, and the other cow you make beef of. I have not a very big herd. I will send a copy of eight months of 1903. The cows are numbered, instead of named:

No.	Lbs. Milk.	Test in June.	Value Milk.
1.....	5,755	3.4	\$61.85
2.....	3,106	3.2	33.38
3.....	3,052	3.3	32.80
4.....	3,268	3.7	35.13
5.....	4,695	3.3	50.47
6.....	4,791	3.0	51.50
7.....	6,066	3.6	65.20
8.....	5,355	3.4	57.56
9.....	3,015	3.4	32.40
10.....	3,080	3.5	33.11
Total.....	42,183	Av. test 3.4	\$453.40
Average selling price, 10½ cents for pound cheese.			

In 1903 one milk can would hold all my milk in a day, and in 1905, with only two more cows, it took two cans to hold the milk, and they were good and full, too; but I have changed about half the cows in that time. They are grade Holsteins and grade Ayrshires. I have no pure-breds yet, but hope soon to have. My best cow is a grade Holstein, No. 7.

The reason I have no later statement than 1903 is that I was changing the cows so much that I did not make them up as I ought. But as long as I milk cows I shall always weigh and test. I know in the fall what each cow is worth to me; and "The Farmer's Advocate" is worth a pretty good cow to me every year. I have the Breeder's Memorandum that came out in May 15, 1903, "Farmer's Advocate" framed and hung up in the stable. It is the handiest picture I ever had framed.
D. A. KENNEDY.
Russell Co., Ont.

Straining Milk Before Separating.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":
A few weeks ago I noticed in an article in your columns some one advocating that it was not necessary to strain the milk before putting it through the separator, and the plea was that the cloth or strainer used was often only a source of further contamination to the milk, instead of a benefit to it.

We have to admit that frequently the strainer cloth is not cared for as it should be, but that is due entirely to carelessness. I have in mind two women I saw washing strainer cloths. One rinsed hers in the dirty dish-water, and hung it on a nail at the back of the stove. The other woman washed hers, first in clean, tepid water, then thoroughly scalded it and pinned it on the clothesline, where it hung from one milking time to the next. This latter method was as it should be.

To advocate or practice not straining the milk is contrary to the best principles. The sooner the dirt is strained from milk, the better the flavor and keeping qualities of it. While a separator removes some dirt, still, at the same time, the longer the dirt is in the milk, the more soluble it becomes, and no separator can then remove it. Moreover, not straining the milk previous to separating it, is apt to close or partially clog the skim-milk outlets, and so interfere with thorough skimming.
LAURA ROSE.

Test the Cows.

If you test your cows one day each week during the milking period, and on the same day of the week, or will test them, say for a week, when they have been in milk for a month, and take this for an average of nine weeks, four weeks before the week test and four after, you will find out enough about your cows to induce you to make more full and complete tests hereafter.

If, however, you will not go to the trouble of getting a Babcock test, you certainly can get yourself a pair of scales, a piece of paper, a pencil and a Mason fruit jar, with some tablets—to be had at any drug store—to drop into the jar to keep your milk from souring. Put into this jar a gill of milk from each milking, after it is thoroughly stirred. Do this for a week, and send it to your creamery, whether you sell your milk locally or at a distance, and have them find out for you the per cent. of butter-fat. If you have the pounds and per cent., your small boy will tell you how much butter-fat there is in your milk. You are not doing a safe business if you undertake to sell milk without knowing what it is worth on the market.—[Wallace Farmer.

B. d'E. Boden, Saskatchewan: I firmly believe that the keeping of records is the only reliable means of improving herds by selection, and it is with this object in view that we have started to keep a record.



Bonshaw's Royal Delight —17337—, Imp.

Three-year-old Ayrshire bull. First-prize two-year-old, 1904; second in aged class, 1905, Central Canada Exhibition, Ottawa. Exhibited by J. H. Black, Genoa, Quebec. Now owned by J. A. Wood, Genoa.

Careful Milking.

Every milker thinks he knows how to milk, but if the cows could express their opinions they would probably intimate that a few lessons in the gentle art were not unnecessary. It is not fair treatment to sit down to a cow and tug and haul on her until she steps around in the stall and acts as if she were badly hurt. Sometimes a cow will stop eating and wait until the ordeal is over before she will resume her meal. The cow that does that is not comfortable, and an uncomfortable cow will not do her best for her owner. Some men have a way of milking that so pleases the cow that she clearly shows she enjoys it. These are the men whose method should be copied. Observing them, we see that they never shout at, strike, nor otherwise ill-treat their cows. They sit down quietly, take hold of the cow's teats gently, no matter how much of a hurry they may be in, and begin to draw the milk without pressing too hard, for they know they are touching her at a tender point; then they keep steadily at it until the last drop is out. It pays to milk carefully.—[Massachusetts Plowman.

A Trio.

G. R. Munroe, Richmond Co., P. Q.: "Many thanks for the premium. Will try and send you some more subscribers. Wish you every success."

C. N. Mighton, Wellington Co.: "The Knife is all you represent it to be."

Geo. Dolphin, Bruce Co.: "The Knife is a dandy."

GARDEN ORCHARD.

Draining a Fruit Farm.

My experience has been somewhat extensive, as I have practically all my own fruit land—two hundred acres—thoroughly underdrained, most of it 30 feet apart, 2 feet 9 inches deep. I would say that on all of the flat land you cannot expect to grow a first-class article of fruit, nor can you expect to make fruit-growing profitable without a thorough system of underdraining. It frequently will not pay to drain such land for ordinary field crops, as the expense is considerable, but it certainly will never pay to grow fruit without it. On rolling land, of course, there is not so much necessity. I do not drain the hills or high, dry ground, especially if set with grapes or pears, as these fruits seem to be able to stand a much greater amount of stagnant moisture in the sub-soil than peaches, plums or cherries. These last three, and particularly the last two, and most particularly of all cherries, are bound to be failures on land having stagnant water in the sub-soil for any considerable length of time at all, and this is the condition of undrained land with a clay bottom during a portion of every year. A man only wastes his money planting cherries or peaches on land not most thoroughly drained, either naturally or artificially. I have lost considerable quantities of peach trees in the nursery on land that was low and flat, even though drained 30 feet apart; such draining on such soil was not sufficient, but, of course, such soil is not the sort of land to put a peach orchard on. These nursery rows, running across the field, were run over this flat ground, thinking that, being thoroughly underdrained 30 feet apart, they might succeed, but such was not the case.

Now, with regard to the system of laying out, of course that depends upon the slope in the field. One must place the main drain along the lower level. For a ten-acre field, where there is a good bottom, a 3-inch main, with 2-inch laterals, is quite large enough; many people use larger sizes, and, of course, larger sizes are necessary if the drain is badly laid, or the bottom is springy or is of quicksand, because in that case one has to allow for a certain amount of sagging and filling up of the tile, but on a clay bottom, and the tile well laid, there should never be any filling up. I have had some fields laid now for over twenty years, and have never had to take a tile up yet, except where there happened to be a quicksand spot. Sometimes these are difficult to manage. Where very bad, I lay boards in the bottom and lay the tiles on these boards, driving the boards down into the sand solidly. Most of my drains have been laid 2 ft. 9 in. deep, which I consider below the frost line, and not much more. For orchards, however, I believe still deeper draining is advisable. I lay my drains midway between the rows of trees in each alternate space. I have never had much trouble with roots of trees getting into tiles, except where there is a spring of water running most of the summer; in such a place there is bound to be a great deal of trouble which is not easy to overcome. If you cement or close the joint of tile so the roots cannot get in, you also prevent the water from getting in to a large extent, though I believe a considerable portion of the excess of moisture in the soil would be absorbed by the tile, it would go through the pores of the tile. I have never tried this method yet, but intend to in springy spots.

I tried ditching machines many years ago, of the best patterns then available, and found them too expensive a luxury. Not only is the first cost of the machine heavy, but the constant repairs are very expensive. I do all my draining now with a subsoil plow, followed by men with shovels throwing out the loose earth. A subsoil plow, drawn by two strong horses, one on each side of the drain, will loosen the soil to any depth required, by lengthening the chain connecting the doubletree with the plow. This reduces