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# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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## EDITORIAL.

Dampness means disease in house or stable.

"Keep on keeping on" is a good slogan for the dairyman.

Canada expects equality of effort in all parts of the Dominion.

A Happy New Year to all busy readers of "The Farmer's Advocate."

Work toward better stock by the shortest route—higher class sires.

The silly and sinister methods of some campaigners are sickening to the thinking elector.

Evidence accumulates that the top-notch quality heavy drafter is the best type of horse for the farmer to breed.

Farmers like all others must plan to make 1918 their best year. None can stand still. Progression or retrogression is inevitable.

The milking machine might help you out on your farm. Read in this issue what a number of our correspondents say of its value.

The farm wood-lot is giving a practical demonstration of its value right now. What about greater efforts for reforestation on rough land?

When keeping "more" stock be sure it is also "better" stock. Nothing would be gained by an increase in numbers at the expense of quality.

The live-stock farmer works just as hard in winter as in summer. His effort is an all-the-year-round one, and his returns should be commensurate.

In place of complaining about it, let us each and every one set to work to overcome the labor shortage by a more general use of labor-saving machinery and devices.

Slowly but surely is the fact that "man's living comes out of the ground" being driven home the world over, and it is to be hoped that with it will come also a full realization of the fact that "Happiness comes out of honesty."

The Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association has a habit of doing big things and getting results. Securing Prof. G. E. Day for Secretary-Treasurer and publicity man is one of the best moves the Association ever made, and bigger results than ever may be looked for.

It is a trait of human nature to take delight in criticizing. We all do it. And yet criticism should be made with care and only with the purpose of improvement. Criticize to construct, not to destroy, and there is always plenty of room for constructive effort.

The Departments of Agriculture could carry many a good point home to farmers with greater effect if some of their bulletins and leaflets could be put in general circulation more promptly after results of investigational work are obtained. A full report of a recent hog-production meeting was put out by the Ontario Department and a copy in our hands nine days after the meeting occurred. This was quick work and the Department is deserving of credit. If they could extend this promptness to all valuable bulletins it would work a great deal of good.

### Farming in 1918.

The farm, always of first importance, was never before such a factor in the affairs of Canada and the Empire as it has been since the Great War began, and in 1918 it must fill a bigger place than ever. It is more than likely that before the close of the coming year the crisis of the conflict will have been passed. All hope so. No small part of that crisis will be in connection with the food supply. Millions of former producers are now consumers and destroyers in the armies or Armageddon. They must be fed. The people at home who support them must be fed. The food must be produced on the farms. Farmers realize this and consumers are beginning to appreciate the efforts of the men who have stood behind the plow as their brothers have stood behind the guns, both doing their part to defeat the enemies of democracy. A great big and glorious effort is necessary for the coming year. Those who have preached increased production since the war started are just as tired of the sound of their own voices as are some producers of listening to them, and yet they keep on in the hope that they may be able to help some one over the hard places to bigger results from his efforts. The necessity is well understood. The winter should be spent in planning ways and means of getting the most out of the land next summer. The farmer is ready to receive suggestions regarding crops and stock most necessary and how to make the best of the general situation. Information is always gladly received by most people who would not swallow advice. From now until spring farmers will plan their work for the summer. Then they will work their plan. Anything which will help to produce crops and stock—food products in large supply and economically—will be a service to the people generally. If we all work together much good will be accomplished. There is some good in every effort. Let us reach the maximum in 1918. The Farmer's Advocate will put forth a stronger effort than ever before to be of greatest possible assistance. Use these columns for the discussion of practical farm problems.

### Prompt Publication of Bulletins and Reports.

We have many times pointed out the advantage it would be to agriculture, both from the viewpoint of the man on the land and also from that of the professional agriculturist who carries on the investigational work, if all reports and bulletins published by the Departments of Agriculture could reach the hands of those interested promptly. Very often publication and distribution are delayed and much important work stales before it reaches the public, or is distributed at an inopportune time, and is thereby received by the public at a great disadvantage. It is quite a common occurrence to get important reports anywhere from one to two years after the work reported therein is actually done, and in the past many a bulletin has reached the farm at anything but a suitable season. True, there are difficulties in the way of prompt printing of Government publications, but these can be overcome to some extent. As stated in a paragraph in this issue, the Ontario Department of Agriculture held a special conference on the bacon hog, at the Parliament Buildings, Toronto, on November 6. Nine days later we had in our hands a full report of the meeting neatly printed in bulletin form and ready for immediate distribution. The bulletin or pamphlet contains over thirty pages of type, and is as large as some bulletins which take months and even years to get through. We must compliment the Department of Agriculture on the facility with which they rushed the bacon-hog bulletin along. It was distributed early in the bacon-hog campaign—the time when most good could be done. This is a fine start. Other leaflets on the same topic have been put out promptly, and this would be a good precedent to follow

with all future agricultural bulletins and reports of immediate value. Interest wanes when material stales or is put out at an untimely season. The Departments have made one important step in their increased use of the agricultural press as a means of getting important facts to the people promptly, and while some have criticised their work, the fact remains that it is important to let the people know what the Department is doing at a time when the facts will do those people most good. Reports out promptly and bulletins in season is a good motto for a beginning of 1918, and to be continued year after year. Much satisfactory work is being done and the people are anxious to benefit by it at the earliest possible date after results are obtained.

### Milk Prices and Hog Production.

A Farmer's Advocate subscriber from a leading dairy district in Western Ontario, in the course of a conversation in this office a few days ago, drew attention to the danger to the bacon-hog industry arising out of the difference in price producers were receiving for whole milk for city consumption and for condensing plants where there is no by-product, and for milk going to cheese factories and creameries where valuable by-products remain to be fed on the farms. We are passing on his ideas, and there does seem to be some foundation for his arguments. The past summer milk to cheese factories has averaged around \$1.75 to \$1.85 per cwt. With an average test of 3.5 per cent. fat, milk to creameries would average, at 45 cents for butter-fat for the summer, around \$1.60 per cwt. Milk sold to condenseries would likely run around \$2.10 to \$2.15 for the season, but the worst danger to the hog industry now is the demand for city milk, which in some instances is bought at as high as \$3.00 per cwt. Farmers are short of labor, and keeping pigs means a little extra work. If they can get considerably more for their milk to sell it whole and feed nothing, many will sell. Some producers have complained that the price of cheese has not levelled up with the price of whole milk for city or condenser trade, and rumors of changing from factory to a whole-milk trade may lead to action which might ultimately work no particular good to the farming industry. Creamerymen are not enthusiastic just now with oleo coming in, and keen competition for the whole milk. In dairy districts the bigger the percentage of milk going to the city whole-milk trade and to the condenser, the fewer pigs there will be finished. The cheese factory and the creamery leave valuable by-products for growing pigs. Skim-milk is worth at least 40 cents per cwt. In fact, it is difficult to put a value on it in cash, as it is almost invaluable in growing pigs and calves. When at present prices for other feed is surely worth 20 cents per cwt. Add the value of these by-products to the price obtained for the milk at the factories and the returns average up very close to the price paid by condensers. Also, it is better for the farm to have the by-products fed on the place. However, there is less work when selling the whole milk and that is a factor, and there is a little more cash in it. This point is worthy of consideration. Butter is high in price, but not too high compared with prices obtained for milk and cream. Cheese is also high to the consumer, but the producer sees more money in selling whole milk. Expert factory workmen are likely to be scarce next summer. The demand for condensed milk will be practically unlimited while the war lasts. But it is necessary to produce hogs. It is necessary to retain cheese factories and creameries for after-the-war conditions. It is necessary to feed as much as possible on the farms. In view of these facts, a levelling up of prices to ensure cheese factories and creameries staying in the business would be a good thing for all concerned.

It is not always a mild winter when the human weather-vane in the neighborhood has prophesied.