



THE DAIRYMAN'S SLOGAN: BREED, FEED AND WEED.

## Raising the Milk and Profit Yield

Can you do it? You can. Others are doing it. John Wait, of Colborne, did it. He raised his milk yield in 5 years from 5,438 lbs. per cow to 9,954 lbs. by herd testing and business methods. "Early freshening," he says, "would often make a good dairy cow out of an apparently low producer."

Let us quote his letter further. "You cannot emphasize too much the importance of a pure-bred sire with a record—as I have found to be only too true. I have 2-year-old well-bred heifers which I expect this year will out-yield my best mature cows of 4 to 6 years ago with fully 1% more fat."

"Dairying," he adds, "is profitable if properly managed. This is the important part—for I know of several hard-working farmers whose herds are actually not paying for the feed and labor put on them."

John Wait increased his production with profit—that is, with the same equipment, stables and labor, at practically the same cost, he has doubled his milk production. This is a story of success that can be yours.

In Europe the breeding and milking stock are certainly not above normal, and are probably below. Moreover, cheese and butter being valuable and concentrated foods, will be readily shipped when more bulky foods are held owing to the submarine. The home demand for dairy products is vastly on the increase, although our herds do not show much growth. The growing demand in the cities for ice-cream and milk, and in the condensaries and milk powder plants guarantees that continued progress will be made in the dairy business.

### How progress will be made

There are just four principles—Good Management, Feeding, Weeding and Breeding.

"Management" means meeting the labor and feed shortages in the proper way. Install modern milking machines—they give excellent results in herds of 20 cows or over, and cut down your labor one-half. Use wide machinery and more horsepower. Use the gang plow this fall and the double cut-away disc. Employ modern haying machinery, and thresh from the field.

"Good herd management" calls for getting rid of every cow that won't give at least 5,000 lbs. of milk a year. To fill their places keep every good individual heifer calf from a good cow. The cost of feed for a heifer up to the time she is bred should not be over \$40—you can sell her for much more than that if you don't need her yourself. But, keep no scrub dairy calves and no grade dairy bull calves—there is no money in feeding them after

twelve weeks. This, of course, does not apply to dual purpose cattle.

Carry all the dairy cattle your pasture land, your plan of crops and your labor will permit—don't go beyond it. A smaller herd of well-fed, well-cared for, heavy milkers, will give more hard cash profits than a big herd, half-fed and half-cared for.

### Feeding is important—of course

You are probably too busy for selling crops this year, but if pastures become short and dry, cut some of your green oat crop and feed it. You will make more money than if you let your oats ripen, but allow the milk flow of your cattle to stop—it will not come back until after freshening. This will be especially desirable in 1917, because of the short corn crop last year.

Unless pastures are burned and no summer silage or sodding crop is available don't figure on feeding grains or meal this year—unless to very heavily producing cows, or to cows on test or for records. If you want to do so, however, try cottonseed meal, the cheapest concentrate at present prices, considering its food value. Don't feed over two lbs. One part cottonseed meal mixed with two parts bran, and green food, gives the ideal balanced ration for succulence and energy.

Grow more corn this year—the variety that suits your district best. Provide ample silo space. Even if it costs more money to build, the silo built in 1917, will pay big. Harrow your corn before it breaks through, when about two inches high, and again when five inches high. It doesn't hurt the corn, and it kills thousands of weeds.

Give your cows pure water—a cow needs ten to twenty gallons daily. Remember a can of fly spray in July and August will pay its cost many times over by increased production. Nail an old sack in the doorway—darkened stables during milking time for greater comfort and greater production. A tree or two in the pasture field will mean many dollars in July and August.

### Weeding out—it must be done

Ask yourself: Are cows keeping you or are you keeping cows? You can find out only by the test, which doesn't take up much time. Weigh each cow's milk twice a day on three widely separated days in each month. Put down the results on a card. Three times a month on the same days take a sample of her milk, put it in a bottle with a preservative and have the milk tested for butter fat. Your district

representative will do the testing and make all the calculations. In this way, we'd out all the profit eaters and fill the gaps with your best heifers.

### And now breeding—it is vital

A good bull is more than half the herd, but kill off that grade bull—he's robbing you. Fill his place with a good, pure-bred bull, but be sure he is good. A scrub "pure-bred" is worse than a scrub grade. He steals your money and he hides behind a pedigree. But choose a bull of the breed which predominates amongst your cows and be prepared to pay a reasonable price for a pure-bred. But be sure he comes from a family which has produced heavy milkers consistently for generations. If possible, buy a bull calf whose dam and sire, especially the dam, have qualified in the official Record of Performances. Of course, he must be a strong, healthy, vigorous individual, too.

When the pure-bred bull of good family and strong personality is mated to profit-making females, proved by test, and the progeny is properly fed, profitable production is assured. It may take time and some money, but the result is certain—the farmer is on the highway to prosperity.

### If you wish immediate practical information regarding

The installation of a milking machine. The best variety of corn, ensilage or ear, for your county.

The equipment preferred for herd testing. How to make the test with little labor. How to organize a small herd testing centre in your community without cost.

Whether to feed concentrates this summer and just what to feed according to your local conditions.

How to care for the corn crop at a minimum of expense.

The latest in efficient silo construction. The families (or blood lines) of the dairy breed you favor that have been noted producers.

The cheapest way to produce clean, pure milk, according to your local conditions.

Or information upon any other practical phase of dairying which will best meet your particular requirements, write to the office of the Commissioner of Agriculture. Kindly give details regarding your local conditions and ask specific questions.



The Ontario Department of Agriculture

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