

The Farm.

Care of Dairy Utensils in Hot Weather.

The importance of strict cleanliness in all dairy vessels and utensils cannot be too strongly urged or too closely watched, especially during the hot months of summer. Mrs. E. R. Wood, in a recent issue of The Jersey Bulletin, presented some ideas that be new to some of our readers and from which we quote the following: "In winter it is a comparatively easy matter to keep the pails, strainers, churn, etc., sweet and clean, but when July comes, with its hot, muggy days (and nights almost as bad), it is altogether a different thing. Eternal vigilance is the price of sweetness then, and to the inexperienced some instruction along these lines may not be amiss. It is much less difficult to keep the dairy utensils smelling sweet than to bring them back to that condition once they have been neglected.

We will suppose the milk to have been just strained through the wire gauze strainer and also through the folded cheese-cloth below it. The pails after being emptied must not be left standing for the milk to dry upon them, but shall be at once either filled with cold water or else rinsed in the same. Once a film of dried milk forms upon the inside of the pail, it is much more difficult of removal.

Never apply hot water to milk vessels of any kind until they have first been rinsed with cold or luke-warm water. The hot water cooks the milk at once, and that is what causes the yellowish formation which is sometimes seen adhering to the pails and strainer. Once on, it is difficult to remove. Dry ashes will remove it if well rubbed on with a cloth. So will baking soda or bath brick. Salt is good to cleanse the wire strainer if the little holes get stopped up. Use a new toothbrush, first removing the handle to make it more convenient in getting at the wire. Persevere until the gauze is perfectly clear. If necessary, use a pin to free the particles. These directions are in case a strainer has been neglected. With proper care they will never become clogged.

After rinsing with cold water, wash with warm water, using a brush rather than a cloth for the purpose, since the former reaches every crack and corner better. Then scald in boiling water, wipe thoroughly dry, and set bottom up—in the sunshine if convenient.—Farmer's Advocate.

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The Farmer Should Count the Cost.

In conversation with an intelligent farmer from Western Ontario recently, he stated that some years ago he had an opportunity of renting his farm and going into some other line of business. Before deciding definitely in the matter he concluded to experiment a little while and find out what he was really making out of his farm. He accordingly kept track of every item that was spent upon the household, and what it cost to live, with the result that his farm was not rented, and he has had no desire to leave it since. Though offered a good rental, and in addition a good salary to travel in the agricultural implement line, this farmer concluded that he would make more money to remain on the farm.

There is a valuable lesson in this for every farmer in the country. A great many, who leave the farm to engage in other pursuits, never stop to compare the cost of living on the farm and away from it. As a rule the farmer does not miss what he and his family eat, as the bulk of it is grown on the farm; but, if cash had to be paid out for every item of food as well as clothing, many a farmer would be more contented with his lot than he is at the present time. The man living in the city, even on a fair salary, is not as well off as the average farmer if everything is taken into account. Rent, heat, water, light, food, etc., have all to be paid for in the city, while the farmer can get the larger share of these without any cash outlay. It would be well, therefore, if every one who contemplates leaving the farm would stop a moment and count the cost.—Farming.

Free Rural Postal Delivery.

The United States Government has been experimenting with this for the past two years. In 1896 the appropriation for the purpose of experimenting in this line was \$10,000; in 1897, \$50,000, and this year the appropriation has been increased to \$150,000. This increased appropriation will enable the Department to make a more extended trial than heretofore. The United States postal authorities seem to have every confidence in the scheme, and hope to make a permanent success of the venture. One of the difficulties the authorities have had to contend with in prosecuting the scheme is the bad roads, and it may be possible that a successful rural postal delivery cannot be fully carried out till all the highways throughout the country are in good condition.

If all the roads throughout the country were in good condition, a free rural postal delivery should prove a practical venture in the more thickly populated country districts. The cost of travel is the most important item to be considered, and if the roads are bad this will be largely increased. If the roads were all in good shape for wheeling, or if a bicycle path were made, it might be possible for the farmer to have the "boon" of a free postal delivery at comparatively little cost. With good roads and a good bicycle a postman could cover a large section of territory every day.—Farming.

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Where Raw Material for Twine Comes From.

Manila "hemp" is secured from a species of banana, native to the Philippines, the fibre being obtained by the natives scraping the leaves with a special knife requiring expert handling. It is one of the leading products of the islands, and is exported very largely to the United States, Europe and the Orient. Last year a total of 825,000 bales were shipped out, of which more than half came to the United States. Measured in pounds, total imports into the United States from the Philippines last year were 80,000,000 pounds. It is estimated that the present supply of manila hemp outside the Philippine Islands will be exhausted within three months, and cordage manufacturers fear they will soon find themselves without raw material unless relief comes speedily.

With the present general use of twine binders in the harvest fields, the obligatory return to the old-fashioned method of binding sheaves with straw would prove very burdensome to farmers. But this is only among the possibilities, and up to the present time we get no complaints of scarcity.—American Agriculturist.

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Lucy, the fourteen-year-old daughter of Rev. J. W. Millidge, Episcopal rector at Oak Bay, was drowned while bathing near her home Tuesday afternoon.

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Fraud Unmasked and Exposed.

For some years the ladies of Canada have suffered much loss and inconvenience from use of deceptive home dyes put up to look like the popular Diamond Dyes. These imitation package dyes were sold at very low prices to retail merchants, who in turn made immense profits on them when sold to women who were unfortunately influenced to buy them.

These imitations of Diamond Dyes were never sold more than once to any woman. They possessed no foundation qualities or good points to make them valuable or popular. They were made of the cheapest ingredients, the colors were dead, muddy and unsightly, and they ruined all materials they came in contact with. These common dyes are now so despised and shunned that storekeepers are glad to sell them at half price to be rid of them.

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