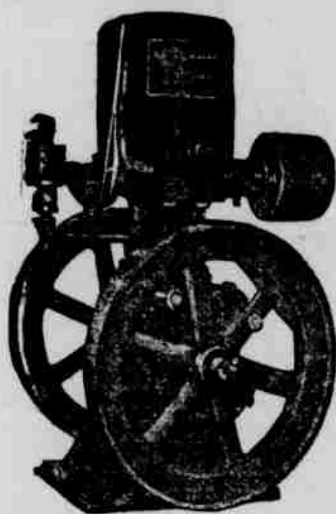




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Sugar planters of the Philippines are reported in serious financial straits owing to the poor quality of their crops this year.

A Women Raises Goats

By Jean A. Koethen

ALMOST in the shadow of the Arroyo Seco bridge at Pasadena a slender little woman, Miss A. E. Wood, is pioneering in a business which may some day become as common as the breeding of chickens, the breeding of Swiss goats for family use and the production of milk which is a little purer and richer than that of most cows and better than any other for babies and invalids.

It surely should be better than any other, for the price it brings, 25 cents per quart, is prohibitive for ordinary people. Even at that price Miss Wood says there is little profit in the dairy, for babies are hard to please, and if the milk does not agree with them she must look for other customers. It is very expensive, too, catering to babies. An ordinary goat, such as you and I might keep in our back yards, may have for the green part of its ration rose cuttings and trimmings from any shrub or tree, such as I saw Miss Wood feed her stud. It may also have potato and apple parings, carrots, turnips, and for aught I know, tin cans and old shoes.

Luxuries Prescribed.

The goat that supplies milk for delicate babies gets no such luxuries as these. Alfalfa at \$16 a ton, or clover, if it can be had, are the only greens permitted. Even the alfalfa does not always suit. Sometimes it is too stinky. Then the goats take the leaves and the stems go to the chickens.

The great advantage of goats' milk over cows' is, that it is absolutely free from tuberculosis germs. It is also richer than cows' milk and contains less curd.

"The keeping of a goat for family use is getting to be quite a fad," said Miss Wood. "Whenever I am ready to part with a doe I find a customer waiting. The demand is always greater than the supply. A goat, you know, is much easier to keep than a cow. It can be picketed in the back yard or tied on a vacant lot, requires but little shelter, eats the refuse from the kitchen and gives just milk enough for one family. A doe I have for sale now for a family that is leaving town has been giving from three and a half to four quarts for nearly a year, and has

supplied the family not only with milk, but with all their butter. It is said that seven goats can be fed for what it would cost to feed one cow. I think, with the kitchen refuse and green stuff a family could provide, a goat could be fed for 10 cents a day. In that way you get all the milk you can use, and your butter beside, for the price of a quart of cow's milk daily."

Swiss Goats.

These Swiss goats are known as Toggenburgs, from the name of their native valley. They are no longer imported, however. A hoof and horn disease is making great ravages among the goats on the continent, and a strict quarantine is maintained.

The average milk production of these goats is from three to five quarts daily, and a goat maintains her productiveness much longer than a cow after being bred. Miss Wood pointed out one doe that was bred 10 months ago and is still giving two and one-half quarts per day. When this doe was fresh she gave four quarts.

A doe never does her best the first year or the second. In fact it is not till she has been bred three times that she is really at her best. Does are not bred till they are a year old. There is no haste, for they are profitable milkers till they are 10 or 11 years old.

Miss Wood has two grades of stock, the pure-bred Toggenburgs, which are a soft brown color, and the grades or half-breeds, which are a grayish white. She is improving her stock as rapidly as possible, and will before long have nothing but pure-breeds. A grade doe may be had for from \$35 to \$50, but a mature pure-bred Toggenburg costs \$100. The grades are good milkers, but the pure-breeds are better. A pure-bred kid is worth \$75.

What Goats Eat.

What do they eat, these high grade, pure milk producers? A balanced ration, similar to that of a cow, just what, Miss Wood would not say. "If I told you today, it would not be true tomorrow," was her smiling reply. "I am changing and experimenting all the time as I get new suggestions from the agricultural papers." In general, they have a mash of whole and ground grain in the morning, and alfalfa or clover at night—only two meals a day, for their busy mistress has not time to give them three.

Several kids were running about among the does, gentle little creatures, apparently more suitable for children's pets than for subjects of scientific experimentation. They are easy to raise, but are very sensitive to dampness and must be carefully housed at first. The old stock is indifferent to weather and sleeps out altogether when the nights are fair. A shed with a tight roof is at hand, however, and the gate always open, so that they may sleep in or out as they please.

The Father of the Flock.

Brutus, the stud, is the registered son of a four-quart mother, for inheritance is just as important among goats as among cows or fowls. He is a fine,

handsome fellow, and the pet of his mistress, who never goes walking without bringing home some succulent dainty to tempt his appetite and cement his affection.

It was getting toward feeding time as I picked my way through the corral and up the hill to the crest of the arroyo, and does and kids were crowded about the gate waiting to be called to their supper which was already carefully distributed through the mangers under the shed. Some of them followed me to the farther gate, feeling sure, no doubt, of the kindness and good will of any creature in petticoats, for they are like confiding children, these denizens of the Swiss mountains.

It is not the easiest work in the world, caring for a herd of from 12 to 20 milk goats, but Miss Wood likes it, and finds as much pleasure in the working out of the problems of feeding which every breeder must work out, as in the anticipation of the day when she can let the dairy go and devote herself to raising \$75 kids for family use.

Dairy Jottings

MILK separates best immediately after being drawn from the cow, before it has had time to cool.

Keep the farm separator clean inside and out.

Even in town bad butter keeps longer than good butter. Do you see the point?

In buying new milk utensils see that all joints are smoothly soldered.

Test your milk. It is not quantity so much as quality that counts.

Keep the heifer intended for the dairy in a thrifty growing condition.

Care should be taken to never overwork butter or the grain will be spoiled.

Do not rob the cows of feed in hot weather. Be honest with them and they will repay you.

If feeding any strong flavored foods to the milk cows, do so immediately after milking.

Use good fine dairy salt for butter, and by the way, do you salt the cows regularly? You should.

The dairyman with a small herd of cows can well afford to build a silo and increase his herd and his profits.

Avoid putting too many cows in one pasture to reduce the feed to the smallest quantity for each cow.

If there is the least idea in your mind that any of your cows are troubled with tuberculosis, use the test at once.

Don't neglect any broken wires in the barbed wire fence where the dairy herd is pastured. Cut udders are not profitable.

When possible test the cow's milk before buying her, and remember if does not pay to buy a cow whose milk tests much below three per cent.

Another thing to remember is that you cannot safely judge a cow by one year's record. It may have been your fault, not hers, that she did no better.

How about that silo? It will pay you to build one if you are milking ten cows. Now is the time to plan the foundations and the silo building.

A RECORD COW.

A FAMILY COW owned by the Kerr Bros. in Gopher Valley, Oregon, gave birth to twin calves last week. This makes eight calves this bossy has raised in four years. She is twelve years old. Her first calf was born in 1904 and since then she has been the mother of fourteen calves. Not only does she hold a record in producing progeny but averages five gallons of milk a day for nine months.

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