

Improving The Herd

WHETHER you consider yourself a dairyman or not no doubt you keep cows and milk them. If so, then you may as well have as good cows as possible, for a good cow takes no more stable room, eats no more hay, requires no more attention than a very poor producer.

It would seem that everybody would want better cows than he has, no matter how good they are. Yet this is the exception rather than the rule, judging by deeds instead of words. A very small per cent only have good dairy sires. A still smaller per cent endeavor by test to find out which cows are worthy of a place in the herd as breeding stock. As long as the scrub bull and scrub cow exist there will be no herd improvement.

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If the sire came from a good cow and

his lineage was noted for milk production, the chances are that he will improve the herd he heads. By testing and selection the common cows can be rapidly improved so that it is not necessary to buy pure bred stock. But it is useless to buy a good sire and make no effort to know what cows are the best to breed from. It is a slow process of improvement when all cows are retained and their offspring also. The poorest ones keep dragging the record down.

Besides blood of dairy excellence it is, of course, necessary to feed properly. Timothy hay and oat straw will not make the best herd on earth produce very well. On the other hand, a good dairy ration for even a scrub herd will help a whole lot at the pail end.

No one can expect as much milk from a herd improperly housed and fed as from one receiving regular, intelligent attention. Fall-fresh cows will do better than spring fresh.

It has been found that the farmer who made the improvement and profit was a student of dairy farming. He was a reader of dairy literature to the extent of becoming a disciple of better dairying. Until a man has ambition to do better he never does. When he reads with indifference or ridicule he's a standpatter for whom there is no hope. But when he gets enthused and begins to practice what he reads then there is hope for his herd improvement.

Sheep on Small Farms

IN DISCUSSING the future meat supply in a recent government bulletin one of the writers said: "Sheep are not generally profitable to the farmer. Their numbers are slowly decreasing nearly everywhere except on the ranges, and the latter are so fully stocked that not much increase is to be looked for in that direction. There is no probability of any considerable future increase in the number of these animals."

It would seem that this writer is overlooking the possibilities along the line of sheep growing as a small farm industry, says the Kansas Farmer. Properly handled there is no more profitable farm animal. Another writer in this same bulletin seems to give the sheep more consideration as a meat producing animal. This writer takes up in detail the various ways in which the average farm can get into the meat production business. One of the possibilities he mentions is: "By raising sheep more extensively in the corn belt and in the eastern states. The importance of the wool industry causes farmers to overlook the value of sheep for mutton and

as weed destroyers. A small flock of sheep of one of the mutton breeds should be kept on every farm to graze the roadways, the stubble fields after grain is cut and the corn field after the corn is full grown. Both wool and lambs are salable."

Many a farm would be a more profitable enterprise as a whole if a small flock of sheep was added to the live stock equipment. Sheep reproduce more rapidly than cattle and come to maturity at an early age, rivaling swine in this respect. Being ruminants they handle the same class of feeds as cattle and are far more useful than cattle as gleaners of waste. The meat is very healthful and, as the carcass is small, furnishes possibilities in fresh meat, which would be most acceptable on most farms, especially during the summer season. This alone should give a few sheep a place on every farm. On some farms chicken is the only fresh meat available during the summer season. Even fried chicken becomes monotonous when it is the only fresh meat appearing on the table for days at a stretch.

Cream Separator Bowl Leaks

A BOWL leak in a cream separator is sometimes unavoidable, but in almost every instance it can be corrected by a change in your methods. When a manufacturer puts on the crank handle of his machine in raised letters, 65 turns per minute, he does it because it is absolutely necessary to turn the crank so many times per minute to secure the necessary bowl speed of from 6,000 to 10,000 revolutions per minute. If the bowl is not revolved at its proper speed, it not only will not separate the milk and cream completely, but it often happens that not sufficient force is generated to throw the milk and cream across the intervening space between the outlet of the bowl and the spouts, and a small amount of milk trickles between the outlets and the spouts into the bowl frame. This is often in such volume that the drain will not carry it off and the milk goes into the top bearing and finds its way down into the gears with disastrous results unless the machinery is promptly and carefully cleaned. We have seen separators utterly ruined from this cause, owing to the fact that the accumulated filth in the working parts prevents the oil from reaching the inside bearings. The spindle heats with the great speed of the machine and is so badly cut that it is thrown out of true and in time cuts the transmittory gear so badly that the

machine is practically useless without new parts.

Another frequent cause of bowl leaks is from over-speeding, which either sets up such a pressure in the bowl that the milk is forced out through the bowl ring in spite of its apparent efficiency, or the increased speed causes the milk to spray from the outlets and the tinware fills with foam, which finds its way into the bowl frame.

Bowl leaks are also caused by starting the milk through the separator before full speed has been reached, and by dropping the speed at the last of the run before the bowl is completely emptied of its contents.

The milk of a cow suffering from indigestion, a comparatively frequent ailment, will foam and pass into the bowl frame.

Ill-fitting and worn out bowl rings, of course, play no inconsiderable part in the trouble.

FIVE POINTS OF A DAIRY COW.

THE five points to be observed in selecting a good dairy cow are:

- 1st. Large body and especially middle piece, indicating a capacity for eating and digesting a lot of food.
- 2d. Thinly fleshed backbone and especially back of the shoulders. This indicates that the food is not made into flesh.

3d. Large udder, as it is here that the milk is made.

4th. Large milk wells. It is through these that the blood returns to the heart from the udder. If they are large, it indicates that a large amount of blood passes through the udder.

5th. Large, clear eyes. This indicates good nerves, and they drive the organs of digestion and milk-making.

Dairy Hints

IT IS well to remember that old milk is never wholesome even when it has been kept at a low temperature and is still sweet.

You should be on friendly terms with your cows to reap the benefit of their full capabilities.

That milk can, is it getting rusty? A rusty can, no matter how well it is cleansed, will give milk an off-flavor.

You cannot afford to let other farm duties interfere with the regular care and milking of the cows.

It can safely be set down that butter churned and worked too warm will be unsatisfactory in color and flavor.

Some farmers won't believe it, but it is a fact that most profitable moments we can spend are in spraying the cows.

The evenings are warm enough yet to cause the cow's blood to surge toward fever heat while she is being driven up by a thoughtless boy and a worthless dog.

Cows are nervous, timid and sensitive and they suffer with homesickness. The newly purchased cow is apt to fall off in her milk flow for a time until she gets used to new surroundings.

Warts on a cow's teats may be removed by applying tincture of iodine every day for about ten days. Warts annoy the milker and are often painful to the cow.

Frozen rice pudding is a delicious and nourishing winter dessert.

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