

The Canadian Dairyman AND Farming World

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THE CANADIAN DAIRYMAN AND FARMING WORLD
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KEEP THE COWS COMFORTABLE

It is acknowledged by all successful dairymen that in order to get the best of which milch cows are capable they must not be allowed to slacken in their milk flow. Once off, it is next to impossible to bring the flow back to normal. Just now cows require very careful handling to induce them to do their best. Neglect or exposure will be shown up with unerring certainty in the reduced amount of milk given.

It is imperative that cows be stabled nightly from now on. On fine days, they may have the run of the pasture field, provided there is anything there for them. Other things would be far better to keep them in a clean barnyard. Care must be exercised in turning them to pasture on frosty mornings. A large feed of frozen grass or other pasture will do much to

diminish the milk flow. When it is uncomfortable for one to be outside in ordinary clothing, rest assured the cows are also feeling the cold. Their comfort must be considered if the best results are to be obtained.

With shortening days, the cool evenings come on early. It is then that cattle suffer much discomfort awaiting the time when they will be stabled. On all days, when a chilling blast is blowing, a considerate dairyman, realizing the value of his cows, will stable them. A little extra labor is involved, but it is handsomely paid for at the time and throughout the succeeding months. It is poor policy indeed to neglect cows from which we expect profits later, and to which throughout the winter we will devote our best efforts.

THE RECORD OF A SINGLE COW

The testimony of Mr. G. A. Gilroy, Glen Baell, Ont., appearing on another page of this issue under the caption, "What one cow has done," is a positive endorsement of that oft-heard axiom, "The best are none too good and are always cheapest." The record of this cow is remarkable, though it is by no means beyond the possibility of repetition by any who set to work in the right way to duplicate it. In fact, if we could but get the evidence of our most successful breeders, many more such instances of a long chain of successes, dating back to a single cow, might be available to inspire dairymen to improve their herds and keep nothing but the best.

It is generally acknowledged, by those who have had to do with dairy cattle, that at the best, the purchasing of a good milking herd is a poor business. If one would have them, he must raise them. In exceptional cases only, where the owner, through not having availed himself of the exact knowledge of what his cows have done by keeping individual records, can one purchase really high class cows at a reasonable price. Owing to the increasing popularity of keeping daily records, it is becoming more and more difficult to drop upon "plums." Most breeders, knowing the value of their best stock, are not particular about selling them, except at most exorbitant prices. If one would have a good herd, then he must count upon raising them.

When installing a strain of a particular breed, or changing from one breed of cattle to another, it is always well to make haste slowly. It is risky to purchase even a small herd of females at the outset. Judging from experience, as well as from the testimony of Mr. Gilroy, it would be much to one's advantage to put all available money into one or two animals, the best that could be had. From such foundation stock, one would soon build a herd that would be a credit and certainly a profit to himself.

Breeding operations are always attended with more or less risk. On this account, many are slow to invest too much in a single animal for fear of losing her. To a certain extent, this fear is well grounded and must not be overlooked. However, one should not permit this to carry too much weight if he would be ultimately the possessor

of a really first class herd of stock.

While we would not expect every one to hit upon such a pearl as Carmen Sylvia, it is at least possible to approach her record. Those who have been content to milk the 3,000 lbs. a year cow have in the record of this cow a bright example of the possibilities of dairying. It is to be hoped that the testimony of her record will not fall upon deaf ears, but that those who are wasting time and feed, all of which means money, upon inferior stock, will go after something better. The possibilities of dairying, from the standpoint of the average cow, as held up to some of our greatest record breakers, are boundless.

PLOWING CORN AND ROOT LAND

Having cultivated and carefully cared for the hoed crops through the summer, the land is clean and in good tilth. It is worse than wasteful of time to plow such ground and turn the benefits of the work of a season, down where it will not give results. The cultivation given has caused weed seeds near the surface to be germinated and the resulting plants destroyed. From the extensive tillage from ruins, from the action of the air and from the various agencies that give the soil that mechanical condition so much desired, comes the setting-free of plant food. Having this available plant food and the desirable tilth right at the surface, why turn it underneath?

The wisdom of surface cultivation in such cases is becoming more generally recognized. Still, on many farms, it is not accepted and the corn and root ground is plowed to depths varying from five to eight inches. This plowing is practised for various reasons. Some claim they cannot handle the corn stubbles unless plowed down. Others, having been accustomed to plowing all land, do it as a matter of course, while still others apparently do it to fill in time.

Much can be done to get rid of the nuisance of corn stubble by dragging a heavy timber over the rows on a frosty morning shortly after rain. Even as the corn binder leaves them, the roots will be either left where the disc harrow is used. In fact, aside from a little fine litter, no extra trouble is experienced in seeding where such land has not been plowed. The roots are held fast, whereas with plowing they are turned upmost and appear as clods, interfering greatly with the implements and with the harvesting machinery. Make sure you have a good reason for your practice if you plow your corn or root ground this year.

ECONOMIZING LABOR IN TILLAGE

In many instances, we have yet to learn the economy of larger teams and faster working implements. Go where we will, we still find the two-horse team drawing the single furrow plow, doing just half or less than half the work that could be accomplished by the same man with a four-horse team and a two-furrowed plow. The argument is raised, that the four-horse team is too expensive. Surely it is no more expensive to put four horses abreast in the same field than it is to

have two two-horse teams working singly in the same enclosure, besides in the former case there would be the resultant saving of a man's time. This latter is a large consideration in the economy of farm management.

Not only in plowing but in cultivating as well can these larger teams be worked to advantage. In cultivating and in using any of the modern land working machinery, one might just as well have his man driving the four horses that are on most farms, as to have two men doing the same work or to have the spare team or the extra horse idle in the stable or pasture field. The profits coming from the use of these larger outfits are great, and where these are used, the hired men, at best unmitigated evils, can largely be dispensed with.

True, the average hired man can scarcely be trusted with a first class four-horse team. It requires a horseman to handle a mixed team of four such as might be found on an average farm. In hiring help, this point should be taken into consideration. One could afford to pay much more for a man capable of handling large outfits than for a man who could not be trusted with that which represents a large investment. We are coming to realize that a two-horse team is too slow. Many are adopting the three-horse outfit. We must go one better and put in the four-horse implement which costs but little more to install, but which gives greatly increased returns. This is a four-horse age.

THE SCORE CARD IN JUDGING

The score card has long since been recognized as wholly unfit for practical use in the live stock show ring. It has been relegated to the place from whence it originated—the classroom where it is of great value. It is still largely used, however, in connection with the judging of butter and cheese, also, for awarding prizes in poultry classes and in seed grain.

The score card is of little value from an educational standpoint except in the hands of an expert. When in the hands of a novice it verges on the ridiculous. At a fall fair recently the butter had been judged by a local man who posed as an expert. In placing the awards he made use of the score card.

His work in all probability would have "passed muster" had it not been for an oversight on the part of the director in charge. The "expert" had made but four awards, and in that particular class the list called for five placings. The judge had departed ere the slip was detected. Standing in order for the fifth prize were no less than seven lots all scored 96. The directors were in a quandary. Our representative, being on the grounds, was called in to select the winner from among these seven. A score of 85 would have been liberal for the best lot. For the poorer entries in our judgment, a score of 65 or 70 would not have been unreasonable. Four of the lots were evidently churned at too high a temperature. They lacked suds in color and in grain. The choicest lot was of excellent grain and color, but was salted to the extreme. Yet here these lots of butter had all been