

DAIRY

Model Dairy Barn at Seattle

At the Seattle Exposition the State of Washington is maintaining an interesting and highly educational dairy feature in the form of a complete farm dairy outfit, cows, stable, feed, testing outfit, and the various dairy appliances necessary for separating the milk, caring for the cream, and transforming it into butter. The herd consists of eight cows of four breeds, Jersey, Guernsey, Holstein and Ayrshire, loaned by prominent dairymen of the State. The stable is constructed after the latest approved type for the coast country, with cement floors, continuous mangers and stanchion tie ups. A man is in charge to take care of the herd and answer all questions visitors may ask.

The stable is built with a five-foot feed passage down the center, and gutter and rear passage behind the cows. The stalls are of the usual wooden partition type, with feeding manger running full length of the stable, and being unbroken by division into separate feeding boxes for each cow may be readily cleaned out. The stanchion is used more in American dairy barns than in this country, and, as arranged in the stall described, has certain advantages over the chain. In the first place in an open-front stall and continuous manger the stanchion forms all the front necessary, gives the cows the maximum manger and stall freedom and is more effective than the chain in preventing the cow from drawing back and lying in the manure. In this stable the length from the inside edge of the manger to the gutter is four feet eight inches, which has been found ample to provide standing room for the cow and ensures of most of the droppings being received in the gutter. On the whole, the farm dairy exhibit is one of the leading educational features at the A. Y. P. Exposition, at least from the standpoint of the dairyman.

Cows Average Over 7,000 Pounds

"If cows are properly handled," says A. Cooper, one of Manitoba's successful farmers, "and if the proper strain for milk production is kept, there is more money in dairying than in any other branch of farming. Labor is the chief difficulty. The average hired man does not want to engage with a dairy farmer, no matter how well arranged the buildings are or what is offered as regards easy hours. On the whole it pays to ship the cream to a large creamery or to a town or city dairy company. The objection to local creameries is that they run only in summer months. If butter is made on the farm it entails a lot of work. By shipping the cream the farmer has all the by-products for feeding his stock. Besides he gets the cash returns regularly.

"Shorthorn grade cows suit me all right. For several years I have exercised strict care in selecting milkers. I have practiced weighing my milk. Some years ago I realized that one Shorthorn grade gave 9,000 pounds of milk in a year, so I decided she would be a good one to use as a foundation on which to build up my herd. I kept heifer calves from her and also some other promising females. My latest figures show six cows averaging between 7,000 and 8,000 pounds of milk in a year.

"Many farmers have first-class cows, but they don't feed or milk properly, or regularly. Suitable feed at regular hours and skilful milking, always at the same time night and morning, are two essentials in getting maximum results from cows. Good milkers, whether men or women, are those who have been trained from youth. Some object to feeding turnips to the dairy herd. I use them twice a day, pulping one meal ahead and feeding directly after milking, and I never find any reason to complain of tainted milk."

Dairying and the Labor Problem

In all parts of the Canadian West the chief objection raised to dairy farming is the difficulty in obtaining suitable help to do the necessary work. Occasionally a man is found who is willing and anxious to be employed on a farm for twelve months in the year, but this is the exception. The common preference is to work comparatively hard at seed time and harvest, but to take things easy during the winter months.

"Many farmers are not successful" says G. P. Wastle, a prominent dairy farmer a few miles out of Winnipeg, "because they have too many irons in the fire. Generally speaking, the farmer who does not make a specialty of some branch does not succeed. Dairying is a profitable specialty in Manitoba, but often a serious handicap is found in not being able to secure intelligent help. While I had my family at home it was easy to handle about fifty cows but now I keep only twenty.

"My chief aim is to make butter for a regular trade in Winnipeg. I make a pound print with special farm brand, that now is known by the consumers in the city and I cannot supply the demand. The price is above the average, all business is done quickly and I always get the cash promptly. At present I get about two cents above the general market price.

"I do not care to keep cows that average an annual butter production of less than 275 pounds and I want a butter fat test of over three per cent. Some I now have test 4.8 per cent. Two years ago I tested five cows and found they averaged 310 pounds of butter. This was sold at an average price of 22½ cents. In addition I had five good calves, worth \$10 each or more at twelve months. This season I sell my calves for veal at seven or eight weeks of age, keeping what heifers I consider should develop into profitable cows. As a rule the calves sold realize about \$7.50 or \$8.00.

"Heifers retained are not given any special care, but they are kept in thrifty condition by fairly good straw feed in an open shed up to April, after which

GREAT INTEREST IN DAIRYING

Perhaps no branch of the farming industry in Western Canada has developed more rapidly in the past five years than has dairying. Some farmers find encouraging profits from making butter at home, others dispose of the raw product to creameries or cheese factories, while again others ship cream or milk to large dairies in towns or cities. No matter what avenue is selected as the most satisfactory for the disposal of the product from the dairy herd it is necessary to keep in touch with modern methods and all that pertains to the dairy industry. For this reason if for no other you cannot afford to be without *The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal*. Quite frequently the advice or information contained in a single issue is worth more than the annual subscription price, \$1.50. If your neighbor is interested in milk, butter or cheese, secure his subscription and win one or more of our valuable premiums.

I like to feed hay until grass is ready. I breed so as to have them drop the first calf at about three years. If she disappoints me as a milker I sell the first season. Most of my cows give a good flow of milk for ten months in the year, and some for longer time. It is best to have cows drop their calves in December or January. It costs more to provide suitable feed at that season and throughout the winter, but it pays. Butter prices are higher. Last spring the figure stood at 32 or 33 cents for some time, and then gradually went down — but not below a profitable price."

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POULTRY

Dry-picked poultry sells best in all markets. By this manner of dressing the skin retains its color, and the flesh its natural firmness. When scalded the skin turns blue, tears easily and peels off, giving the carcass an aged and uninviting appearance. It pays to dry-pick, and when the art is learned it is a speedier method than scalding.

Grit for Poultry

An expert English poultryman is authority for the statement that, even on a farm, fowls should have grit in some form supplied to them, if the land is strong loam, free from gravel. If the birds have access to gravel by the side of a stream or on a gravel road, or if the soil is gravelly, they will find all the grit they require, but he claims that unless such conditions exist, it is safer to keep grit in some form before them. He has noticed that, in the case of fowls confined in runs, if deprived of grit for three days, and grain and grit were then given to them, mixed, they would frequently pick out the grit first.

Incubator-Hatched Hens as Good Layers

Could you tell me if hens raised in an incubator are as good layers as those raised under a hen? The reason I ask is that before we got an incubator our hens were splendid layers, but since we got a machine they have done very badly; in fact, this year has been our worst. They look healthy enough. We are obliged to raise them artificially, as the hens won't sit. Do you think it should make any difference in the producing of eggs or even sitting? Any information on the subject would be thankfully received.

L. T.

Ans.—If the parent stock were constitutionally strong and undoubtedly good layers, the progeny should be equally as good; yea, better, if the best egg layers of the parent hens were selected and mated with a cock bird from an equally good egg-laying strain. We are told by reliable sources of the great benefit derived by breeding from carefully selected stock. In poultry a mechanically certain and also a popular means of selecting the best laying and best market types (the two in one, if at all possible) of fowls to breed from is the trap-nest. I have lived to see the great benefit of breeding from carefully selected specimens. As compared with haphazard methods, the careful selection of breeders will win every time. The day of having three or four male birds of different breeds and of all colors of plumage in the barn yard at the same time is fast passing away. The terms, care and effort, will win every time.

If the germs are strong and your incubator a good one, there should be no difference in the egg-laying qualities of hens so hatched, as compared with the hen-hatched offspring.

If there is deterioration in any department of farm stock it is too common a fault to blame every other cause but the right one, and that cause (and I say this kindly and cautiously) is frequently our lack of knowledge of the real cause. When I say this I hope I will not be mistaken. I do not say it applies in this case.

Your correspondent is to be heartily thanked for bringing this important question up for investigation, and in such an intelligent way. I would advise breeding by selection.

A. G. G.

Mortality in Incubator Chicks

The Oregon Agricultural College has been investigating the cause of the high mortality of incubator chicks, and issued a bulletin recently in which the work is reviewed up to date. One organism was found in the unabsorbed yolk and heart's blood of chicks that failed to hatch, and in chicks that died a few days after hatching. This organism was constantly found in all of the chicks dead in the shell, and in all of those that hatched, and died before the yolk was fully absorbed, and was the only one of fifteen isolated that proved fatal.

In testing its disease-producing power, it was found that by injecting one-tenth cubic centimeter of a bullion culture of the organism into the tissue or abdominal cavity of chicks of any age, it had no fatal effect, but when injected into the unabsorbed yolk enclosed in the abdomen, it always proved fatal.