

# On & Around the Farm.

## Live Stock Notes.

**B**REED your heifers so that they drop their first calves at two years of age.

They make better cows to come in milk at two years of age than later. They should be handled from the time they are calves, so that they may not be afraid of the person caring for them. Where this is done, there is very little trouble when they drop their calves, but if they have not been so handled and are afraid of the person caring for them, and of their surroundings, they suffer much from fear, and much patience will be required to overcome their fear and teach them to be quiet while being milked. Care should be exercised during their first milking period to establish or fix the habit of milking as long as desirable. If they are allowed to go dry too early in their first year of milking, they are more likely to do the same the succeeding year, and the habit is soon fixed. They should be milked to within two months or less of the time of dropping their calves. This is the kind of work that has developed and made it practicable to secure the large yields of butter from cows that are now so frequently obtained.

It has been found that one out of every seven cattle shipped from Australia to England, died while in transit; that of those shipped from South America, one out of every 25 died, while of those that were shipped from Canada, but one in every 200 died in transit.

English farmers find stock-raising more profitable than the growing of wheat, and let the cheap labor of Russia, India and South America produce their wheat. In all the more highly civilized countries, improved stock has increased as grain-growing becomes less profitable. Canadian farmers have a bright future in the production of high-class cattle.

Mating young bulls is bad for the bulls and bad for the progeny. Jerseys breed very early. Perhaps its small size and lack of constitutional vigor are the results of this practice. Nowadays, when vigor of constitution is as much thought of as butter and milk production, it becomes imperative to breed from bulls which have attained full maturity.

Look now, more than ever, to pure-bred sires. The destiny of Canadian stock-breeding depends upon the class of stock we breed for the market, home and foreign. To improve, will bring prosperity, while to decline, is to lose the highest hopes of Canadian agriculture. Raise only such grain as can be profitably fed to stock, and raise only such stock as can be matured on the farm, and be sure it is of a grade which will bring a profit on the raising.

In beef making the cheapest is always made on good pastures. Gain in live weight can be made at one-third less than is required to make it on grain and dry feed, and in many cases the difference is greater. Cattle do not always fatten most rapidly upon grass, but always move economically, and yet many of our heaviest gains are made upon good pastures.

It is a common practice to allow the unweaned colt to run beside the mare when the latter is being driven upon the road. This is a bad plan for several reasons. The ordinary drive is too long for the soft muscles of a young colt, and an overtaxing of these may produce a lifelong injury. This point cannot be made too strong. Then the colt forms the bad habit of roaming about the road, from side to side, and out into the gutter, and over to the roadside fences. It will try to do the same thing when placed between the shafts, a little later, for training. The colt should know the highway only as a stretch in which he is to keep "the middle of the road," turning neither to the right nor the left. The running of a colt at large upon the highway is a nuisance both to other travellers and also to those driving the foal's mother. If the colt must go with the dam, teach it to lead by the halter, and then hitch to the off side of the dam and let it travel by its mother's side, leaving restraint, and keeping out of the way of teams. Even then a colt should not be taken on long drives, for the reason first stated.

The Normande cattle are the great dairy breed of France, and are becoming a valuable acquisition to our milking herds. We are glad to see an increasing importation of them. They are a large dairy and beef breed, being large milkers of exceptionally rich milk.