

### The Silo for Summer Feeding

C. F. Whitely, in charge of Records, Ottawa

My idea of siloing cows during the months of short pasturage is the silo. There is no way the work can be done as profitably as raising corn and putting it into a silo for summer feed the following year. If dairymen would make provision in this way for feed through July and August, and let the after grass get a good start before turning the cattle on, we would get double the pasture from our after grass. I would reserve part of my ensilage for the summer, even if I had to feed more hay during the winter. Cattle will do fairly well on dry feed in winter, but they will not eat it in the summer.

It should not be necessary, however, to stint the cows of ensilage through the winter. We raise plenty for both seasons. There is no risk about raising corn. If we have good seed, and the ground in proper shape and give the crop the cultivation it should have, nine times out of 10 we get a good crop. In this way we can keep one-third more cattle on the same land, and keep them better than we could without the silo.

### Experience in Tile Draining

Edward Sykes, Kent Co. (nt)

Before tile drains were laid in my district I ran a threshing machine for 15 years. When farmers had started tile draining, however, I noticed that the crops on tiled fields were of much better quality and gave larger yields than on fields not tiled. When I saw the good results my neighbors were getting from their tiled land with less labour than I put on mine I decided in 1902 to begin tiling also an let threshing go.

I borrowed \$1,600 and started three teams to draw the tile and got them home in time to put in my outlet that fall. In 1903 I tiled a 12 acre field and as soon as we had finished I planted corn. The next field to this one was 12 acres also. By the time we had finished tiling and working it, it was late to plant corn. My neighbors not being able to get on their ground, however, as it was too wet, came over the next day to help me and planted the 12 acres with corn. That was on Thursday. When I sent my teams to help my neighbors on the next Monday their ground was still quite wet. They planted their corn, however, and I will compare my yields from tiled fields with their untiled ones.

#### RESULTS OF TILING

In the fall I hired my corn husked by the bushel so I knew how much it turned out in the fields. From field No. 1 we harvested 110 bus. per acre; No. 2 yielded 75 bus., all good hard corn. I was offered 80c a bushel for seed of this corn. My neighbors secured from their fields only 55 to 60 bus. an acre, and quite a lot of that was soft corn. The year 1903 was a very poor year for corn, and untiled land was very wet at planting time. If the reader therefore, will figure the labour saved, and the increased quality and quantity of corn he will be able to form an idea of the value of tiling to us.

The land in this section is clay chiefly timbered with black ash and elm and lies very flat. Tiling land costs us about \$2. an acre. The three inch tile cost \$10 a thousand. They are laid three rods apart and two feet deep. It costs us 20c a rod for digging and laying them. The outlet costs \$2 a day for laying them. The three inch tile have since advanced to \$112 a thousand and larger tile in comparison.

#### CARE IN LAYING TILES

It is very important that the tiles are properly put in. To insure that they are I have all drains left uncovered until I thoroughly inspect them. Every day I look at all drains in process of construction and if I notice that the digger has taken a stone from the bottom of the trench I step on the tile to see if they are solid for the dirt must be

packed thoroughly in the hollow or the tile will sink out of place.

I have 175 acres of tiled land and should judge from experience that we can get on our land from six to 10 days sooner than our neighbors on untiled land. We get more and better crops with a great deal less work.

### Plenty of Time Yet to Sow Alfalfa

Geo. Marsh, Peterboro Co., Ont.

Although personally I prefer sowing alfalfa in the spring with a grain crop, as being more economical, I have seen a large number of successful fields of alfalfa that had been sown in June without a nurse crop. These gave a good cutting of hay about the first of September. Because of



Alfalfa Roots Showing Nodules

Nitrogen-accumulating bacteria are necessary to the well-being and successful growth of alfalfa. Make certain that your alfalfa plants have these nodules. If they are lacking provide the bacteria that form these nodules in the manner as has been explained on several occasions of late in Farm and Dairy.

these later splendid crops that I have seen I confess that I am sometimes in doubt as to which is the best time to sow alfalfa.

If any of the Farm and Dairy readers have not sown alfalfa this spring there is still lots of time to sow it and those who have sown alfalfa this spring may yet sow a few acres more.

One may to advantage plow up a few acres of an old pasture field or a part of a hay field which has suffered from the frosts of last winter. Such a field plowed and rolled down firmly and cultivated thoroughly and harrowed every week until the end of May or beginning of June to kill all the weeds will be in good shape for alfalfa. Have the soil rolled firmly then sow 20 lbs. of good seed to the acre harrowing it in with a light harrow. Either treat the seed with nitro-culture from Guelph or what I like better, apply 200 lbs. per acre of soil from an old successful alfalfa field and should the season be favorable you should cut a good crop of alfalfa about the end of August or early September.

Rural free mail delivery costs money, but our Government should supply the service even if it does cost money. I would willingly pay \$4 or \$5 a year to have my mail delivered at my farm gate.—Alfred Smith, Brant Co., Ont.

### The Net Profit per Cow

C. F. Whitely, in charge of Records, Ottawa

What is profit, and how can dairy profits be increased? Profit is the excess of receipts over expenditure; true profit in dairying is the value of those cow products, milk, calf and manure, which are produced over and above what is necessary to satisfy legitimate charges against the cows. There is often considerable discussion as to what should constitute such charges. For example, dairying presupposes a certain sum, often a very large sum, of money invested in land, buildings, implements, and cows. That investment is worth interest, which is a charge against receipts; but for simplicity, profit is generally reckoned as the excess of cash received for milk over the estimated cost of feed, produced or purchased.

One point needs to be clearly understood; the total cash received for milk is very different indeed from the profit made. A business may be very extensive and the daily cash receipts very large, but unless profit is made bankruptcy is certain. The expense side of the account must be considered; as regards dairying particularly the lower the expense the greater the profit.

The price received for the product is fairly steady, no general or local shortage forces up milk prices materially, neither do bargain sales compel the producer to accept any absurd figure.

#### POOR COWS COURT RUIN

To keep poor cows is to court ruin. A poor cow is a heavy expense and can make no profit; a good cow, though she may cost more originally, costs only a trifle more for her feed; consequently the profit she earns is vastly superior. Net profit is increased in rapid ratio as the heavy dead wood of the herd is lopped off; cows that consume a greater value of feed than the value of the milk they produce are a double drag and burden, they incur a loss individually and lower the average net profit of the whole herd. Frequently such losing propositions are believed to be fairly good. The only way to detect them is to weigh and test each individual. Conversion of such calamities into blessings, of loss into profit, is comparatively simple when once cow testing is commenced. Large profit with good cows is a higher return than savings bank interest where the bank is just borrowing farmers' good money at three per cent. and loaning it out at seven per cent. Some dairymen make 20 per cent. on their investment. If we concede that there is of recent years an increase in the price of grain, of hired help, of living expenses, if we cannot escape an occasional drought and shortage of feed, then how emphatic the necessity of keeping only such cows as do return a large profit! Cow testing provides a simple, effective and cheap method of determining which to keep, which to beef.

#### REAL DAIRY BUSINESS

A farmer's future income depends on selecting his best cows. The vital point is to ascertain the difference in yield, and whether Bess or Spot returns \$5 or \$30 net profit, whether for every dollar's worth of feed consumed she gives a return of 90 cents or \$2.50, whether the milk costs 60 cents per 100 pounds, or \$1.40. That is the essence of real dairy business.

Study of each cow will lower expenses through the use of scales and test in eliminating the poor cow, and thus increasing the net profit. What we need is to get at it, and to keep at it. The streets of by and by lead to nowhere. Procrastination in cow testing retards general progress and development. Farmers who have achieved success in increasing the yield of milk and fat per cow, all invariably date the commencement of the improvement to the time they began weighing and sampling. This is no chance occurrence; cow testing is necessary—it is foundation work.