

PROFITABLE DAIRYING

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What the Dairy Cow Has Been Doing

In Iowa there are produced annually almost 3,000,000 bushels of corn. The Iowa farmer realizes that if each year this entire crop, together with the other farm crops that are raised, were to be shipped out of the state entirely in their natural form there would be removed such a large amount of fertility annually that in the course of a very few years farm lands would be so depleted that it would be almost impossible to raise crops sufficiently large to pay for the expense of raising them, and this is true of all states in the central west.

Profiting by the experience of the farmers of the eastern part of the United States, the western farmer has learned that although his farms are now rich and fertile and capable of producing extremely large crops, still there is a possibility of removing all of the available fertility. The great problem confronting all farmers of today is how to feed the large and rapidly growing population. It is necessary not only to continue producing as large an amount of food upon the farms of the west, but in the future much more must be raised per acre of ground farmed than has ever been raised before if people are to have as much to eat and wear as they have had in the past. This is due to the fact that the population of the United States is rapidly growing and new farms of great yielding value are becoming very scarce. This point is exemplified by the fact that last year larger crops were raised than ever before, and with the exception of a very few years in history, prices rule higher than ever before.

Intensified Farming.

All this points to one general fact, namely, that the farms of the west must be worked more intensely, and perhaps instead of one or two crops being raised, more attention must be given to diversified farming. It is very necessary that the great fertility now present in the soil must be retained at least, and if there is a possible way of increasing the fertility of our farms, attention must be given to this point. Rotation of crops is useful in holding fertility, but it is extremely doubtful whether this method alone will suffice to keep the farms in a profit-producing condition; for the fact is very evident that whenever a bushel of corn, wheat, oats or potatoes or a ton of hay is taken away from the farm, all the fertility which is contained in them goes along and is thus transferred from the farm on which the crop was raised to some other farm or wasted.

There was a time when farms in the New England states were fertile and productive and their owners boasted of the fact that the soil was rich and deep and could never be exhausted. From year to year large crops were raised, a large portion of which was sent across the water to Europe, and gradually the farms of Europe became better and more productive, but this was at the expense of the farms in the New England states, for, as a matter

capable of raising larger crops from year to year, while the other farm became poorer, and in the course of time was useful for very little except to raise weeds. For this reason the western farmer is an extensive feeder of live stock, concentrating the product which he sends to market and retains upon his farm a greater portion of the fertilizing ingredients. All classes of farm animals are useful for this purpose, but the dairy cow is, without doubt, the greatest retainer and builder of soil fertility. This is proven by the fact that a ton of butter, which is now valued at more than \$500, removes from the farm less than 50 cents worth of fertilizing ingredients.

It is true that by the proper system of rotating crops, together with the feeding of grains and grasses raised on the farm to the dairy cow, selling her product in the form of butter and returning the by-products to the land, the Iowa farm can be made to produce more largely from year to year, and



A Cow and Her Three Daughters That Will Each Yield 500 Pounds of Butter in a Year.

each generation that tills the soil will leave the farm to the next generation in even better condition than they themselves inherited it.

Dairy Cow Most Economical Producer.

This is not the only distinct advantage the dairy cow has, for she is furthermore recognized as the most economical producer of food nutrients. Extensive experiments carried on by Messrs. Law and Gilberts show that the cow giving daily ten quarts of milk produces six times as much mineral matter, six times as much nitrogenous material, and an amount of fat equal to the steer that gains in live weight 15 pounds of beef per week. A good dairy cow, too, will accomplish this end by the consumption of cheaper foods than will the steer, for the food of the dairy cow is made up largely of roughage, which is a cheaper kind of food, with a small amount of concentrates, while the ration of the steer is made up largely of concentrates, with a comparatively small amount of roughage.

standing by her side has produced 500 pounds of butter, making for him a profit of from \$75 to \$90 even after considering the value of the skim milk and the manure from the standpoint of its fertilizing value. With this fact in mind and more interested in the business, he is not satisfied at disposing of the poor cows alone, so he begins at once to build up his herd. Then it is that he seeks knowledge relative to the proper points to be observed in the selection, breeding, feeding and the caring for cows, and then it is that it becomes possible for the experts hired by the Iowa State Dairymen's association to be of an assistance to him. The spirit of improvement has reached farther than the legislature and the Dairymen's association, so that at the present time much good is being done by public-spirited men along this same line of improvement.

Iowa Cow Culture Club.

Probably no one has excited so much interest in dairying during the past year as has Mr. W. W. Marsh of Waterloo, Iowa. During this time he has made two or three trips to the Island of Guernsey and imported from there, regardless of cost, nearly 100 head of the very finest Guernsey cattle that money could buy. He was the organizer of the Iowa Cow Culture Club and put up \$1,000 in cash to be divided as prizes among the 12 cows producing the most butter in Iowa. After he had started the game many others followed. The Iowa State Agricultural college at Ames agreed to make official the records of these cows by sending a tester to the home



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of each cow once a month. By so doing, when the year's test has been completed each cow will have an official record of the exact amount of milk and butter that she has produced during the year and there will be no guesswork about it.

Hon. J. J. Richardson of Davenport, Iowa, than whom there is no more influential man connected with the American Jersey Cattle club of New York city, at once set about to induce the Cattle club to duplicate Mr. Marsh's prizes for Jersey cattle that might enter the contest and win. W. B. Barney of Hampton, Iowa, president of the Iowa Dairymen's association and likewise influential with the Holstein-Friesian association of America, induced his association to duplicate the prizes to the extent of \$500 for Holstein cows that might be winners of a portion of Mr. Marsh's money, and then it was that everyone seemed anxious to put up prizes for the good of this cause and seven or eight pure bred dairy bull calves were offered as prizes to competitors owning common grade cows. Dairy separators, milking machines and prizes of all kinds were offered, until finally the prize list amounted to between four and five thousand dollars, and then it was that the farmers of Iowa began entering their cows until at the time when the date for entry closed there were found to be competing in the one large association 160 cows and surprising are the facts that have been revealed from month to month. A large number of the cows have been producing from 49 to 100 pounds of butter per month and, on the other hand, a large number of them have been producing from 10 to 15 pounds of butter a month; or, in other words, some of the cows in the test are the equal in milk and butter production and, in the end, in the production of profits to their owners, of eight or ten of the cows on the other end. This yearly contest will be finished by the first of August, 1910, and the yearly production of 160 cows can then be figured up. At that time it is planned to duplicate the test and already much prize money has been offered for the cows that will enter for another such race.

Now, the value of such a contest is not in the prize which the owner of a cow may win, because this really is a small portion of the real good, but it is surprising as well as very gratifying to find how intense the interest of the owner of the cow becomes when she begins her race in a public contest. He at once wishes to learn the very best ways of feeding and caring for her and there is an impulse which leads him on to increasing his education along lines that will better the conditions in the dairy for all time to come. This growth of interest brings questions from farmers, dairymen and breeders all over the state regarding the building up and caring for the dairy herd. Many are anticipating going into the dairy business and others who have been in the dairy business are anticipating making their business one of less drudgery, shorter hours of confinement and a business of profit with less of the heavy work and care than in most any other line of farming.

When She "Primps."
She walks in beauty like the night,
As some romantic singer said; her eyes give forth a starry light, her lips are of a cherry red; across the floor she seems to float; she seems to me beyond compare a being perfect—till I note the way she has done up her hair. She must have toiled through half a day to build that large, unwieldy mass; she must have used a bale of hay, and strips of tin, and wire of brass; her sisters must have helped to braid, her mother wrought and tinkered there, and butler, cook and chambermaid all helped to wrestle with her hair. And after all the grinding toil, and all the braiding and the fuss, the one effect is just to spoil her beauty and make other people cuss. She walks in beauty like the night where nights are most serenely fair; but, Julius Caesar! she's a sight, when she's got on her Sunday hair!

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Old Acquaintances.
"Mrs. Van Queer says that in a previous existence she was a stray cat in a medieval alley." "That's funny. I wonder if she recalls the gentleman in the purple velvet doublet who opened the casement in the castle tower and sung a bootjack at her? That was me!"

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Smarter Than Most.
The Old Guy—"Huh! Driving an automobile, eh? Young man, when I started in life I had to walk." The Young Chap—"You were smarter than most, sir. When I first started in life I couldn't walk."

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Their Task.
In a sketch about Joseph Fels, the English multimillionaire, who makes soap and naphtha and other things, Lincoln Steffens, writing in the American Magazine, relates the following anecdote concerning him: "Once, when Fels had been stating his proposition at length a listener, who was impressed by the genial humor, the profound kindness and the serene wisdom of this little Jew, turned to him quietly and said, 'Fels, the Jews call themselves the chosen people; the world has acknowledged the title, and I, for example, am willing now, in your presence, to admit that they are indeed the chosen. But what are they chosen for?' 'The Jews,' said Fels, with a careless wave of his arm. 'The Jews were chosen to introduce Christianity.'"

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of fact, the great fertility which was once to be found on these eastern farms had been gradually worked out of the ground, incorporated in the crops that were raised and shipped across the water to Europe, and although the process was slow it was extensive, and the fertility was transferred from the eastern part of the United States to the farms of Europe.

"Many Farmers Rob the Soil."
The western farmer is acquainted with this fact and realizes that to continually grow corn and hay and other farm crops and ship them away from his farm in the raw state means to transfer the fertility from his farm to that owned by some other man; the observing have seen this fact demonstrated.

In many cases where on one side of the road lived a grain farmer and his neighbor across the road fed live stock, gradually—and in some instances quite rapidly—it could be seen that the stock farmer who was buying grain from his neighboring grain farmer was carrying across the road the very best portion of his neighbor's farm. As years went by one farm in this case became better by far and

The annual production of dairy products in the United States returns an income of \$800,000,000, which is equal to one-ninth of the entire value of all farm products. Of this amount Iowa of one cent per pound, this money to be spent for the employing of an expert to do everything in his power for the assistance of the patrons and for the upbuilding of dairying in that community.

Now, experience tells us exactly what will be the result. The farmers of this organization will dispose of the unprofitable cows. They will keep the good cows and during the next year, although they do not produce so large an amount of milk and butter fat, the labor on the farm with the cows will be less, feed will be saved and the net profits will be far greater. Then, and not until then, does the farmer become really interested in the business of milking cows. Then it is that he sees the manner in which real profit can be made from his herd. His eyes have been opened to some really wonderful facts. He has found that where one cow was producing 100 pounds of butter in a year and barely paid for her keeping, another cow

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