

THE DAIRY.

Idea of the relative standing of the varieties mentioned, which in most if not all cases are among our most meritorious sorts, being mainly chosen for experiment on account of having done particularly well in the Experimental Department at the Ontario Agricultural College. The first column in the table gives the rating on the several varieties, embodying a summary of the answers of all the experimenters, and yield is not the only consideration in this column. In this column 100 represents the most popular variety, and the rest are rated in proportion :

A Nova Scotia Dairyman's Milk Records.

Although it has been our practice for the past four years to weigh the milk and take samples three days each month during the summer, we had not done so during the winter. Our failure to do so during the winter was due to the fact that we had no tester, and could only have the samples tested at our creamery during the summer season.

Last April we began a test, to be followed throughout the whole year, which is, briefly, as follows: On three consecutive days we weigh the milk of each cow, and take a small sample from each milking, six in all, thus making a composite sample, which is then tested. This weighing and sampling is repeated as near the same dates each month as possible throughout the entire year. The result of each test is recorded on sheets for the purpose, which are similar in form to the following:

Name or No. of cow.	Total weight of 8 days' milk.	Test.	Lbs. fat in 8 days.

Date of test

The two first columns of this sheet are filled out at home, and the sheet sent with the samples to the creamery, where they are tested, the result of the test being placed in the column for the purpose. The last is either filled out at the creamery or after being returned.

Each of these monthly sheets is preserved until the end of the year, or such time as is convenient to calculate the total yield of milk and butter-fat for the month which they represent, the total amount for each month being transferred to another sheet similar in form to the one represented below :

Cows' names :		Cherry.	Rosy.
Months.	Milk.	Butter-fat.	Butter-fat.
April.....	760	28.	
May.....	687	27.9	
June.....	710	34.	
July.....			
Total.....			
Total butter			

From the first sheet the totals for each month are easily obtained, e. g., if a cow, for the three days tested in June, gave 100 pounds milk and 3.4 pounds fat, for the month she would give 100 times 30 divided by 3, or 1,000 pounds milk, and 3.4 times 30 divided by 3, or 34 pounds butter-fat.

During the past year our number of cows varied from 6 to 10, according to the season, the majority being Guernsey grades. For ten months, from April 1st to January 31st, we have estimated that, of our five cows dropping their calves the latter part of March or the beginning of April, the poorest, which was then a heifer two years of age, gave us 220 pounds, and the best 260 lbs. butter.

While we cannot yet give actual figures for the production of those dropping their calves in the fall of 1905, we can say the indications are that they will do considerably better than those that calved in the spring. The time required to make a test is small, that required to make the last one being only about a minute a day per cow. This includes weighing the milk, recording the results, and taking a sample. At the end of the year, the time required to make out a sheet and record the previous year's work is also small, and all may be done in one or two evenings.

We think that keeping a daily milk record would result in largely increased yields from given herd, especially when practiced for a number of years. The method practiced, while not furnishing us with the exact returns per cow, is such that it enables us to ascertain which are the good cows in a herd and which the poor. Thus, we are able to weed out our poorer cows, and raise heifer calves from the best. In conclusion, we would strongly urge that some method of keeping milk records be adopted by all dairy farmers, and, while our method is by no means perfect, we would recommend it to consideration.

Picton Co., N. S. D. G. MACKAY.

J. H. Williams, Simcoe Co., Ont.: "We like 'The Farmer's Advocate' very much."