

The Best Milking Period.

Sometimes it is important to know at what time in a cow's lactation period she is at her best as a milker; in other words, at what time after she becomes fresh will she make the best showing as a dairy cow, says the Farmer. This period varies in different animals in the herd, and not only with different animals but also with the same cow in different years. Recently the Nebraska station has been investigating this question of what week in the lactation period of the cow may be expected to give the best results. Out of a total of 239 records, 155 of which were furnished by the Minnesota station and 84 by the Nebraska station, some very interesting tables were compiled and some important conclusions were derived. A record of milk and a record of butter production was kept in each case. It was shown that nine-tenths of the cows made their best records during the first month. The first week was calculated as beginning four days after calving, thus making the first week end 11 days from the time the cow became fresh.

Of the 239 cows, six reached their highest week of milk production the first week of lactation, 59 the second week, 62 the third week, 32 the fourth week, 23 the fifth week, 12 the sixth week, nine the seventh week, and the remaining 35 reached their best week at various later periods.

In butter production eight cows out of the 239 made their best record the first week, 61 the second, 52 the third, 27 the fourth, 21 the fifth, 14 the sixth, 12 the seventh, and the remaining 44 head attained their best at a later week in the period of lactation. From these records it will be noted that the highest percentage of cows produced their best milk yield during the third week while the larger number made the best butter record during the second week of lactation. There is but little difference indicated between the second and third weeks in milk production, but the records show that the average cow reaches her highest production of butter fat a little earlier than she does her greatest milk flow.

Selling Prune Vinegar.

John Chapman, of Wilbur, Douglas county, has a car load of prune vinegar ready for shipment. The fact that waste prunes could be profitably converted into a fine vinegar was first demonstrated by Prof. Prenot, at the college (O. A. C.), who made such vinegar and issued a bulletin on the subject. The bulletin gave full directions of the methods to be employed, and likewise announced that germs for the purpose would be supplied on application. Both the bulletin and the germs have been applied for by a great number of people, and the proposed shipment of a car load of the finished product at Wilbur is one of the results.

The one particular in which prune vinegar differs from the purest cider vinegar is the color, which, in prune vinegar is dark. This, instead of being a drawback is an advantage. The darker vinegars are all the subject of counterfeits and imitations made of acids and other unwholesome materials, detrimental to health and worse than worthless as diet. The darker color in prune vinegar will be a stamp of purity, and on this account, the product will probably be sought when placed on the market.

Prof. Prenot now has at the college many barrels of pure vinegar, which is far above the requirements in acid content, and, save in color is perfect in all essentials of a first-class commercial vinegar. It is to be placed on the market early in the Autumn.—Corvallis Times.

A Terrible Crime.

Near Hamilton, Mont., last week in a spirit of revenge, Walter Jackson murdered a little boy six years old by drowning him in an irrigating ditch by imbedding his head in the mud and on Monday the case was given a preliminary examination and today the Coroner's finding will be examined into. It is certain that the prisoner would be summarily dealt with if taken back to the scene of his crime. The authorities have assured the people that justice will be dealt out without delay and the people appear quieter.

The prisoner is closely concealed in a steel cage and doubly guarded, as the authorities are very apprehensive of an attack on the jail and are taking every precaution to protect the prisoner. Jackson still maintains his innocence. He has, however, been positively identified by Mrs. Charles Beck, Miss Vivian Warner and N. B. McNett as the man who accompanied the murdered child late in the evening when he was last seen alive. An immense concourse attended the murdered boy's funeral, which was held Monday.

Nothing to Fear.

We protect our manufactures by preserving the home market to them, and being so stimulated they are able to supply that market and have large surpluses to send abroad. England might attempt to protect her agricultural population (considering those in her colonies), but she would still have to import food. We might doubt the efficacy of our Protective system if we still had to import most of our manufactures. As it is, our food question and our manufacturing question are wholly dissociated, save as thriving manufactures make more demand for the products of our soil. But in Europe these questions are inextricably mixed, and the protective tariff cannot be used in the case of either of them without seriously injuring the other.

So we really have nothing to fear in any European proposal for tariffs of the protective kind, whether directed against the interests of the United States or in a vain endeavor to exalt some country above the station which nature has assigned her.—Kansas City Journal.

The Machiavelli of Nations.

Cæsar once dreamed of an empire consisting of the entire world, with Rome—his Rome, as he then regarded it—as the capital. But Brutus and Cassius lived at that time, and Cæsar's dream ended in his assassination.

The present czar of Russia is the worthy if somewhat anemic young man who suggested the conference the result of which was The Hague peace tribunal. The czar would not be guilty of stepping on a worm, we are told, and yet he is willing to stand as sponsor for one of the most elaborate and most iniquitous schemes of aggrandizement the world has ever known. Beside the Russian scheme Cæsar's dream pales into insignificance, for while it does not contemplate the grabbing of the entire known surface of the earth the number of persons involved in it greatly exceeds the number who would have been brought under the yoke of Rome had Cæsar's light not been opportunely snuffed out by his erstwhile friends, who wanted to do the land grabbing themselves.

For many years Russia has been trying so to shape things in Europe that she might have the right to go in or out of the Black sea via the Dardanelles as she might see fit. She has sent vessels through, but it has always been with the "permission" of the sultan. Compulsion would long since have taken the place of "requests" were it not for that intangible "balance of power" which is but another way of saying "international jealousy." This fetich has kept Russia and everybody else out of Turkey, but Russia is still hopeful, and close observers agree that it is but a question of time when Russia will either get what she wants there or, at any rate, try to get it by force of arms.

Afghanistan is another country upon which Russia long since cast envious glances. It would be useful as a means of checking England's growth in the East Indies. If Russia could arrive at an "understanding" with the ameer of Afghanistan she would have a powerful weapon to wield whenever England might object to her designs in Asia. Besides, it would also afford her the opportunity to reach tide water on the southern coast of Asia, something for which she has long wished.

Russia's selfish conduct in Manchuria is too well known to require repetition here. Going into Manchuria for the ostensible purpose of restoring order and protecting the interests of foreigners, she has stuck like a leech and is still promising as regularly as ever that she will soon get out. But she doesn't get out and, indeed, apparently has no intention of doing so unless the other powers shall eventually force her to do so.

There are those who declare that if she did not fear the vengeance of all Europe, with the single exception of France, Russia would speedily find an excuse to make war upon the kingdom of Norway and Sweden and then upon poor little Denmark, despite the fact that the czar's mother is a daughter of the aged monarch of that little country. This would provide a safe passage of the Skager Rack and the Cattegat into the Baltic sea. But there is no likelihood that Russia will obtain so strong a strategic position without actual war with Europe combined, and that she is not hankering after.

But, after all, when one reflects how Russia stepped in after Japan had whipped China and, depriving the brave little island empire of the fruits of her victory, actually turned it to her own advantage it will be seen that in Russia's Machiavellian scheme of politics she has her future goal, no matter how distant, ever before her and steadily moves toward it.

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