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CHANGE IN METHODS.

Farmers See Necessity of Getting Out of Old Ruts.

By W. D. Foster, Foreman State College Experiment Farm, Pullman, Wash.

An up-to-date farmer nowadays must study the problems that confront him. Consequently there must be a moving out of the old ruts, and the adoption of improved and new methods.

In the eastern part of Washington the growing of wheat is an almost exclusive farming industry, but I believe the present state of affairs in this respect will in the future become merely a memory of the past. There will be changes. The younger generation of farmers that is growing up around us will assuredly adopt different methods.

If I can read the signs of the times correctly, I believe I can safely predict that the state of Washington will, in the near future, become a great dairy state. Even now the farmer who has a few good cows and "attends to business" is never bankrupt. He has in his possession a certain producer of value. With milk and butter he can go to market twice a week, instead of once a year, and in many respects he is free from the annoyances that harass the wheat-growers. But there are some things he must attend to if he would succeed.

Many people there are, indeed, who would not make even a bare living handling cows. To use a familiar expression, "They are not built that way." Nevertheless, it is certainly true that no matter how the farmer is built, the cow is built to yield value quite material in kind.

Lack of pasturage is an objection to dairying in many parts of eastern Washington, of course, but where alfalfa or clover will grow this hindrance can be overcome. And these two valuable forage plants would grow in many places where they are not found at present, if the land was properly fitted to receive the seed. On the experiment station farm we have two fields of clover that have given splendid returns. Both alfalfa and clover are valuable for feeding cows.

Farsighted dairymen now recognize the fact that there is a better method of feeding dairy cattle than by pasturing, especially in regions where land is as valuable as it is in Washington. This is by the proper use of soiling crops, and silos. A very indifferent mathematician can figure that one acre of land well tilled and seeded to some kind of a soiling crop will equal two and one-half acres of the best kind of pasture land for feeding dairy cows. Therefore, even if one has enough land to pasture a large herd of cows, it would be unwise to do so. Every successful dairyman wishes his cow to do the best and yield the best return possible in consideration of the amount of feed consumed and care given. The cow must have favorable surroundings. She must not be permitted to roam all day in search of food, even if requiring only that necessary for a living, aside from the production of milk. To give a large amount of milk at night would be contrary to nature.

The quicker you can get the cow "filled up," the sooner she will lie down and masticate her food. I venture to assert that when milking time comes, if you have the right kind of a cow, and are the right kind of a master, she will not disappoint you.

There are many different kinds of crops that can be grown for soiling purposes. Winter rye, oats, barley and oats mixed, peas and oats, clover, and vetch are some of them. A few will suffice. Care, however, must be taken not to sow too much at one time, with the exception of corn. That can be planted in abundance, because as it approaches maturity it continues to make good feed.

We have grown at the college farm two and one-half acres of peas and oats, which are sown on a north slope, the steepest, perhaps, on the farm, and from this plot have harvested five and one-half tons of hay, in addition to having pastured on the same plot for five weeks a small herd of the experimental farm cattle. This is an example of what can be grown on a small tract carefully tilled.

The farmer who undertakes to manage a herd of cows under this system must make ample provisions. One necessity, of course, is a good stable. This, without elaborate surroundings, can be built at a moderate cost. It should be planned in a way which will enable the farmer to feed ten acres of good pasture to start off with in the spring. His intention should be to use this ten-acre tract for night pasture after he has commenced to feed the cows in the stable. He will also need a mower and a horse rake in the field to lessen the labor of cutting and handling.

For the purpose of winter dairying, no up-to-date man would be without a silo. In this part of the state corn is past the experimental stage. It always matures on the college farm. The cows are fed the year around, and do well, always having an abundance of silage. This process, in my opinion, largely solves the pasture problem.

Naturally, questions arise relative to the expense connected with the feeding of soiling crops. Over in Ontario, which is without doubt a dairy country, soiling and the silo go hand in hand. Every farmer there will tell you that it would not be possible to keep up the flow of milk in his herd without resorting to these methods. If the silo and soiling crops are necessary in a country where, as a rule, they have plenty of rainfall, how much greater is the necessity for their use in parts of the Pacific Northwest where rainfall is not always sufficient?

The time is at hand when a radical change of methods in farming is necessary. Especially is this true in the case of the rancher who does not own a large acreage, since he cannot grow wheat enough to make more than a bare living. The dairy cow opens the way to a more lucrative pursuit. Trained effort, however, is required to handle this opportunity to the best advantage, and there must be concentrated and conscientious effort on the part of the dairyman and every member of his household.

It is not my intention to say what kind of a cow is the best for dairy purposes. That is a problem which dairymen should decide for themselves, but, as a rule, the cow to keep is the one which you fancy most and is best suited to the surroundings you have to offer. Pedigree will not make a cow give milk, but pure-bred sires are necessary in order to have high class grades. Therefore, it is necessary to keep a pure-bred sire at the head of the herd and also to be very careful in the matter of selection.

Insist that the sanitary conditions around your stable are the best possible. Be prompt at milking time. Give the herd the best of care in the matter of feed, salt and water. Keep the cows clean, and permit no one to use rough methods or use obscene language in your cow barn. Have a great big heart for your "job." Your work must be done right; and assuredly, the farmer who is willing to adapt himself to the requirements demanded by the country will be a successful dairyman.

PRUNING TREES.

Professor Thornber Tells How to Procure Best Results.

From Washington State College, Pullman.

In response to an inquiry from Sherlock, Professor W. A. Thornber gave the following discussion of pruning:

"When trees produce too much wood, and not enough fruit, or no fruit at all, it is well to prune them very severely in the summer time, say about June; also cut them back at that time. This is to give the trees a check, and make them produce fruit buds, rather than wood. Here at the station, in the case of young trees, we do considerable early spring, or winter pruning, in order to make the trees produce large quantities of wood. We are thoroughly convinced that it is well for a young tree to produce large quantities of wood, even though you have to cut it out the following spring. This extra growth gives a splendid root development, and this is necessary before you can secure a good tree. In the case of trees that have been grafted, I would recommend that you remove the suckers just as fast as the scions seem able to take care of the entire food supply. In cases where the tree is a very rank grower, I frequently leave a few suckers around the graft, so that the graft may become hardened, and not make such a soft growth.

"Another good plan, at times feasible, is to keep an orchard in grass, and check the growth somewhat in that way. The western soils and an excess of moisture are very conducive to a heavy growth of wood; therefore it is somewhat advisable to grow grass in the orchard, with the idea of checking the growth in this way. Some of our most successful applegrowers west of the Cascades, make a practice of growing grass in their orchards to prevent the growth. The station does not advise you to make use of any kind of fertilizer whatever. A small amount of potash would serve the purpose to make the trees more fruitful, but under no conditions do we advise the use of barnyard manure, or nitrogen, since this would only exhilarate the growth. In your locality, I think you could grow the Gravenstein, Northern Spy, Rhode Island Greening, Jonathan, and probably the Golden Russets very successfully. The station now has specimens of these apples from your locality, and they certainly show up well."

A farmer residing near Larane inquired about the "common sorrel." Professor Beattie replied:

"This is not an extremely serious weed, although sometimes it does damage. If the sorrel has a tendency to choke out the crop, it is an indication that the land is rather deficient in available plant food. You could improve the condition of your region by growing some crop of alfalfa, clover, vetch or peas, and plow such crops under, as this would put humus in the soil, and improve its condition. On the West side, this weed is very abundant in the worn-out soils, and the farmers find it desirable to 'lime' the soil, to make more available plant food."—From the Washington State college, Pullman.

Celery Salad.

One boiled egg, one raw egg, one tablespoonful salad oil, one teaspoonful white sugar, one saltspoonful salt, one saltspoonful pepper, four tablespoonfuls vinegar, one teaspoonful made mustard. Cut the celery into bits half an inch long and season. Eat at once, before the vinegar injures the crispness of the vegetable.

Molasses Cake.

One cup of molasses; one-half cup of brown sugar; one-half cup of shortening creamed with the sugar and molasses; two well-beaten eggs; one teaspoonful of baking soda dissolved in a half-cup of sour milk; one teaspoonful of ginger; two cups of flour. Bake in a sheet in a shallow pan, well greased, in a slow oven.

Raised Muffins.

Scald a pint of milk and when luke warm add one compressed yeast cake dissolved, half a teaspoonful of salt, and two cupfuls and a half of flour. Beat thoroughly and stand aside until very light—about two hours. Then add the yolks of two eggs well beaten, and fold in the well-beaten, and fold in the well-beaten whites. Stand aside for thirty minutes, and bake in greased muffin rings or gem pans.

Stuffed Potatoes.

Choose large potatoes of uniform size and bake. When done, cut off the top of each potato and scoop out the insides with a teaspoon. Mash the potatoes soft with hot milk, and season with salt and pepper and several spoonfuls of grated or Parmesan cheese. Mix well, and return the potato to the skin. Pack the mass in well. Replace the tops of the potatoes which were cut off and return to the oven until hot all through.

Getting Its Strength Out.

Mrs. Wickersham had advertised for an experienced cook. The first applicant who came in answer to the advertisement was a stout, red-haired young woman. Mrs. Wickersham propounded several questions to her, which she answered in a fairly satisfactory manner. Then she asked her:

"How long do you boil tea?"

"Well, mem," said the young woman, "some folks biles it longer, an' some shorter. It's all a matter o' taste."

"But you do boil it, don't you?"

"Oh, yes, cert'nly; but I've allus thought that two hours was long enough to bile any tea. You can git all the stren'th out of it in that time."

A Hard Case.

"His wife earns her own money."

"Indeed! I did not know she was employed."

"Oh, yes; hard at it all the time."

"What does she do?"

"Works him to give it up."—New York Journal.

Man's New Lid.

There is a new belfry covering for the up-to-date man. It arrived from Paris and is called the King Edward hat. This masculine headgear is built on the lines of the feminine flower pot lid and is blocked to resemble the helmet that the man who pounds the pave wears. The hats are made of the same material as the ordinary black derby. Instead of a ribbon bow on the band a buckle clasps it. Several people who arrived from Paris recently wore the new lid. They say the King Edward hat was introduced to France on the king's recent visit.

Vacations' Hardships.

Gwilliams—Have a good rest at that summer resort up north?

Sflint—I did, but it was pretty hard on the girls. They had to walk nearly a mile to mail their picture postcards.—Chicago Tribune.

Righteous Kick.

"The other day," said the caller, "I sent you an item to the effect that I had gone up into Wisconsin on a week-end trip."

"Well?" said the society editor.

"Well," rejoined the indignant caller, "you printed it 'weak kneed' trip!"

Powerful Explosives.

"What are the most powerful explosives known?" queried the young man.

"Two prima donnas in one opera company," replied the ex-theatrical manager.—Chicago News.

When the Dime Museum Burned.

They got the fat woman out
By using a pair of strong derricks;
And when she saw she was safe
She promptly went into hysterics.
—Chicago Tribune.

Typographical Error.

Kutten—I was surprised when this morning's Thunderbolt, in referring to me, said I had a "Websterian intellect."

Dryde—So was the editor. He told me he wrote it "lobsterian."—Chicago Tribune.

Lost Its Potency.

"So you no longer use buttermilk?"

"What's the use?" returned Mr. Fairbanks; "if I drank a gallon of the stuff a day the papers wouldn't notice it."—Philadelphia Press.

Correcting a Misapprehension.

Philanthropic Housewife—You are sadly travel stained, aren't you?

Wareham Long (tackling the cold meat)—No, madam; ye couldn't har'ly call it stain. It's jest dirt. It'll warsh off.

Plagiarism.

"I heard Crittick remark that some of the passages in your comedy were worthy of Congreve," said the playwright's friend.

"My!" exclaimed the playwright. "That's too bad!"

"Why, that means a compliment——"

"It doesn't. It means that he's on to me."—Philadelphia Press.

S.S.S. CURES SKIN DISEASES

When the blood is pure and healthy, the skin will be soft, smooth, and free from all blemishes and eruptions; but when some acid humor takes root in the circulation, its presence is quickly manifested by some form of skin disease. The skin receives its necessary nourishment and strength from the blood. When, however, this vital fluid becomes a humor-laden stream, it can no longer preserve the healthy, natural appearance of the skin, but by its acrid, impure nature continually irritates and inflames the delicate tissues and fibres and keeps the cuticle in a diseased and disfigured condition. External applications cannot reach the blood, and therefore are beneficial only for their ability to reduce inflammation, and assist in keeping the parts clean. To cure any skin trouble the blood must be purified of the humors that are causing the trouble. S. S. S. drives out the humors from the blood so that the skin, instead of being irritated and diseased, is nourished by a healthy, cooling stream. S. S. S. goes down into the circulation and removes every particle of impure matter, all acids and humors, and restores the blood to its normal, pure condition, thereby curing every form of skin disease or affection. Book on skin diseases and any medical advice free to all who write.

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A Musical Spider.

The extraordinary musical sensitiveness of spiders has several times been proved. Every one has heard of Pellisson's spider. Consoler of the unfortunate prisoner, it perished because it listened too closely to the captive's violin. The jailer saw it and crushed it brutally. Gretry, the composer, speaks of a favorite spider which descended along its thread upon his piano as soon as he played it. When giving recitals at Brussels Rubinstein saw a large spider issue from the floor of the platform and listen to the music. He gave three concerts at the same hall, and on each occasion the spider appeared.—Paris Revue.

Forebodings.

The tortoise, having won the race with the hare, was boasting of the exploit.

"Some day, young fellow," said an old tortoise, eying the braggart with disfavor, "that speed madness of yours will be the death of you."

Mothers will find Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup the best remedy to use for their children during the teething period.

Public Baths of Large Cities.

Our present national movement to get the denizens of our congested cities next to godliness is now progressing rapidly, according to reports being received by the Federal bureau of labor, which show that about 40 of our big urban centers now provide public baths. Among these Boston takes the lead with 10 public bathing beaches, 12 public floating baths and one public pool. Next to this record of 23 public baths ranks that of Greater New York with 20, and then that of Philadelphia with 15.

Result of His Observation.

"Conductor," said the haughty passenger, "you ought to know by this time that I always get off at Goethe street."

"I suppose I ought, madam," responded the street car conductor, touching his cap, "but that's where most people fall down."—Chicago Tribune.

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Gossip.

"So there is a coolness between Count Fucash and his wife's relations?"

"Yes. They say his conduct was atrocious."

"Surely he didn't beat his wife!"

"No. But he beat his father-in-law out of several hundred thousand."—Washington Star.

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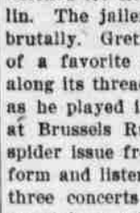
The Stone Did It.

"What's the matter, old man; busted?"

"'Busted' doesn't express it. I'm literally stone-broke."

"What do you mean?"

"It was buying a soltaire ring for my girl that broke me."—Philadelphia Press.



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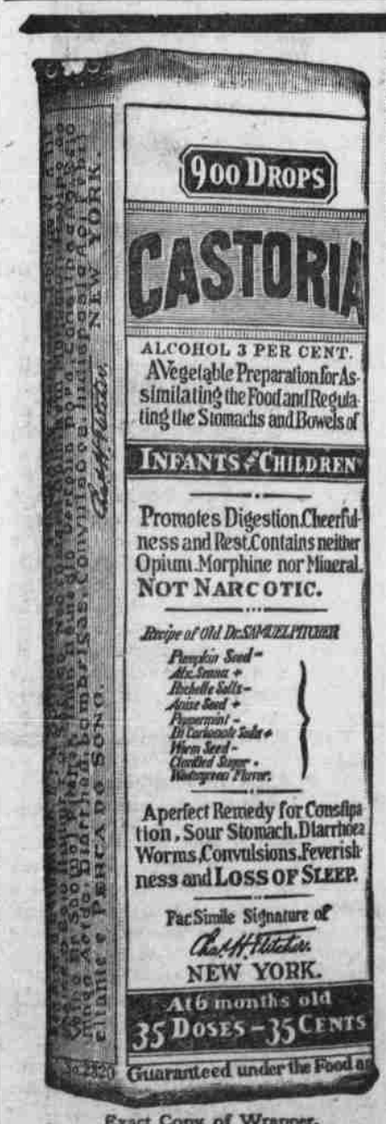

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