

THE DAIRY.

Butter.

The milk of a cow or other female mammal is seen under the microscope to consist of a clear fluid, containing a number of minute oil globules. If a drop of acetic acid (purified vinegar) be added, many of the globules will be seen to coalesce and form little granular masses of fat. The globules are enclosed in a delicate membrane which the acid seems to break down. This result is accelerated by agitation. The operation of churning consists in agitating the milk till the globules adhere together, or, as it is technically called, till "the butter comes." It was formerly thought that the cohesion of the butter-globules was brought about by the formation of an acid in the milk, as shown by the sourness of the buttermilk, even when the cream used is perfectly sweet. But it has been found that this acid is neutralized by bi-carbonate of soda, the butter will come quite as readily. The best temperature for churning has been found by experience to be between 50° and 55° Fahrenheit.

Butter, chemically, is a mixture of fats, being composed of glycerine, in combination with palmitic, stearic, oleic, and small quantities of capric, caprylic, caproic and butyric acids. It is to the glycerides of the last four acids that butter owes its peculiar odor and flavor. In practice, butter always contains more or less buttermilk which has not been separated from it. This buttermilk consists of water holding in solution a kind of sugar called milk sugar and casein, or the substance which forms curds, and from which cheese is made. This casein differs from the other constituents of milk by containing nitrogen, and like all nitrogenous organic bodies, is very liable to putrefaction. If the casein contained in the butter becomes putrid, it will communicate its decomposing condition to the other constituents of the butter, and hence the latter will become rancid. Rancidity consists in the separation of the fatty acids mentioned above from the glycerine with which they are united in the fresh state, which separation brings out the peculiarly unpleasant taste, smell and other properties of these acids. Intimately connected as this process is with the presence of readily putrescent casein in the buttermilk retained in the butter after churning, it becomes a most important object to get rid of this most injurious impurity—an impurity far worse in its influence on the preservation of the butter than many an adulteration; the detection of which would be fatal to the sale of this important product. Too much stress cannot be laid upon the care which should be taken to free the butter from the buttermilk by the ordinary methods of washing with water, kneading, etc. In addition to these methods, the admixture of a proper proportion of salt. One quarter of a pound of salt to six pounds of butter has been recommended for this purpose. Another method of preserving butter is as follows: The butter is melted in a vessel immersed in hot water, and the heat continued until all the curdy matter has subsided to the bottom and the butter is transparent. The clear melted butter is then poured off, or strained through a cloth, and cooled by cold spring water or ice. Butter cured in this way is said, if kept in a cool place, or in a close vessel, to keep for six months or more, as sweet and good as when first prepared. There has been much discussion recently in England on the subject of the adulteration of butter, the detection of some of the ingredients fraudulently added being very difficult. The usual adulterations comprise water, salt, and various kinds of fat, such as lard, suet and dripping. The water and salt are added by melting the butter and pouring them in while it is in the fluid state. By stirring round until all is cold, the salt and water are thoroughly incorporated with the butter. The presence of the water may be ascertained by placing the butter in a common four-ounce phial, and putting this into hot water until the butter melts. On standing, the water sinks to the bottom, while the butter floats at the top. To determine the presence of a fraudulent quantity of salt the butter is calcined, when the salt is left as an ash. Of course butter always contains a certain proportion of water and salt; but there should not be more than 1 per cent. of the former, and 5 per cent. of the latter.—Canada Farmer.

Bran and Corn Meal for Cows.

The Practical Farmer says: It is well settled in the opinion of all our best dairymen that bran greatly promotes the milk secretions in cows, and it is fed almost universally. About equally mixed with corn meal is the usual proportion. This mixture seems to promote both quantity and quality of milk. From several sources we hear that buckwheat bran is a great producer of milk, and it is being used considerably among our Chester county dairymen, in about the same proportion as the other. Thomas Gawthrop, near West Grove, Chester county, also by repeated trials with his own cows, has fully satisfied himself that they do as well with corn and cob meal and bran as with pure corn meal and bran. The amount of nutriment in corn cobs is so very small that this result will have to be explained on the supposition of the ground cob acting to promote digestion by distending the stomach. The presence of bulky material being necessary to promote distension and fill up the stomach of ruminating animals, before digestion can be accomplished, is frequently lost sight of. Hungarian grass is also found for milch cows to be rather superior to the ordinary run of hay. The last year or two Hungarian grass has loomed up wonderfully in the estimation of our dairy farmers; and a very large scope of land will be sowed with it the coming season. It matures for cutting in about sixty days, and produces two to four tons per acre—the latter of course on good soils. Three pecks to the acre is the usual allowance of seed.

Large, Medium, or Small Sized Cows.

The larger a cow may be, the better she is—provided she has the necessary organization to constitute her a first-class milker, but large sized cows are not very likely, as a general rule, to possess the requisite qualities which go to make up the best milch cow, but the reverse is generally the case, that in the organization of a large sized cow she is better adapted for beef, and therefore less profitable for cheese or butter. The difference between a large or small sized cow, in case neither are very good cows, would be in favor of the small cow, if kept for a series of years as milkers, on account of the less amount of food consumed by her; and observation will justify the positive conclusion in case a large sized cow is only a tolerable milker, that the cheese and butter made from her milk do not pay for her feed, and consequently instead of being a profit is a loss to her owner. There has been a desire for many years among dairymen, either in the raising of cows or in the purchasing of them, to obtain a small or undersized cow; it being the general opinion, all things considered, that she is the most profitable, and, consequently, dairymen, when they could do so, obtained the small sized cow, and in this way quite a contrast in the size of cows now kept as compared with those that were formerly kept, can easily be seen.

In this selection, for quite a number of years, of small cows, much loss has occurred to dairymen, and that too, without they, as a general thing, being aware of the fact; but nevertheless it is so, that a dairy of cows is much inferior in milking qualities to the dairies formerly kept, nor is this the least bad effect in making the small cow less profitable, for in this continued selection of stock, in size has not only dwindled down to an inferior kind in the formation of a cow, but she is so degenerated from various causes, that she does not last over two-thirds the time she ought to as a milker.

If medium sized cows were raised or purchased by farmers which possessed the right points for a good multiplier, these cows would not only last longer but there would be other advantages gained over the small sized cow, for in her superior constitution less care would be required in keeping her, and she would also possess less tendencies to disease.

There is a law in physical science of universal application in the whole animal creation, and it cannot be violated with impunity without serious results, and this law has an exact application where the effort is made to so breed stock that when all the natural elements are not developed the physical equilibrium is lost; and as an inevitable consequence degeneracy and premature decay are the natural result. Nature has no law save the one that governs it, and this law involves certain causes and consequences.—Pomeroy's Democrat.

Changing Seed.

If farmers were always careful to sow none but plump grains, of pure seed; that is, seed of one variety, unmixed, we see no reason why they should change their seed. Where seed of a good variety is mixed with seed of a variety inferior in quality, but of greater vigor, the more vigorous kind will gain upon the better kind, and the quality will deteriorate. Also, when inferior, shrunken grains are sown the wheat must deteriorate; but where pure, plump grains are always sown upon soil in good condition, we do not believe that there is anything in the seedbed that should affect the quality, or constitution of the wheat. We have known instances where farmers have carefully saved the most perfect ears of seed corn for a succession of years, and the quality of the variety has improved. We believe, that if equal care were exercised in saving seed wheat, the result would be similar. We do not doubt that benefits have resulted from changing seed, but we suspect that it was where a careless farmer bought his seed of a more careful one.

We would advise, where a change is made, procuring seed from a better and cleaner soil, and we should consider this of greater importance than a soil of different texture or composition.

We should prefer seed already adapted to the climate, and we should change just as often as our seed became poor.—Rural Home.

FULTZ WHEAT.—In Yates county, New York, a careful experiment was made by a correspondent of the department with Fultz and Treadwell wheats, with reference to testing their respective merits. During the summer of 1872, an eight acre field of gravelly loam, which had been cultivated the previous year in fodder-corn, was sown in 1871 and 1872, in the latter year the manure plowed under at first ploughing. Under a plot of one-eighth of an acre of this ground, five quarts of Fultz were sown broadcast, September 10, 1872. Treadwell was drilled upon the remaining part of the field September 18th, at the rate of two bushels per acre. The former was harvested July 7th, and yielded four and a quarter bushels, or thirty-fold upon its seed; the latter was harvested July 25th, and yielded twenty bushels per acre, or ten-fold upon its seed.

All who are perfectly acquainted with the subject must have seen that the best crops of wheat are produced by being preceded by crops of clover grown from seed. I have come to the conclusion that the very best preparation, the best manure, is a good crop of clover. A vast amount of mineral manure is brought within reach of the corn crop which, otherwise would remain in a locked up condition in all the soil. The clover plants take nitrogen from the atmosphere, and manufacture it into their own substance which on decomposition of the clover roots and leaves, produces abundance of ammonia. In reality, the growing of clover is equivalent, to a great extent, to manuring with Peruvian guano.—Prof. Vockler.

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