

The Canadians are eager to have cows with good bags, teats that can be easily milked, and a milk record. The Canadian buyers who are with us say that they were never the better of our "milk stock," but that they have done well with young queys, bought out of what we have designated our "yeld section." These are well-made, big cows, which yield plenty of milk. Cows up to a good size, and of the right shape, are what is wanted, provided they have a certified-milk record. Unfortunately, we have some ways of keeping or stating milk records that are quite misleading, and a strong effort is being made to put the system on a sound basis. These efforts are to be crowned with success, and the shows which have been held during the past few weeks show a marked improvement in the direction of greater utility in the dairy properties of Ayrshire cattle. The championships of the breed at the three leading spring shows have been going to big, useful, healthy-looking dairy cows.

#### REVOLUTION IN COW-BYRE TEMPERATURES.

In this connection, the Highland Society has resolved to renew the experiments in 1909 which have sought to discover the truth as to the temperature in which a dairy cow yields her best. The theory hitherto has been that, in order to get this result, the byre must be kept warm; that is, at a temperature of over 60 degrees F. The experiments of 1908 have, however, rather shaken faith in this theory, as the results in byres which are kept at a high temperature and those kept at a low temperature exhibit no practical difference.

These results are so much opposed to long-established theories that it has been resolved to renew the experiments for another season. Should 1909 yield the same results as 1908, a good many theories will require to be set aside. Byres hitherto considered ideal for milk production will likely be overhauled, if not closed, and cows will be kept under much more healthful conditions than those to which they have been accustomed. However, let us not anticipate. These are the lessons which the past season's trials have taught.

#### CLYDESDALE NOTES.

Clydesdales are being shown in goodly numbers this year. So far, the females have excelled the males in merit. The brood-mare classes at the three principal spring shows have filled well. The championship of the female section in two cases out of three, has gone to D. Y. Stewart's dark-brown, five-year-old mare, Veronique, by Montrave Ronald. She has a nice foal at foot by Silver Cup. The stallions of all ages are bigger than usual. The champion at Kilmarnock was the Messrs. Montgomery's unbeaten Fyvie Baron, a wonderful colt, which has never known defeat. At Ayr, the same owners' British Time, a very thick, round-ribbed, short-legged three-year-old, was champion. His movement is close, and of the class always looked for, but seldom found. And at Glasgow, W. S. Park's big, powerful, dark-colored horse, Laird of Erskine, the district premium horse this year. These are three horses of quite outstanding distinction, and capable of waging war for the Clydesdale in any company. Fyvie Baron created a sensation last year, when he was unbeaten, and this year he promises to repeat the performance. His breeder, John P. Sleight, St. John's Wells, Fyvie, achieved remarkable success at the Glasgow show this week. He was first in three classes with gets of Baron's Pride, two of them, a yearling and a two-year-old, full sisters, and the third, the well-bred horse, Baron Ian, which won in the two-year-old class. A man might live to a green old age and not achieve anything like the same result a second time.

#### THE WHEAT GAMBLE.

What's the meaning of the wheat boom? Is wheat in reality scarce, or is this little game purely the work of one man who has "made his pile" out of artificially raising the price of the food of the people? If it is the latter, with us the question would be, "What punishment does the man merit who makes a fortune out of such things?" The question is not easily answered, and those interested might work a long while at it before it would yield itself to reason.

"SCOTLAND YET."

#### Shearing the Sheep.

While many breeders, especially those who exhibit at the prominent shows, have probably shorn most of their sheep, unwashed, before this date, the majority of flock-owners are waiting for warmer weather, with the intention of washing the wool on the sheep's back before shearing. The prospect is that, owing to the unusual tardiness of the coming of warm weather this year, shearing will be later than usual. It is safer for the health of the men who take part in the washing, as well as for the sheep, to wait till warm weather comes, before undertaking the operation. The sheep should be driven slowly to the place of washing, in order to avoid getting them overheated, and they should be carefully handled in taking them into the water and while being

washed, as they are naturally timid, and liable to suffer injury from fright. It is cruel to force them to jump from the bank of a river or pond into the water. Indeed, we have known instances of sheep so treated dying suddenly in the hands of the washer. They should also be led out of the water quietly, and held for a minute or two while they get their breath, and are strong enough to walk away with the added weight of water in their fleece. A week should be allowed to intervene between the washing and shearing, to allow the yolk removed by washing to be re-

up from the tail end to the neck end, a thumb-rope twisted from the wool at that end tightly drawn around the fleece, and the end safely tucked under the bandage, when it is ready for storage or marketing.

A. H. Foster, Carleton Co., Ont., referring to recent inquiries as to the cause of pigs dying, surmises, from his experience as a successful breeder, that the trouble may be indigestion, for which he recommends a little fresh clay, fed daily, as all pigs require earth when housed.

## THE FARM.

### Fighting Quack Grass.

Farmers who have had experience with quack grass (also called couch, twitch, scutch and quitch grass) are almost unanimous in the opinion that it is one of the most serious weed pests known to agriculture. Its tough, wiry nature, and the persistency with which shoots appear from the wide-spreading, fleshy rootstocks, make it very difficult to eradicate.

With the industrious, patient farmer, however, nothing is impossible, if intelligence is combined with the work. The nature of the root system makes it impossible to rid a field by simply cutting off the top and preventing the production of seed. These rootstocks must be put out of business. The sun in summer and the frost in winter can be made use of to advantage. But the chief aim should be to "starve" them out. Roots cannot endure if tops are not allowed to develop and elaborate food. The time to begin the starving process will have to be regulated according to conditions. It can readily be understood that the best time to start would be when the roots are weakest. A study of such plants shows that the roots are lowest in vitality about the time the crop above ground is mature. In other words, the vitality of the whole plant has been expended in maturing seed. But the observant farmer knows that it is not safe to allow any weed to mature its seed. Therefore, the attack must be made before the crop has developed sufficiently to have seed that will germinate.

For fields that are completely overrun with quack grass, then, it is evident that, by allowing the weed to grow in early summer, and cutting it off before the seed is formed, the weakened roots can best be attacked. Perhaps the mown crop can be made use of for rough feed or bedding in the stables. Immediate plowing and thorough harrowing, followed by repeated use of the spring-tooth, and the raking of roots up into windrows, from which they may be hauled off and burned, with cultivation sufficiently frequent to prevent young shoots from appearing above ground, will go a long way toward eradicating the weed before winter sets in. Make it a point to be thorough. A few extra cultivations may mean the difference between failure and success. By plow-

ing late in the fall just deep enough to leave the maximum mass of roots exposed to the frosts of winter, with special watchfulness and thorough cultivation in spring and early summer, followed by the sowing of some rapidly-growing and smothering crop, such as rape or buckwheat, the task is completed, except under abnormal conditions. Continuous wet weather, of course, might result in some of the rootstocks retaining vitality.

With a favorable season, it is often possible to eradicate quack grass by shallow-plowing late in the spring. Then harrow down well and plant corn in hills, cultivating and cross-cultivating a dozen times, if necessary, during the summer. Or

practice thorough and frequent surface cultivation until June, and seed to a smothering crop—perhaps rape, millet or buckwheat—which will keep ahead of the weakened plants and choke them out. Some advise following this treatment with a hoe crop the next season. In any event, a watchful eye must be kept, and treatment given according to the state in which the infested area is. In hot, dry weather, frequent surface cultivation is a sure remedy.

Where a field is found to be infested only in



The Dreaded Quack Grass.

Note the running rootstock, sending up numerous shoots. In order to fight this pest successfully, these shoots must be kept down, and no green allowed to develop, so that the rootstocks will be starved.

newed, thus adding to the weight of the fleece and the facility of shearing. It is a good plan to trim the hoofs of the sheep while on the shearing floor, as these are apt to be overgrown from standing on manure in the shed during the winter months, and this condition is liable to cause foot-rot, which may prove very troublesome, if neglected. It is well to keep on hand a small phial of powdered bluestone, to dust into any unsoundness found in the hoofs, or any cuts accidentally made in trimming the hoofs. Description of the operation of shearing is unnecessary for those who have had experience, but, since new flocks are being founded, and in some instances by those having had no experience, it may be explained that the usual practice is to set the sheep on its



Farm Home of Harry Mitchell, Mono Road, Peel Co., Ont.

rump on a barn floor, a temporary platform of planks, or a clean grass plot, commencing by shearing off the wool from the brisket, belly and buttocks; then commencing at the cheek on one side, clipping from the throat to the backbone till all that side is cleared, then turn to the other side and shear from the back of the neck to the throat and belly, ending at the thigh, when the operation is finished. As soon as the fleece is taken off, it should be spread on the floor, bright side down, the edges turned in, the fleece rolled