

possible opportunity. Many farmers rely on guesswork to pick out their best cows from which to save heifer calves for the future herd, but many times they are not correct, and cows which have good conformation are not always the best producers in the herd. Dairy records will do away with any guesswork and the farmer can select with reliability his best cows for breeding purposes. Thus will herd improvement be brought about, which is the aim in all cow-testing work.

Dairy records will give the dairyman knowledge which will lead to better feeding methods. Every cow has a distinct individuality. Some cows will respond to better feeding much more readily than will others. With the records of each cow at hand, the herdsman can pick out the likely cows. He is able to feed with more discrimination, apportioning the grain ration according to the production of milk and fat. The cows that will respond to liberal feeding will pay handsome profits for the extra feed given. Cow testing will show these facts to the observant dairyman.

Cow testing will also show that it pays to take good care of the milch cows. Plenty of good clean water, abundance of light and fresh air and comfortable, sanitary quarters are all conducive to the highest production. One farmer in Alberta increased his production thirty per cent in one month by protecting the cows from extremely cold weather by watering them in the barn. Where records of each cow are regularly kept, these things will be brought to notice.

#### SOME RESULTS.

Wherever cow testing has been followed for a few years, there will be found a decided increase in the average production of each cow. Farmers realize the value of better and a more liberal food supply, and build silos; they realize the value of better care and management and build sanitary, well lighted and well ventilated barns; and they have the value of the pure-bred dairy sire so forcibly pointed out to them, that the increase in the use of pure-bred bulls is very noticeable in districts where cow testing is followed regularly.

Many farmers have increased the production of their herds from thirty to seventy-five per cent and some have even doubled the herd average in a few years. Many letters are received in this office from farmers saying they cannot afford to be without dairy records. One farmer on the prairies said he was able to build a seven thousand dollar dairy barn through cow testing and the results obtained from the work.

Better methods of feeding and breeding, more interest in the work of the farm to all concerned, and increased production with resulting increases in value of the stock, are all due in a large measure to cow testing.

The following tables will show what has been done by the Dairy Branch in cow testing during the year of 1919. These figures, however, only partially represent the farmers who are testing their cows, for the branch supplies free, many record forms to farmers who do their own testing and thus no record of these herds are received at the office. But it is encouraging to know that farmers generally are becoming interested in this work, and are realizing that to obtain the best results from their herds, whether they be pure-bred, grade or scrub, they must have accurate information as to the production of each cow, which can only be obtained by regular and consistent use of the scales and Babeock test.

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