

Where Are The Profits?

J. E. Caldwell, Carleton Co., Ont.

In the report of the Dominion Experimental Farms for the year ending March, 1910, is contained the report of the Central Experimental Farm (Ottawa) dairy herd, well known to most Ottawa visitors who take any interest in farming. The figures contained in the report (pages 68 and 69) are the result of a year of careful work—weighing, measuring, and figuring. Let us analyze these figures and determine, if possible, the profits derived from this herd.

The herd is under the direct observation and control of Hon. Sidney Fisher, no tyro in farming, and more directly under the eye and hand of Prof. Grisdale, well known on the platform and through the press to the farmers of every part of Canada, and now the Director of the Dominion Experimental Farms. The herd is made up of 15 Ayrshires, 17 Canadians, 9 Guernseys, 11 Shorthorns, and 13 grades—65 in all. They are at least up to the average in selection and breeding and beyond the average in the manner they are housed and cared for.

It has been objected that this herd is not what it should be. Let that be granted for the sake of argument. A herd, however, bred and selected under the afore-mentioned conditions should be a good average, and it is because they are not phenomenal that the figures relating to them are so interesting.

PROFITS OVER FEED CONSUMED

The total production of milk in the year 1910 was 335,992 lbs., an average per cow of 5,167 lbs. The total value of the product, counting butter at 26c. a lb. and skim milk at 20c. a cwt., was \$1,800.85. The cost of feed figured at lowest possible prices, viz. roots and silage \$2.00 a ton, hay \$7.00 a ton, provender \$25.00 a ton, was \$3,494.63, leaving a net profit of \$1,306.22.

This return looks good. But what is it based on? The assumption that some good angel (the Dominion of Canada?) will provide a herd free of cost, provide stabling and water, as well as adequate help to feed, milk and clean the animals, manufacture and sell the butter and feed the skim milk to the hogs, for skim milk is not worth 20c. a cwt. in the rough, and milk will turn to butter only through the work of human agencies. What must we add then to the cost of feed?

OTHER EXPENSES

This herd could not be replaced for less than \$6,000. They are valued at considerably more. Depreciation through age, loss of teats, or death must be provided for. A stable to house this herd on modern but purely utilitarian lines will cost \$3,000. Interest on this amount, insurance, and repairs must be reckoned on. A suitable water supply will cost \$500 to install, and \$25 for yearly upkeep. Three men will have to stir themselves 365 days in the year to do the necessary work. These men, at current rates of wages, will

cost \$100 a month for the three. Let us tabulate:	
Cost of feed.....	\$3494 63
Interest on cost of herd at 5 per cent.	300 00
Depreciation, \$3 per head.	195 00
Interest on cost of stables.	150 00
Repairs	25 00
Water supply	50 00
Labor	1200 00

Total cost	5414 63
Total returns	4800 85

This gives a net loss of \$613.78. Against this loss place \$650.00 which the manure is easily worth. Cheese shaving indeed!

IF SENT TO THE CHEESE FACTORY

But instead of turning the milk into butter, suppose it had been sent to the cheese factory. Milk will not net \$1.00 a cwt. one year with another at the factory, but at that figure the total income of this herd would have amounted to only \$3,359.92, which, by above figures, would have resulted in a loss of \$134.71 over the single item of feed a loss of \$2,051.71 over the total cost as figured above, or a loss of \$1,004.71 after crediting manure with \$650.00 and deducting one-third from the labor account.

And yet there are farmers who will aver that they have made money out of cheese. Probably they have. But figures such as the foregoing are not very encouraging.

There are also many who say it will not pay to hire help at present prices for dairy products.

On going over the preceding figures I can well believe it. What would we think of a factory that, given a free plant and free labor, could not turn out enough finished product to pay for the raw material? Yet had this herd been turning out cheese such would have been practically the case.

How a farmer can turn a seeming loss into real profit is another story. Evidently figuring will not do it.

NO REFLECTION ON FARM MANAGEMENT

In the foregoing I have no intention or desire to reflect in any way on the management of the Central Farm herd. I have never been in the stable without getting an inspiration to do better.

One point I should mention. This herd is largely composed of pure breeds, more especially of the butter producing type. Heifers are included and also some superannuated cows retained for the chance of a calf. Also the sale of pure bred calves brings in a very considerable sum. The point I wished to emphasize is the narrow margin the cheese producer has to count on, if there be a margin at all. Perhaps it may throw light on the reason why we farmers are not quite so well content with some market conditions as we are told we ought to be.

If we fill the soil with organic matter produced by the use of leguminous crops we have solved the question of soil fertility.—Anson Groh, Waterloo Co., Ont.

About When to Cut Alfalfa For Hay

Geo. F. Marsh, Grey Co., Ont.

When one has only a small patch of alfalfa it is very easy to strike the correct time to cut it. About the time that the alfalfa is beginning to bloom examine the crowns carefully parting the stems. As soon as the buds for the second growth have formed and stooled about an inch or two high, or just high enough so that the mower will not cut them, that is the time the alfalfa may be cut, so there will be the least loss of time in the next growth of the alfalfa. If it is cut before this stage the growth of the plants will stand still until these stools are formed, and if cut later, so the top of the stools are cut off, there is another delay while they are building again. However, with a good rank crop there is very little setback to the crop if it is not cut just at this time.

CAN'T STRIKE RIGHT TIME FOR ALL

I do not think that this point of when to cut the first crop of alfalfa is nearly so important a matter as many authorities make out. So much has been made of this point that many farmers think there is something mysterious about the exact time to cut the crop. The fact of the matter is that when alfalfa becomes the staple forage crop, in order to get through in time, the cutting will be commenced before the first bloom appears and will continue until the bloom is practically all out, for in no other way can a large acreage of the crop be handled.

The men who give us their fine spun theories of the right time to cut alfalfa never had to handle from 25 to 75 acres of the crop or they would not be so particular about the exact time, as with the varying weather conditions and uncertain state of the labor market it cannot all be cut just right.

In this connection I often think of alfalfa fields I have seen that have been cut one land at a time to feed a dairy herd, the cuttings being made from day to day from the time it was 15 inches high until the seed was nearly forming before the mower got all over the field, and for all that could be seen the alfalfa seemed to start after one cutting as readily as after another.

When cut the hay should be made as rapidly as possible and raked before the leaves are dry enough to shatter off. The side delivery rake is one of the best implements for handling alfalfa.

The universal custom is to coil or covek the alfalfa, although of late years good results have been obtained by using the side delivery rake, turning it frequently and loading when dry enough with the loader.

I would have Farm and Dairy readers remember that if they have bad weather and lose most of the leaves and the stalks are almost black, that they have even then a feed that is better than timothy hay and they have a chance of having good weather for their next two crops, or cuttings, for the season.

Mr. Bollert

Editor, Farm and Dairy
 Issue of Farm and Dairy
 gave the record
 Snowflake, and
 green March. I
 cow, no matter
 I bear no grudge
 cow or her
 friends are success
 Snowflake is cer
 dairy cow. She
 nation, constitut
 joy to sit down
 certainly has a w
 ing is, "One was
 here, and with
 number of recor
 doing so I trust
 a few of my own
 what the cost of
 been. Tidy Cobb
 days gave 551 lb
 commercial butter
 140 lbs grain, co
 of 1 part pea m
 resting about 1
 ensilage at \$2.00
 gels at 8 cts. pe
 she would eat up
 per ton—35 cts.;
 week of \$2.80,
 —\$7.80, or a ne
 over and above
 valuing the skim
 Ina Pauline Mc
 cell, in yearly
 12,000 lbs. of
 no grain of an
 condition. Cost
 at 90 cts. per cw
 \$143.94, a net p
 Maple Grove Ire
 at 2 years 1 m
 end of April 3,865
 shone, giving 45
 Tidy Pauline D
 first calf, 284 d
 the milk per day
 of butter in an
 of grass whenever
 Maple Grove Tid
 the 1910 Guelph
 produced 518.6 lb
 fat, on 5 lbs. crus
 35 lbs. ensilage p
 would eat up ele
 fear of contradic
 more cheaply than
 Elsie De Kol N
 and, like both th
 Turner & Son, w
 was not well wh
 the Ottawa Wint
 severe attack of
 who have experie
 (with this mean)
 in the four month
 and is now, on 12
 I do not aim at t
 at the largest pos
 ing fully aware th
 cards are made w
 pending upon the
 in making the ro
 same animal at m
 In this same issu
 Ske, of F1-in C
 Halstein herd, sh
 one for the season
 consumed. A shor
 ford Co., gave a
 herd, averaging o

ENTRIES FOR THE INTERPROVINCIAL PRIZE DAIRY FARMS CONTEST CLOSE JUNE 15th.

Readers of Farm and Dairy are asked to remember that entries for the Prize Dairy Farms Contest should reach Farm and Dairy by June 15. Entry forms may be obtained from the Secretary, H. B. Cowan, Peterboro, Ont. This will be the last chance to enter the contest for two or three years. Never mind, therefore, if your farm is not all that you would like to see it now. Enter it. If your neighbors have good farms get them to enter theirs also. Remember, nothing venture, nothing win.