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EXPERIENCE WITH FARM POWERS ON A PRIZE-WINNING FARM*

R. E. Gunn, Ontario Co., Ont.

Electric Power has supplanted all others in performing many operations on Mr. Gunn's Farm. He also tells of his experience with Gasoline, Steam and Wind Power. Valuable practical Suggestions from a practical man.

BOTH experience and observation have established the conclusion to my satisfaction that dairy farming, to be conducted successfully, must have all its branches harmonized. Farm power and its judicious use enters largely into the successful organizing of the work on the average farm. Eliminate manual drudgery as far as possible, and not only is time and money saved but the resultant pleasant frame of mind so established is of inestimable value when dealing with such a nervous animal as the good yielding dairy cow. In this way we establish the link between big yields and easy work; if these are possible at one and the same time surely the bulk of the drawbacks advanced by those who follow other methods of farming are nullified.

We take "farm power" to mean the mechanical devices for the saving of labor that can be used to advantage on an intensively operated Ontario dairy farm. While treating the subject my assertions we will make are drawn from the experience of years on Dunrobin Stock Farm, or from that which has come directly under the observation of the writer elsewhere.

EXPERIENCE WITH ELECTRIC POWER

We at Dunrobin Stock Farm have used electric energy for all purposes for a year and a half. It is procured from a small local power company, and at not too cheap a rate. We have found it most adaptable to farm purposes. A 15 horse power motor, costing \$260, fills the silos, grinds from 2,000 to 3,000 pounds of grain an hour, cuts the straw and hay, and operates the root pulper. Smaller motors do the pumping and run the milking machine. The light throughout our buildings, which can be switched on or off at will, giving withal a feeling of safety, are a convenience which can only be appreciated when enjoyed. The new policy of the Hydro Electric, which intends to practically electrify Old Ontario, will be one of the greatest boons that we farmers ever had placed at our disposal.

For those who have no chance to profit by electrical improvements, there is the gasoline engine as a safe and practically sure means of obtaining power for farm operations. We believe that on dairy farms of from 100 to 200 acres, keeping from 15 to 50 cows, the installing of a gasoline engine or some such power is no longer a luxury but a necessity.

MAKE DRUDGERY EASY

With the engine in a well-considered central location, which conforms to the demands of the insurance companies, with very little shafting,

*This is one of a series of three articles that Mr. Gunn has written for us, telling of his methods of management on Dunrobin Stock Farm, the first prize farm in District No. 3 of the Interprovincial Farms Competition.

a few pulleys, and a little belting, it is possible to do a large number of the "drudgery" jobs of the farm. The cream separator, the cutting-box, root pulper, fanning mill, grain grinder, grindstone, and the pump (either direct or by jerk-rod) can all be operated by a three to six horse power gasoline engine at an outlay ranging from \$235 to \$400. In selecting an engine we would always choose one of the best makes. There are a number of cheap makes of engines on the market, but they have not proven satisfactory.

One thing to be remembered when installing a gasoline engine is the fact that nearly all insurance companies have a joker in their policies that makes their protection to the user null and void if the installation of power is not according to their specifications. Look up your policies and see your agent; then send him a notice in writing that you are installing an engine and have his company give you permission to use the same. This will eventually save a lot of trouble.

Other powers in general use that we have had experience with are steam and wind. Steam cannot be used so generally as either of those powers mentioned nor as generally as wind power. It, however, has its place. In all cases the fuel and water supply enter into the considerations in operating. We had a steam outfit, but discarded it owing to the lack of economy in operating.

Wind power smacks too much of depending on the elements. Farming is at the mercy of the seasons to too great an extent as it is, without depending on the whim of the winds to do any amount of power work. We had a power mill, but after getting up at night a few times to do the grinding we relegated this power to its proper place, and now use it only for pumping water where we have storage tanks in the pasture to tide over the calm spells.

THE CREAM SEPARATOR DISCUSSED

A discussion of farm power would not be complete without a reference to the cream separator. This machine is one of the greatest savers of profits we have. While the separator is familiar on every dairy farm handling cream, still a hint or two may not be amiss. If the dairy is large enough to have a small boiler for generating steam for washing purposes, then the separator that will give the least trouble is the steam turbine. Whatever the kind used, get one, two, or three sizes larger than needed and run it by power, and you will never be sorry you made the small additional outlay on the start.

A device that we use on Dunrobin Farm is a pump that delivers all the skim milk from the dairy room to the hog pen. A brass-lined steam pump taking about a quarter horse power to operate we installed in the dairy, and pipes (one inch galvanized) were laid under the frost to the hog-pen 500 or 600 feet away. This outfit has been in use for two years or more, and gives perfect satisfaction, saving its installation cost many times over. By a system of valves, steam can be turned through the same pipe and food cooked in the hog-pen when required.

OTHER MONEY SAVERS

We have various other additional mechanical contrivances. We find that elevators and a system of spouts, however rough and ready, save a lot of work in handling chop. Litter carriers, where used in conjunction with an extra wagon, sleigh, or, in season, a manure spreader that can be left under the dumping place so that the manure may be drawn direct to the fields summer or winter, are a very economical installation. We find on referring to our books that it has cost us in the past for the mere forking on to the wagon of the manure in the yard under old methods, over \$180 per annum. This does not cover spreading cost, but is the cost of unnecessary handling, and can be dispensed with under a system such as we suggest. A full system of carriers can be installed in any barn for around \$100, and usually for about half of this amount.

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Fruit Growers Appreciate Up-to-date Machinery

Power sprayers are now used in every part of Canada where fruit growing is conducted at all extensively. These spray machines were a curiosity a few years ago. Fruit men know a good thing when they see it, and are adapting themselves to changing conditions that call for more and better machinery. The photo reproduced herewith is of a sprayer in operation in Essex Co., Ont.

—Photo courtesy W. R. J. Edwards, B.S.A.