

### What is Pasture for?

James Armstrong, Wellington Co., Ont.

For what do we turn our work horses to pasture at night? I should say for the benefit that they will derive from the fresh air and the opportunity of living for a few hours right next to Nature.

Some farmers seem to have the entirely mistaken idea that the chief value of pasture at night is the food that the horse will get from the grass. I have known farmers to unhitch their horses in the yard, take the harness off and turn them right into the pasture. The next morning when the horses were brought in for work again, they might get a small feed of grain or they might not.

#### NO ENERGY TO FORAGE

You see, these horses had been out in the pasture all night. One would think to hear these men talk that horses never needed to sleep or rest. A horse that has been worked hard in the fields all day has no superfluous energy left to run around the pasture looking for food. If they have to do it the result will be a tired horse next day.

We turn our working horses to pasture at night, but before they go out they always get a good feed of grain and a moderate feed of hay. When brought in again in the morning they get as much to eat as if they had never been to pasture at all. Many of the thin, under-conditioned teams that we see around the country owe their condition to this abuse of pasture.

### Thirteen Years of Silo Experience

Wm. Jull, Oxford Co., Ont.

Thirteen years ago, after reading experiences of silo users, and then inspecting several silos, we erected a wooden one, 10 by 10 by 24 feet, in the corner of our barn. This silo was one of the first in the northern part of Norfolk county, where I was living at that time. Now there is hardly a farm in that part of the county without one silo, and some farmers have two.

I was so well satisfied with that first silo that the next year I erected another outside of the barn. Both are still in fairly good repair and in use.

#### SILOS ON NEW FARM

Over four years ago we bought a farm in Oxford county, a mile north of Norwich, on which there was no silo. The first summer we built a cement one, diameter 12 feet, height 35 feet, wall 10 inches at bottom, six and a half inches at top. The next summer I built another beside it the same size. They are called "The Twins." The first one cost \$112 and the last one \$96, without roofs, besides our own work and the board of the men. Cement was cheaper one year than the other.

We like two small silos much better than one large one; one for summer feeding and one for winter. With a large one we could not feed enough off each day to keep the silage from spoiling. With our two silos we feed 16 cows in summer and about 25 head of cattle in winter. Last year was the first time we had enough silage for all summer. We found it the cheapest and best feed we have used for milk cows. It is always ready and they like it.

#### PREFER SILAGE TO CLOVER

Last summer we conducted a little experiment. We cut green clover, then green oats and barley, for the cows; and then gave them silage. They gained in milk production as soon as they were given silage. Then we gave them green corn and they went down in milk right away. We generally give each cow in summer as much silage as she will eat up clean morning and night. In winter also they get what they will eat clean, about 50 pounds each.

Of course when the grass is flush the cattle don't need the silage, and it spoils if left uncovered. I have kept mine the last two summers by rousing it in the middle, making the sides about one and a half feet lower than the centre. We sweep the chaffy stuff from the barn floor and put it over the silage so that it covers the middle about three or four inches. We dampen this chaff well and tramp it down solidly. Then we wheel the long straw from the horse stable and put a covering of that over the ensilage and tramp it down. This we have found to keep the ensilage perfectly.

#### MORE ALFALFA, LESS ENSILAGE

Last year was the first that we have had alfalfa hay in any quantity, and from our short experience we believe that alfalfa and a little less ensilage will give better results than ensilage alone.

We have had several years' experience with silos, and I do not believe that a stock farmer can make a mistake in having plenty of ensilage.

### Will the Sire be a Success

G. D. Mole, Prescott Co., Ont.

We have no place in Canada for the 3,000-pound cow. With the high price which dairymen are now forced to pay for feed, and the high prices which they receive for the finished products, dairying is a business which requires as much skill, if not more, to conduct successfully than any other profession. How, then, shall we lay the foundation for this most important business? How are we going to continue a business that we are certain will give greater returns for the capital invested than any other line of farming? We know that in years past the scrub bull has been a great hindrance to progressive



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dairying. He has taken millions of dollars out of the pockets of the farmers of this country. When I mention the pure-bred sire some will take me to task and say, "Why, the poorest cow I ever bred was sired by a pure-bred bull." That may be so, for all breeders of pure-bred stock must acknowledge that there are a great many bulls registered that should never have been. The dairyman will then ask, "What assurance have I that the registered bull that I have at the head of my herd may not prove a failure?"

#### SCRUB PURE-BRED SIRE

Do not think that because the bull which you have at the head of your herd has a pedigree that he will sire cows and heifers that will qualify in the Record of Performance test. Nothing of the kind. Your bull has within himself, like all other sires, the power to impress on others the same characteristics as were impressed on him by his ancestors. He cannot do more. I attended, some time ago, a sale of a farmer's stock. The owner of this herd had always kept a pure-bred bull. A number of the females were registered. The only sign of pure breeding visible was the color of the cattle. How could I account for this if not in the fact that the pure-bred bulls used had been of the inferior kind and left no marked impression on the herd?

The only assurance we dairymen have that our pure-bred sires will not prove a failure lies in the sires' ancestors. Let us make sure that the bulls that we have at the head of our herds are backed by satisfactory records. We should not be satisfied with a pedigree alone. A pedigree adds value to an animal for exhibition purposes, but when it comes to selecting a bull for the head of your dairy herd, let us see to it that we have a bull with records, the best that your purse can afford.

### Summer Management of Work Horses

James Montgomery, Dundas Co., Ont.

In a recent issue of *Farm and Dairy* work horses are spoken of as the greatest power on the farm. They are. But you wouldn't think it to see the way some farmers use their work horses. During the spring, summer and fall horses have pretty continuous hard work, and it is in those times that they should receive the very best of care and attention.

In feeding my teams I depend on the grain leg and the hay more than the pasture. I do not believe that a hard working horse can get enough nourishment to sustain it from pasture alone, especially when it is only on pasture a part of the day or at night. Our teams are good Clydes, weighing about 1,400 pounds a head. Their ration for the day consists of three gallons of oats (we are substituting about one-third of corn by weight for an equal amount of oats at the present time) and a reasonable feeding of hay morning and night. Our practice is to give a moderate feeding of grain in the morning, about the same at noon and a heavy feeding at night.

My teams do not work after six o'clock and

they have the whole night to quietly digest this food and make the best of it.

#### GROOMING AIDS DIGESTION

Another point that is altogether too often neglected is in the matter of grooming. In the hot weather when horses sweat freely, grooming is especially essential. In fact, I do not believe that an ungroomed horse can properly digest its food. I have found that hired men have a habit of using the smoothing brush and wiping cloth more than the curry comb. I always insist on a thorough use of the latter. After a hot day's work the horses appreciate a rub down with the curry comb and brush, when they have cooled off.

I regulate feeding according to the work that is being done. When the teams get run down somewhat in condition, due to hard, continuous work at spring seeding, there is often a temptation to continue heavy feeding during the middle days that precede the harvest in order to get them back into good condition. This is a big mistake. Less work should be accompanied by less feed. Otherwise we will have digestive troubles galore and may have to learn our lesson by losing a horse or two through lymphangitis, if we even prepare for Sunday by reducing the rations on Saturday night and also at the morning and noon feeds of the day of rest.

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I should like to see the young men of our strenuous labors of the day feel the same note the trail of the wake of an animal happy, care-free, down whose spine may perhaps be made them toberade them together to chuck their street."

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