



FARM AND DAIRY

& RURAL HOME



We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideas

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham.

Vol. XXXIV

FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 29, 1915

No. 17

Good Crops Are the Basis of Good Dairying

How R. J. Kelly, Oxford Co., Ont., Applies This Principle in the Operation of His 300-Acre Farm

"GOOD CROPS are the basis of good dairying." Thus epigrammatically did Mr. R. J. Kelly, of Oxford Co., Ont., express his opinion of the basic principle of successful farming. "I have always paid much more attention to crop growing than to the purely dairy end of the business," he told a representative of Farm and Dairy. "When we bought our first farm in Haldimand county, the

R. J. Kelly neighbors said it would be impossible to make more than a fair living on it. We plowed up the old grass meadows. They

never returned to grass land. It is pure fallacy that says allowing a field to lie in grass fertilizes it. Fields are best fertilized by cultivation, clover and manure. That was the formula we used, and we sold that farm for about double the price we paid for it."

On his 300-acre farm in Oxford county, Mr. Kelly is applying the same principles. "We don't follow a cut and dried rotation," he told us, "but we grow clover every second or third year. It is left in sod only one year. I fail to see the sense of allowing a crop of timothy to absorb the fertility left by the clover. It should be used by a more profitable crop, such as corn. This crop, with clover and alfalfa forms the mainstay of our cattle ration. I, generally, though not invariably, follows a clover sod. The land is plowed in the fall. Early in spring it receives a stroke of the harrow. This gives the weeds a start and when the ground is worked up preparatory to sowing the corn, a great number of them are got out of the way. That is the advantage of fall plowing."

"I suppose a corn planter is the best machine when it comes to putting the seed in 40 acres," I suggested.

Heavy Corn Seeding Preferred

"We haven't found it so," replied Mr. Kelly. "Last year we used one but it didn't sow thick enough. The ordinary 10-hole drill with two tubes working is the most satisfactory seeder. The planter doesn't give a heavy crop of stalks. I like a fairly good supply of ears in ensilage, but stalks give bulk. The ear is its nutrient from the stalk. Thus the difference in feeding value between eared and un-eared plants cannot be so great as is commonly imagined. Experi-

ence tends to confirm this view. A couple of years ago we planted some Mammoth Southern Sweet for silage purposes. We didn't need it for that purpose so that when silo filling time came it was so rank and heavy that it was not an easy proposition to cut it. We partly filled one silo with well eared White Cap Yellow Dent, and finished with the other large corn. A few days later we re-filled with the Dent. That winter when the Mammoth corn was reached the cows actually gained. No change was noticeable until they were again changed to the heavily eared corn. It had also the advantage over the smaller corn in that it heated rapidly after leaving the

Ivy Lodge Farm is the splendid herd of Holsteins. Their milk is shipped to the milk powder factory. The big barn has stanchion room for about 60 cows. It was well filled when the Farm and Dairy man called, but Mr. Kelly does not intend keeping more than 50 milch cows. It is too easy to make milking a drudgery.

The old fashioned rigid stanchions are still in use, though they will soon make room for the swinging kind. Individual water bowls keep water in front of the cows all the time. Mr. Kelly finds these quite satisfactory, but does not like continuous mangers. The dry cow helps herself to the richer ration of the fresh cow. In doing so she occasionally contracts big knees.

Four Silos on Farm

As the four big silos indicate, ensilage is the most important part of the roughage. The cows are given practically all they will eat twice a day. "Do you ever mix straw with your ensilage?" Mr. Kelly was asked. "Sometimes, when we are short of ensilage," was the answer. "The latter is as cheap as straw if you have it on the farm, and is of course much better stock food. The cows receive one feed of hay a day and do not seem to consume much. The mangers are fed whole and the concentrates on the ensilage."

For the concentrates, Mr. Kelly uses oat bran, wheat bran and oat chaff, with a little oil cake. The oat bran is purchased in Tillsonburg and consists of the shell of the oats and a good deal of the fine siftings. The drying process that the oat undergoes at the factory imparts a flavor to the bran that the cows greatly relish. "I am going to withhold the oat chaff from the ration," said Mr. Kelly. "You can have a mixture of oat bran, wheat bran and oil cake for \$23 a ton. Oats are worth considerably more than that and will likely be still higher."

The milk being shipped to the powder factory, leaves no skim milk for the calves. In Mr. Kelly's opinion skim milk is far superior to whole milk for calf feed. It gives bone and muscle without making them fat. He obtains his skim milk from a neighbor. It has to be warmed and fed more carefully than milk fresh from the separator, but the calves thrive on it. "We have tried proprietary mixtures for feeding calves and

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The Type of Cattle That Pay for Farms and Swell Bank Accounts.

The breed is not so important as the type; big, deep bodied, strongly constituted cows of producing ability of any breed are money makers if given reasonably good care and feeding. This scene is from a photo on a farm once rented by R. J. Kelly, Oxford Co., Ont. Mr. Kelly has since bought a large farm of his own and expects to pay for it with cows of the same type. Of course he will succeed; and along the lines indicated in the article adjoining.

silo, thus making a better material for mixing with straw."

"Why don't you make it your main ensilage crop?" Mr. Kelly was asked.

"Oh, you can easily have too much of a good thing," he replied. "If I had 10 or 15 acres, instead of two, I wouldn't have been able to get a neighbor to exchange help for silo filling or hire men to load it next year. At best harvesting the corn crop is not an easy job. At worst it is harvesting Mammoth Southern Sweet."

Manure or Grain For Clover

Mr. Kelly finds that manure gives better returns on clover than on corn. "Almost any well-tilled land will grow a good crop of corn," he says. "In our practice manure follows corn and helps to get a good catch of clover." He also favors the practice of spreading it thinly over a large area rather than thickly over a small area.

Though wheat and seed oats add to the general revenue, the principal source of income on