

Farmer, Stockman and Dairyman

Good Cows and Others—

Income from dairy cows advances at a remarkable rate as milk production increases. This is why poor producers should be weeded from the dairy herd, particularly at this time when more milk is needed, when feed is in demand, and when labor is scarce. Tabulations of 5,587 cow testing association records gathered by the United States Department of Agriculture from various parts of the country, covering a period of four years, show that as the average butterfat production increased from 150 to 200 pounds the income over cost of feed advanced from \$21 to \$34; that is, a gain of 50 pounds, or 33 1-3 per cent, in production gave an increased income of 62 per cent over cost of feed. The next gain of 50 pounds raised the income over cost of feed to \$50, the next to \$63, the next to \$74, the next to \$87, the next to \$100, and the last to \$118.

As the butterfat production increased from 150 pounds to 300 pounds, the income over cost of feed advanced from \$20 to \$63; in other words, as production doubled income over feed cost advanced three times. When the butterfat production increased from 150 pounds to 450 pounds—that is, trebled—the income over the cost of feed advanced from \$21 to \$100, or almost five times as much.

At this rate of increase, when only cost of feed is considered, one cow that produced 450 pounds of butterfat a year would show as much income over cost of feed as 10 cows whose average production was 100 pounds.

Advantages of Dairy Business—

Among the many advantages of the dairy business a few stand clearly out as follows:

1. It is highly profitable when well conducted because it markets the crops of the farm in the most valuable form, and because it is a business which is capable of almost indefinite development.

2. It is good for the farm because crops are fed at home and because the demand for protein feed brings much nitrogen to the land.

3. Butter is absolutely destitute of fertilizing value, and if the milk be fed almost no fertility leaves the farm.

4. One of the disadvantages of most farming is the irregular income, weeks and even months passing with no cash receipts. The dairy checks, however, are not only frequent but regular throughout the year—an advantage appreciated by those who have kept cows and had the experience of a steady income.

5. It is good for the family to be engaged in producing a high-grade produce which is consumed at a distance and which helps to hold up constantly advancing standards. The farmer lives much alone and is likely to be a "law unto himself." If he has "done well," even by a lucky strike, he is likely to claim the credit himself and to persist in what has once succeeded. His children follow after him, stepping blindly in his footsteps, or else break away because of an instinctive desire to come into touch with a larger number of people. Nothing so much rationalizes the whole family as deal-

ing intimately with the great world of business outside.

All in all, the dairy business is one that commends itself to the best of thinking men as an important means of service, worthy the exercise of the highest faculties and certain to give prompt and full returns for whatever of capital, knowledge and thought may be put into the industry.

Selection of Brood Sows—

In selecting a brood sow it is best to make the choice from a good-sized litter. The sow should have a long body, plenty of teats, a level back, straight, short legs, fine hair and a quiet disposition. This last trait may be observed in a young sow by catching and holding her.

Too much emphasis cannot be placed on the importance of having the sow so gentle that at farrowing time she will allow the attendant to enter the pen if necessary. Sows should not farrow before reaching the age of one year, nor boars be used before attaining the age of 10 months, though many breeds will mate earlier if permitted to do so. It is a common mistake to breed hogs when they are too young. First litters are not usually as good as succeeding ones, and 2-year-old sows are better than younger ones.

A first-class brood sow should be profitable for a number of years—six or seven in some cases.

A few weeks before farrowing time the sow should be put by herself and fed on slops, oats, chop, bran or any laxative food; no corn should be given at this time. The pigs should suck about six weeks; the sow should raise only two litters a year, or possibly five litters in two years.—A. C. Jones.

Grain Weevils Bothering—

Several requests for information regarding a method of getting rid of weevil in wheat have been received by the County Agricultural Agent, N. S. Robb.

These requests are coming from different sections of the county, and are going to cause trouble over a wide area in the county unless checked. They can cause considerable damage to stored grain, says Mr. Robb, and once a place gets badly infested, it is difficult to get rid of them. They should be taken in time, before they spread.

Fumigation with carbonbisulphide is the most satisfactory method. This is a highly inflammable substance, and should be used with care. It is used at the rate of one pound to every 200 cubic feet of space and is placed upon the grain in pans and covered with a canvas. After forty hours the bin is ventilated.

Cleanliness is important in preventing injury by these insects, and all rubbish should be cleaned out of the granary and quick lime dusted in the corners and around the edge of the floor.

Dampness and heating will also favor the development of the weevil. Parties noticing weevil in their wheat should take steps to eradicate the insect before they become too numerous, as it is much less trouble.

Detailed information can be obtained by writing or calling at the

Lane County Agricultural Agent's office in Eugene.

Value of Small Fields—

The actual earning capacity of a farm where diversified farming is practiced, is almost, if not quite, doubled when the farm is divided and fenced into small fields. The young farmer can make no better investment in the beginning than to buy good fencing for dividing the farm into small sections, and then keep and grow a variety of farm animals.

It is almost invariably the case that the small well fenced fields on every farm soon become the most fertile fields. The reason is that these fields are pastured more, fertilized more, and cultivated more than the larger fields. The only disadvantage in small fields is that more turning is required in plowing, harrowing and cultivating. But this loss is more than balanced by the greater usefulness of the fields for pasturage after crops have been removed.

With almost any crop in a field, after the crop has been harvested, there is from a month's to several months' good pasture in the field in the form of wild grasses and catch crops. There is always good grass and other valuable herbage along fence rows, and where the field is not fenced this goes to waste.

Farm animals of all kinds do much better where they have a change of pasture. Where the farm is divided into well fenced small fields the stock from the permanent pasture may be turned into these fields when grazing in the permanent pasture is short. In these small fields as new feeding grounds, the animals keep on growing and producing without check during late summer, and the permanent pasture has a rest and a chance to renew growth for good late fall and early winter use.

Where clover is grown on the farm, the first crop may be harvested for hay. Soon a new growth will start and this will bring in good returns if it can be pastured with pigs or calves. The small clover fields in mid and late summer are especially valuable for pigs and hogs.—H. H. Shephard, Franklin Co., Mo.

Paralysis in Hogs—

Partial or complete paralysis of the hind legs of hogs is seen so often in swine herds that a common cause has been suspected but not definitely determined.

Inbreeding, parasites and an unbalanced ration, have each in turn been assigned as the probable cause of this particular form of paralysis, and now it is quite generally attributed to a lack of phosphate of lime. This salt in a form that can be appropriated may be deficient in the ration or not properly appropriated by the tissues of the body, or again, it may be because of a drain on the system for phosphates to nourish the growing fetus or the young after birth.

It is a well known fact there is a deficiency of phosphate of lime in the bones and other tissue of pregnant animals and in those that are suckling their young. This is especially true of the sow. But this condition is not confined to pregnant animals. In one instance a herd of 44 hogs, of both sexes, and age ranging from ten months to two years, nearly all of them were affected with partial or complete paralysis of the hind legs. The ration had been largely raw potatoes.

They appeared to suffer no pain, the appetite was quite normal. A balanced ration would probably have prevented this condition. The following treatment has been recommended and should be helpful in these cases: One tablespoonful cod liver oil, fifteen grains phosphate of lime and three drops of fluid extract of nux vomica mixed with the food twice a day.

Proper Discussion—

There's no way of acquiring a knowledge of a subject equal to that of the conversational debate. It beats listening to a lecture; it beats reading about it.

When you get in a group of interested farmers and discuss alfalfa, for instance, you will pump the others dry on the subject and find out how much you yourself know or don't know about alfalfa.

A lecturer can say things you don't believe true—maybe they are not true—and you can't call him down. He may tell the thing you already know and omit telling about just what you want to know. The same is true in reading. But when you get in a group you can ask questions, demand proof, give your experience and get theirs.

The farmers' institute that doesn't give every man a chance to ask questions as a speaker expounds is falling to be as helpful as it might. Fewer subjects on the program and more time for free-for-all debate would help make a living institute out of a dead one. It is far better to talk just tillage, or hogs, or grass for half a day than to try and discuss all three in a half day. Even then you will find a group



When the Engine Stalls on Dead Man's Curve!

THEY climb aboard their loaded truck at sundown, fifteen miles behind the lines. They rumble through the winding streets, out on the white road that leads to Germany!

The man at the wheel used to be a broker in Philadelphia. Beside him sits an accountant from Chicago. A newspaper man from the Pacific Coast is the third. Now they all wear the uniform of one of these organizations.

The road sweeps round a village and on a tree is nailed a sign: "Attention! L'Ennemi Vous Voit! The Enemy Sees You!"

They glance far up ahead and there, suspended in the evening light, they see a Hun balloon.

"Say, we can see him plain tonight!" murmurs the accountant from Chicago.

"And don't forget," replies the Philadelphia broker, "that he can see us just as plain."

The packing cases creak and groan, the truck plods on—straight toward that hanging menace.

They reach another village—where heaps of stone stand under crumpled walls.

Then up they go, through the strange silence broken only when a great projectile inscribes its arc of sound far overhead.

They reach a turn. They take it. They face a heavy incline. For half a mile it stretches and they know the Germans have the range of every inch of it. The mountain over there is where the big Boches' guns are fired. This incline is their target.

The three men on the truck bring up their gas masks to the alert, settle their steel helmets closer on their heads.

At first the camion holds its speed. Then it slackens off. The driver grabs his gear-shift, kicks out his clutch. The engine heaves—and heaves—and stalls!

"Quick! Spin it!" calls the driver. The California journalist has jumped. He tugs at the big crank.

"Wh-r-r-r-r-r-room!"

The shell breaks fifty yards behind. Another digs a hole beside the road just on ahead.

And then the engine comes to life. It crunches, groans and answers. Slowly, with maddening lack of haste, it rumbles on.

"Wh-r-r-oom!" That one was close behind. The fragments of the shell are rattling on the truck.

Now shells are falling, further back along the road. And the driver feels the summit as his wheels begin to pick up speed.

Straight down a village street in which the buildings are only skeletons of buildings. He wheels into the courtyard of a great shell-torn chateau.

"Well, you made it again I see!" says a smiling face under a tin hat—a face that used to look out over a congregation in Rochester.

"Yep!" says the driver glancing at his watch. "And we came up Dead Man's Curve in less than three minutes—including one stall!"

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Later that night two American boys, fresh from the trenches bordering that shattered town, stumble up the stairs of the chateau, into a sandbagged room where the Rochester minister has his canteen.

"Get any supplies tonight?" they ask.

"You bet I did!" is the answer, "What will you have?"

"What's those? Canned peaches? Gimme some. Package of American cigarettes—let's see—an' a cake of chocolate—an' some of them cookies!"

"Gosh!" says the other youngster when his wants are filled. "What would we do without you?"

* * * * *

You hear that up and down the front, a dozen times a night—"What would we do without them?"

Men and women in these organizations are risking their lives tonight to carry up supplies to the soldiers. Trucks and camionettes are creeping up as close as any transportation is permitted.

From there these people are carrying up to the gun-nests, through woods, across open fields, into the trenches. The boys are being served wherever they go. Things to eat, things to read, things to smoke, are being carried up everywhere along the line.

With new troops pouring into France, new supplies must be sent, more men and women by the hundreds must be enlisted. They are ready to give everything. Will you give your dollars to help them help our men?

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gather around the principal speaker and debate the question still more. When you go off to a dairy or other convention you will find the conversational debate in the hotel after the session of greater value than the program itself. Don't wrangle but ask questions. Talk things over with your neighbors. That's the way to learn.