

bought for \$2,000. The former owner and breeder not only loses this amount of cash, but he also loses to a great extent the credit due him for having the milk to produce such valuable stock. The new owner advertises his herd on the strength of such records and reaps all the benefit.

Official testing is a very simple yet reliable procedure. There is no secret or witchcraft about it. The little machine called the Babcock Tester correctly tells the story. It is something that anyone with ordinary common judgment can do, and something that places the small breeder, even the owner of a single cow, on an equal footing with the larger breeder, and at once brings them before the public. The cost is trifling. It has never yet cost me more than \$10 to make an official test. Of this amount, \$5 is repaid by our Holstein Breeder's Association. I try to have my animals in good condition at the time of freshening, giving them proper care afterwards. I use only the foods grown on the farm together with a little oilcake meal, and, while in test, feed 12 to 20 lbs. of grain a day, according to the age and appetite of the animal. I derive much pleasure and profit from the trouble expended than from anything else I have ever undertaken.

Alfalfa or Lucerne

An interesting and timely bulletin on alfalfa, written by Prof. C. A. Zavitz, of the Ontario Agricultural College, has recently been issued by the Ontario Department of Agriculture. The following is an extract from the bulletin:

"Alfalfa should be very carefully tested on many farms throughout Ontario. Its large yields of nutritious feed for farm stock, its perennial character of growth, and its beneficial influence on the soil, are all features which commend it very highly for those farms on which it can be grown successfully.

"There are different ways of laying down a plot or a field to alfalfa, and we would suggest the following method as one which is likely to give very excellent results. Select land having a clean, mellow, fertile surface soil overlying a deep, drained subsoil, having no acidity. Use large plump seed, free from impurities, and strong in germinating power, inoculate the seed with the proper kind of bacteria, providing alfalfa has not been grown successfully on the land in recent years. As early in the spring as the land is dry enough and warm enough to be worked to good advantage, make a suitable seed-bed, and immediately sow about 20 pounds of alfalfa seed per acre from the grass seed box placed in front of the grain drill, and about one bushel of spring wheat or of barley per acre from the tubes of the drill. Smooth the land with a light harrow, or with a weeder, and if it is very loose and rather dry, also roll it and again go over it with the harrow or the weeder. As soon as ripe cut the grain and avoid leaving it on the land longer than necessary.

"Give the alfalfa plants every opportunity to get a good start in the autumn in preparation for the winter. If for hay, cut each crop of alfalfa in the following year as soon as it starts to bloom. In curing try to retain as much of the leaves on the stems as possible, and to protect the crop from rain. Never cut or pasture alfalfa sufficiently close to the ground to remove the crowns of the roots, and thus injure or possibly kill the plants. If these directions are followed, the alfalfa may be expected to produce large and valuable crops for a number of years without re-seeding."

This bulletin is being distributed from the Department of Agriculture, Toronto, from which source copies may be secured.

*Keep Calves Dry and Clean

Every human mother, who is fit to be a mother, knows that if her baby is allowed to remain wet and uncleanly, it will soon grow sickly. The bovine baby is strictly amenable to the same law. Every calf raiser must have seen the ill effects of allowing calves to lie in their own voidings and urine. A farmer was once showing us his stock. His horses were bedded down with an abundance of straw. His calves were lying in filth and moisture that made us indignant to behold. "What are you raising those calves for?" we asked. "To make cows of them," he replied. "Oh no, you are not. You are raising them to be weak, sickly failures," was our answer. He confessed to us that he had lost a good many calves, but he never had thought that the way he had kept them was the cause.

Turn a calf or a pig into the woods and it will find for itself a bed of dry leaves in a clean place, and they will keep healthy, if they have food enough.

In my own calf stable every winter are from 25 to 30 calves. Around outside, next to the wall is a feeding alley. Then comes a row of stanchions, the only place on the premises where I use a stanchion. Then comes the open ample room, with a dirt floor. This is covered every day, and if necessary, twice a day, either with bright, dry straw or shavings. This floor is sprinkled night and morning with a good disinfectant. The calves are fed in these stanchions, with skim milk, fresh from the separator, in clean tin pails, twice a day. Then they are given a feed of oats or barley meal, followed by alfalfa hay. All this consumes an hour, say. Then they are let out of the stanchions to run at will on the floor. Twice a day they are let out in the big barn yard to have a run and play. Fresh water is kept standing before them, on the floor of the stable, all the time.


Cow Testing Associations

Ed. The Dairyman and Farming World.—There is renewed interest in the operations of the cow testing associations this year, and an evident determination on the part of hundreds of farmers to make sure of what each cow is doing in the way of milk production. This is the initial step in building up a good herd, for unless each cow attains a reasonable standard of production, she should not be retained in the herd. There is no other method of knowing this except by weighing and testing systematically. See TOWNSHIP 80 Cphusevms the Cow Testing Associations are intended to facilitate such work. In over 50 districts arrangements have already been made with the local maker at the cheese factory or creamery to do the testing once a month, so that the farmer need not go to the pains beyond a trifling sum for sample bottles and scales.

It is not too late during this month to get started. Two or three good men in any locality could get together, arrange with the maker to do the testing, and order the necessary scales and bottles. Write to the Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner, Ottawa, for milk record sheets, which are supplied free.

Chas. E. Whitley, Ottawa.
In charge of Dairy Records.

*Extract from an address given by Hon. W. D. Howard, the Dairyman's Convention, Harrisburg, Pa.



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