

## KEEPING RECORDS OF DAIRY COWS.

A Massachusetts dairyman gives the New England Farmer some good hints on the subject of keeping records of cows, as follows:

For some time past I have been reading of persons who kept accounts with their cows, and I put it down as a fad.

Having a few days off about a year ago I called at some of the different farms just to see what I could see, and I noticed that all kept records of their cows. So I commenced to sit up and ask questions.

I asked the foreman at one place what he thought of such a plan. His reply was: "When first I came to work here I thought it was a waste of time and a bother, but now if I had but two



The Ayrshires have not made any phenomenal records to compare with the Holsteins, Jerseys or Guernseys, but their average production is perhaps equal to any dairy breed's. They have wonderful adaptability and will do well on rather poor land. This quality, with their hardiness and free milking qualities, has made them very popular. No dairy breed produces as good beef as the Ayrshires. They fatten readily when dry and dress out a good proportion of meat. The Ayrshire cow shown is from the herd of the Oregon Agricultural college.

cows I would keep an account with them. You see that young cow there (pointing to a small, ordinary looking cow). Well, she never gave any better than thirty pounds of milk per day when fresh, and I did not think much of her. So I told her owner that she was not much of a cow to keep for profit (all other cows of the herd were giving from forty-five to fifty pounds when fresh). But the owner said he would keep her, as she was a well bred cow and we would give her another trial before we got rid of her. What was my surprise when the end of the year came and accounts were taken to find that same cow the third best cow in the herd and better than her mother, whom we thought a great deal of!"

Well, brother farmers, that set me thinking. As I was buying a cow for which I paid \$75 to \$80, I decided to

keep account of my cows. I got a set of milk scales and record sheets, and I weigh the milk morning and night and put it on record. What seemed a bother at first appears of no moment now, and the satisfaction of knowing what my cows are doing is worth more to me than the extra time it takes to weigh the milk. What a tale that sheet and scales tell! If a cow is not milked dry, if a cow is not feeling well or if any change is made in the feed it will be indicated by the scales. By a glance at the record I start an investigation to find out what is wrong.

And, say, brother farmers, some of my pet cows have lost prestige, and some ordinary cows have taken on new value, while others have had to go to the butchers, as I cannot afford to keep them when I know what they are doing.

The scales are also useful in finding the value of the different feeding rations.

I feel satisfied as to the results of keeping records of my cows, and I think if farmers once started the practice they would not keep cows with out it.

### Feeding a Foal.

Probably nothing at the farmer's disposal contains more mineral or bone forming material than bran and oats, and the colt should have plenty of these and good clover hay from the start. It is quite safe, as a rule, to give as much as two quarts of these concentrates mixed per diem as soon as the colt can be taught to eat them, and this may be gradually increased. The colt's temperament and character should be closely studied, however, and the ration gauged accordingly. These concentrates and clover hay, being rich in protein or flesh forming material, induce rapid development of muscle, sinew and tendon, as well as bone, and such are the great desiderata in colts. Feed liberally of the right kind of feed and nature will do the rest so far as bodily development is concerned.

### Fall Freshening Cows.

Cows freshening in the fall give their very highest production during the most favorable season for milking. By spring they have been in milk six

or six months and naturally begin to decrease. As the hot days of July and August approach and the flies make it unpleasant for milking the cows are giving a small flow. At this time we generally find a drought in most sections, and if no soiling crops or silage are at hand the cows drop off in their milk flow. All of these adverse conditions are avoided if cows are drying off at this period.—Kimball's Dairy Farmer

### Provide Shelter For Pigs.

When left in open lots the pigs should be given shelter from the hot sun by placing a few boards across the corner of the fence, under which a little clean straw can be thrown. Under this the pigs will seek protection from sun and storms.

### WEANING THE LAMBS.

Ewes Should Be Watched to Forestall Possible Udder Trouble.

I always wean my early spring lambs when they are about three and a half months old, says an Illinois shepherd in Rural New Yorker. Some sheepmen advocate allowing them to continue to run with the ewes, but in my experience I have found that the latter will do much better without the lambs and with plenty of good pasture the lambs will make better growth if they are separated from the ewes. I separate the lambs entirely away from the mothers. I make the distance between the ewes and lambs so great that neither can hear the other bleat.

The ewes require some attention at this time. They need to be carefully dried off in milk giving. To do this I put my ewes in the shortest pasture and allow them to have no grain until the milk secretion has dried off. Every two or three days during the time the ewes are being dried off in milk flow I look them over carefully to see if any need milking out.

I regard milking them out an important matter and not to be neglected under any circumstances. In this regard my reason for being so particular is that it is the best milker and the most desirable mother ewe that is most persistent; consequently I would not have her udder spoiled for a little lack of care at this time. As soon as the milk secretion has ceased the ewes are turned on to plenty of good pasture. I do not fatten the ewes, but put them into a plump condition preparatory to entering the breeding period and the winter. The lambs, on the other hand, are pushed rapidly, as quick maturity is a matter of considerable importance if a good profit is to be made from them.

I allow my ewes the run of a good mixed pasture, with access to a little clover, and they do exceedingly well with this and a little grain. The flock is provided with a plentiful supply of good pure water, which is very essential, as a discouraging outcome is apt

to be the result if they are allowed to drink water that is impure. I feed the lambs a small quantity of oats mixed with some bran as an appetizer and allow them the run of a fresh clover pasture, which keeps them growing nicely. Frequent change of pasture is a great help with sheep, particularly with the lambs, which are rather particular about what they eat.

It is just as necessary to see that the sheep have a plentiful supply of good water, especially during the hot weather, as it is to supply plenty of suitable and palatable food. The flock should also be regularly supplied with salt. A flock of sheep salted regularly do far better, remain in a more thrifty condition and make greater gain than those which are supplied with this element at irregular intervals. Protecting the animals from the heat is an important feature. They do not suffer greatly from the heat, provided they have plenty of shade and fresh water.

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