

Farm.

Buying a Milch Cow.

There are certain rules which, if observed, will be of great help to us in buying cows for the dairy. Here is one, Ontario dairymen say: "The ideal cow should be of average size, but not large; be coarse, should have fine horns, long, slim neck, large straight back, large, long, thin, large udder, extending forward and running high up behind the cow should be broad on the sides and wedge-shaped in form, mellow skin."

The Old Feather Bed.

It has become of the old-fashioned kind? We mean the kind to get into the service of a step-ladder into it? Did you ever remember when you were a kid and you were down, down, down till you were tired and if you didn't need a feather bed? And do you remember it felt upon a cold morning poking your head from under the covers and saw the window panes red? And do you remember used to climb out of its billows, shivering, and then, run downstairs and into the kitchen stove, half as in your arms? And how griddle cakes and sausages and feathers may not be healthy, as claimed by doctors, who never sleep, on them, but they are good to the kid. Why nobody writes a song about "The Old Feather Bed?"

Keeping for Farmers' Wives.

It is kept on a majority of farms it is no exaggeration, probably that three-quarters of all farms that receive care worthy of a farmer's wife are kept, the found to pay, and pay well, of a farmer's wife paying bill, or clothing the children, profits of the farm flock, are rare. A farmer's wife whose inclination is to stock of pin money, and to of health at the same time, the farm flock and provide the food and care that the fowls comfortable and shed. We do not intend to all the work should be done by the farmer's wife. An hour per day hired man's time will do work connected with the care of the fowls, leaving the feeding, etc., to the principal caretaker.

Care for the Dairy Barn.

In a dairy barn, care should be taken to have a gentle slope from front to back, at least one direction, and a natural drainage for both the floor and the walls. If the barn is already poorly located, draining and do much to remedy the most cases it would take but a little extra labor and plow and when the ground is in suitable condition, to give the surface a slope from the barn outward, and the surface water, it has to be hauled in from the barn to accomplish this it is expensive. The drainage of a yard is not sufficient as the water of the cattle soon puddles, preventing the water from running to the tile.

What the Consumer Wants.

Every producer should be able to market an article that will satisfy the purchaser. His preferences should be kept in mind. The purchaser of dairy products is always looking for fine flavor and purity. The confidence in a certain brand of these products the better the consumer is willing to pay and the more the consumption of



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these products. He is not looking for nutritive value when he buys dairy products, as he knows that poor butter or cheese contains just as much nutritive value as the other kind. What he is really looking for is that peculiar fineness of flavor and absolute purity characteristic of the product from some dairies and factories. The producer should always keep this in mind and be guided accordingly.

Sheep.

The cost of raising sheep is small compared with the high prices they command or with the cost of production of any other farm animal.

Some breeders claim that rape is more easily grown than cabbage and will answer the same purpose for sheep in the barn, but of course it cannot be shipped as well as cabbage.

A clear pink skin is a sign that the internal organs are in good condition. It has been stated that sheep with pink skins are better feeders than those with pale or dark skins. A clear fleece goes with a clear pink skin.

The ewe that raises good strong twin lambs each season is much more valuable than the one which raises the single lamb. Great improvements can be worked out along this line if selections of the twin ewe lambs are constantly made and then these to be mated with a twin or triplet ram. It is a fact that some breeds do not show many twins, but with the Shropshire and many other good breeds this matter of twin breeding is becoming almost universal.

Women at Poultry Shows.

As the years go on the women exhibitors appear in increasing numbers at the poultry shows throughout the country. The reports of the winners at the majority of small and large shows this season, contain the names of one or more fanciers of gentler sex, who have won their male opponents in the race for exhibition honors.

The majority of these are farmers' wives, who take advantage of the opportunities that farm life affords for rearing and handling of poultry of the better class. Often times the waste grain from the bins and barns, scraps from the tables and kitchens and the by-products of the dairy are almost sufficient to feed a flock of ten to fifty fowls twelve months in the year. In any event the cost to feed a farm flock is not more than half that of supporting an equal number of fowls when all the grains and other foods have to be bought for cash.

The wide acres of the farm afford the means of raising large broods of healthy, vigorous chicks each season; chicks which are developed properly both in form and feather. Chicks so raised, if of equally good breeding, have far more chance of taking showroom honors than the less fortunate ones which are reared in the limited confines of the city or village poultry keeper. A majority of the women exhibition winners are advertisers in farm papers, in poultry papers, or in the columns of both, and many of them find a ready sale for all the breeding stock they can supply and all the eggs for hatching they can spare. The sale of \$100 worth of eggs

at a cost of \$10 to \$12 for advertising is by no means uncommon and the prices obtained (from \$1 to \$5 for sitting of 13) leaves a wide margin of profit over the cost of advertising and exhibiting, and the cost of keeping up the flock to a high standard.

Pruning Evergreens.

As a rule, evergreen trees need no pruning, except to cut away dead limbs. The beauty of a pine is in its pleasing natural shape, clothed with limbs from the ground up. To cut away the lower limbs is to destroy the natural beauty. In planting such trees care should be taken that they are set where the view will not be obstructed by their growth. The tops of evergreens are sometimes cut back to encourage a dense growth, and with some species the results of such pruning are very satisfactory; but to trim away the lower limbs, unless dead and leafless, is not considered good taste, and the effect is anything but pleasing to the aesthetic eye.

Don't Use a Cheap Sire.

A good many farmers do not see things clearly until the pocket nerve is touched and loss of money threatened, then they begin to reason to a purpose and are not slow to act. Why not consider the proposition of selecting a dairy sire? Why not consider the dairy in the same light as the pocketbook? The business surely makes a big pocketbook or the reverse, according to the reasoning ability of the man in control. Dairying must be either profitable or unprofitable, and this is determined largely by the judgment displayed in selecting a sire.

"A stream can run no higher than its source" is an old and true saying. How, then, can good, profitable dairy cows be produced from a mongrel bull? A cheap sire means cheap cows; that is, poor cows. Their breeding does not enable them to consume the crops of the farm at a profit; they can not pay as much for the food they consume as it is worth in the market.

Do not try to make money dairying by using a cheap sire, one with no breeding, with no ancestry worthy of record. It is saving at the wrong end of the business, and has never yet failed to prove costly to the man who tried it. Feed is the equivalent of money. It will sell for money and costs money when it has to be purchased. Keep only such cows as will eat up this money and return it with interest. Obtain such cows by using a first-class sire, one that is perfect individually and backed up by ancestry worthy of a place on the records of the breed for performance. An ancestry having a record for producing milk and butter at a profit. Do not forget that a bull from a great butter producing cow is apt to reproduce the desired quality in his heifer calves, and especially when mated with cows that show dairy ability.

The sire is the source of all improvement. Strive to use nothing but the best, improve the herd and keep it strong and productive. If a poor sire is used you can depend upon it the heifers will not be as good as their mothers. There will be no improvement and no profit.

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