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Of Interest to Farmers

WAYS TO IMPROVE OUR DAIRY NEEDS

(C. E. MacKenzie.)

Not long ago in looking over an old paper I noticed a column headed "The Better Raising Platform" and being interested of course I read it, and as I remember it ran like this "First Better Bulls; Second Weed out the 'boarder' cows by testing; Third Raise the best calves from pure bred bulls and tested cows; fourth feed cows better and grow more homegrown feed. There are three more planks in this platform which I plan on using at a later date as the ground-work for another article so I am only planning on using these four as different headings for this article. Taking up the first "Better Bulls." This is in my opinion one of the things we dairymen should think about seriously for instance on a trip that took in more than one half of Quebec county I do not think I saw over a dozen good looking dairy bulls pure bred or otherwise and only three school fair—out of eight had a showing of calves that would make anything like a lot of decent grade cows, this is not as it should be as we now have sufficient breeders of pure bred stock of each of the four our whole province with good bulls in each we have outstanding cows whose bulls are good enough to stand at the head of almost any dairy herd.

Then would it not be well for us to follow along the same lines as breeders are doing in some of our provinces or in United States nations for instance Better Bull Associations for instance there are one block of say seventy five to one hundred cows let the farmer combine and purchase one first class bull of the breed desired if the farmers have an average of five cows let the price be made up at so much per cow; then if you have one hundred cows and wish to pay six hundred dollars for a first class sire the cost would be six dollars per cow. In this way the twenty farmers could have the use of this good sire for two years at an average of three dollars per cow plus a small fee that would be used for maintenance. Well if each farmer raises three calves per year and those when they come into milk will produce say thirty pounds more fat per year than their mothers selling at forty cents per pound equaling twelve dollars per cow would they not be making three hundred per cent on original investment. This looks like a good thing and I am satisfied that I am on the safe side on my estimate. Therefore Better Bulls pay.

CULINARY HERBS AND SPICES

—WHAT THEY ARE AND WHERE THEY GROW

Allspice.—The berry of a small tree growing in the West Indies. Gathered when green and dried in the sun. The berries combine the flavor of cloves, cinnamon, and nutmeg, hence the name. Also called pimento or Jamaica pepper. Used for flavoring soups, stocks, sauces, stews.

Cloves.—The unopened flower buds of a tree growing in the Tropics. Much used in both sweet and savory dishes.

Cinnamon.—The bark of a species of laurel. Comes chiefly from Ceylon, Java, and Bombay. Much used for flavoring both sweet and savory dishes and employed medicinally.

Cardamom.—The fruit or seeds, scented of an Eastern plant, used by confectioners and in the making of curry powders.

Aromatic Spice.—A mixture of pepper, salt, cinnamon mace, powdered bay leaf, thyme, marjoram, nutmeg, and cayenne. Used for flavoring regouts, game pies, galeontines, and so on.

Nutmeg.—The seed of the nutmeg tree. Used for flavoring sweet and savory dishes.

Mace.—The outer shell of the nutmeg. Used whole or powdered for sweet or savory dishes.

Mustard.—Seeds of a plant of two kinds, black and white. These are ground and mixed. Used as a condiment and for flavoring.

Pepper.—The seeds of berries of an Eastern shrub. The berry has a dark-brown skin. Black pepper consists of the dried berries ground whole. The same berries are ground finely after the dark husks have been removed to make white pepper.

Long Pepper.—Similar in taste and smell to pepper, but the seeds are long. Used in pickling and curry powder.

Mignonette Pepper.—White pepper, crushed, not ground.

Cayenne Pepper.—The dried fruit of capsicums which grow mostly in Cayenne. The fruit is ground after it has been dried.

Krona Pepper.—A red pepper. The pods are called chillies. Much made from the Hungarian paprika, capsicum pod. Used for seasoning. It is milder than Cayenne.

Turneric.—A plant of the ginger family, much grown in the East Indies. The tubers are dried and ground to a powder. Much used in curry powders.

KEEPING THE CULTIVATOR FIT

Ease of draft and efficiency of work done in the use of the cultivator are largely matters of the fitness of the implement for its intended use. The "feet" or "shoes," must be reasonably sharp and properly adjusted.

A close observer of mechanical aids to farming while driving along the road, noticed a number of summerfallow fields which evidently had been cultivated and which still showed little strips of green. Eventually he arrived at a place where these conditions existed and where the cultivator was still sitting at the end of the field so that he had an opportunity to examine it carefully to determine the cause of the green strips. Examination showed the only trouble to be dull cutting edge on the shoes. These edges were so terribly dull that it was quite easy to believe that they were dull when the job was started and received no attention while the job was being done. It is unreasonable to expect dull shoes to cut out the weeds for a dull edge of any kind is a poor thing to cut anything with except fingers and they can generally be cut with a dull knife.

Dull Knives, Bad Work.

A careful inspection of the field showed that the cultivating was a little more shallow as the work progressed. That is, the shoes were not going as deep on the side of the field where the operator finished as they were on the other side where he started. This again pointed to dull shoes for the duller they became the harder it was to keep them down in the ground.

The cutting edge of the shoe should be the lowest part of it. The shoe is to be kept in the ground, as the edges wear away and become rounded off the part which is trying to do the cutting will gradually climb up which acts as a sledge runner and tends to make the shoe slide up out of the ground.

How to Sharpen Shoes.

Before the cultivator is put into the field the shoe should be beaten out to a fairly thin edge which will be the lowest part of the shoe. As a general rule it is possible after this to complete the job of cultivating without beating shoes out again providing a file is used to keep the edge sharp.

However, if conditions in the field are such that the edge wears back very rapidly, the operator should not file away too much but should remove the shoes and beat them out again, or have them beaten out by a man who knows how to do the job.

As a general rule when the shoes become dull the operator moves his levers a little farther and uses the weight of the machine to press down into the ground. The effect in this case is to press down the ground under the shoe forming a sort of hardpan through which it is hard for moisture to penetrate. This is also hard on the crop which is sown on the land the following year in that the roots have a hard time getting through this hardpan and are inclined to spread around on top of it.

THE DRY ROT OF POTATOES

(Experimental Farms Note)

The dry rot is common in stored potatoes. Last winter it was very prevalent in cellars and store houses in Western Canada, and caused much loss. It is the most common cause of storage rot in Western Canada. The dry rot goes deep into the potato. The surface of the decayed part is usually wrinkled and white mouldy growths are often present. When the potato is cut open cavities are often present in the decayed part. There is usually no unpleasant odor, which accompanies rots caused by bacteria.

The dry rot is caused by fungi which enter the potatoes through bruises or wounds. The threads of the fungus grow in the tissues of the potato and cause the rot. The white mouldy growths on the decayed parts are the threads of the fungus which have come to the surface and which produce millions of spores (seeds). These spores may cause rot in sound potatoes if they reach a place where the skin is broken. Dry rot does not usually attack potatoes before digging, but rather when they are placed in cellars or store houses. The dry rot fungus may live in vegetable matter in the soil, and tends to increase when potatoes are grown year after year.

The best means to prevent losses from the dry rot is to avoid bruising or injuring potatoes in digging or in storing them. All the rubbish or old dried potatoes should be removed from the cellars or store houses before the new crop is stored. It would also be advisable to spray the walls and other parts of the store houses with a solution of bluestone (1 lb. bluestone to 10 gallons of water). Potatoes should not be grown in the same field year after year, but other crops should be used so that the dry rot fungus will not increase in the soil.

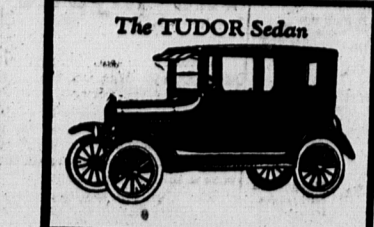
The dry rot develops much more rapidly in warm and moist air, so potatoes should be placed in cool and dry storage soon after digging. The cellar or store room should be kept as cool as possible without danger from frost. Cool storage is perhaps the most useful means to avoid losses from dry rot, i. e., about 35-40 F.

The best means of preventing dry rot is briefly as follows:—

- 1. Select good seed from healthy hills or from fields that show no disease.
2. Plant seed in fields in which potatoes have not been grown for several years.
3. Handle the potato crop carefully to avoid injuries.
4. Remove all refuse of last year's crop from cellar or storehouse.
5. Place the potatoes in dry, cool storage soon after digging.

HOW TO DISINFECT FARM BUILDINGS

Farmers are constantly advised to disinfect their stables, hen houses, calf pens, but many do not know how to proceed to do it effectively in all cases. The following directions will help and should be kept for future reference.
1. Sweep ceilings, side walls, stall partitions, floors, and other surfaces until free from cobwebs and dust.
2. Remove all accumulations of filth by scraping, and if woodwork has become decayed, porous or absorbent, it should be removed, burned, and replaced with new material.
3. If floor is of earth, remove 4 inches from the surface, and in places where it shows staining with urine a sufficient depth should be removed to expose fresh earth. All earth removed should be replaced with earth from an uncontaminated source, or a new floor of concrete may be laid, which is very durable and easily cleaned.
4. The entire interior of the stable especially the feeding troughs and drains, as well as milk stools and all other implements should be saturated with a disinfectant, as cresol compound or carbolic acid, 6 ounces to every gallon of water in each case. After this has dried, the stalls, walls, and ceilings may be covered with whitewash (lime wash), to each gallon of which should be added 5 ounces of chloride of lime.
5. All refuse and material from stable and barnyard should be removed to a place not accessible to cattle or hogs. The manure should be spread on the fields. In addition, the yards should be disinfected by sprinkling liberally with a solution of copper sulphate.
6. The best methods of applying the disinfectant and the lime wash is by means of a sprong spray pump, such as used by orchardists.
This method is efficient in disinfection against most of the contagious and infectious diseases of animals, and should be applied immediately following any outbreak, and, as a matter of precaution, it may be used once or twice yearly.
No man can justly censure or condemn another, because, indeed, no man truly knows another.



Making Service Certain

Winter driving seems to demand a hardier breed of car than the mellow journeys of summer and autumn. Country roads are heavy and city streets are slippery but the lure of the open on a crisp, crackling, brilliant winter day is irresistible and so—out you go.

And if it is a Ford that carries you comfortably along the frozen roads, you can go without a worry. Should some minor adjustment or replacement become necessary you know that there is a Ford service station at the very first place you come to; that you will get quick, courteous service there at little cost; that the interruption in your journey will be but a matter of minutes.

And when the major service operations become necessary as they do with every car, the Ford owner again enjoys the distinct advantage of having quick low-priced authorized service immediately at his command.



CARS TRUCKS TRACTORS



Reformed Burglar: "Got any doors or windows ye can't open, um?" —London Opinion

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ESTIMATING A COW'S FUTURE BY HER PRODUCTION DURING HER FIRST LACTATION PERIOD. (Experimental Farms Note). It is the custom with some dairymen to use the production of the first or two-year-old lactation period, as a basis for culling his herd. As a general rule this is a good policy to follow. A good heifer sufficiently matured to make a good record at her first calving is a desirable animal to use as a breeder in the herd. Occasionally, however, a mistake is made in disposing of a heifer that does poorly during her first lactation. Whether the owner sells her to the butcher or to some unsuspecting neighbor the fact remains that frequently he makes a mistake and disposes of a young animal which later develops into a fine mature cow. There are many instances on record of where young animals were sold at very ordinary prices which later developed into magnificent cows. On the Agassiz Experimental Farm to date twenty-eight two-year-old heifers have made R. O. P. records. Five produced over 16,000 pounds, while sixteen gave less than 14,000 pounds. All the heifers which produced over 14,000 pounds of milk are valuable animals; the cows that made the highest heifer record also yielded the largest mature production. Of the sixteen heifers which produced less than 14,000 pounds of milk, only two have completed mature records and each did exceptionally well. The cow which stood in thirteenth place amongst the two-year-olds came through as a mature cow with 21,567 pounds although as a heifer she gave only 13,956 pounds. Had she been culled from the herd because she produced less than 14,000 pounds as a heifer, the herd would be minus a good cow and the purchaser would have annexed a valuable animal.

To the Fox Breeders of Prince Edward Island

The keen demand for Silver Foxes is for registered stock. Discriminating buyers are insisting on pedigree, and you would be well advised to meet their demands by registering. If your strains are of pure Prince Edward Island origin they are eligible for registration in the Silver Black Fox Breeders' Association of Prince Edward Island. A CERTIFICATE OF BREEDING FROM IT IS RECOGNIZED THE WORLD OVER AS THE INDICATION OF DESIRABLE BLOOD. Intelligent and enterprising ranchers throughout the Province are registering their whole ranches with us. All foxes tattooed. For further information write The Silver Black Fox Breeders' Association of Prince Edward Island. Head Office, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. 426-10-30Mtz.