

TO THE FARMER

Farmers and others interested are invited to contribute to The Farm, The Dairy, The Turf, and Good Roads departments of the Guardian either by question, correspondence or otherwise. Answers will be given by experts to all questions of general interest and space will be given to any articles that will in any way help to advance Prince Edward Island interests.

Contributors are asked to have their articles at this office early each week, as only a short emergency item can be handled as late as one p.m. Wednesday. All received after that hour cannot appear until the following week.

THE FARM

TO WINTER CATTLE

(Walter M. Lea)

As pasture is unusually good for the season cattle should go into winter quarters in better shape than formerly and as it is most important that the growth and flesh they carry be sustained, an extra effort should be made to keep them growing throughout the winter. The time was, when horned cattle sold cheap, even when put up in good flesh and a loss in weight during the winter season did not seem of much importance, however at the figure all kinds of stock now are worth it is neither true economy or good business to allow any animal to shrink in weight during the winter. It matters not how scarce the owner may be of feed it is not a good excuse and it is always poor management to let stock go back.

Every farmer of any experience should know within a small margin, how many head he can carry through until late in June, and should either cut his stock down before going into winter quarters or secure or arrange to purchase sufficient feed to properly feed all he attempts to winter. In the raising and feeding of all classes of farm stock the good herdsman knows that it is very important to make any changes of feed slowly. I think easily seven-five per cent. of all sickness in live stock is caused by a derangement of their digestive organs, usually brought on by a violent change of feed. If brought gradually on, a cow or steer can consume an immense quantity of properly balanced feed without danger of causing an impaction or stoppage of the digestive organs. If they are over crowded you simply put them off their feed for a few days they throw up the job for a time, but often less than half the quantity given without any preparatory feed is very liable to cause a serious case of impaction. We must always watch any changes in feed, and a good rule to follow in handling stock is to take care of them when they are well, keep a sharp look out, learn to be observing and one will save a lot of trouble, nursing, much expense and financial loss.

When bringing young cattle off the grass to winter quarters every farmer should decide to keep what flesh they carry on them and have them gain throughout the winter.

I fail to see where any farmer can think it pays him to let his young growing stock fall in weight and flesh all winter, when a little extra feed along with what he has given would have meant a gain.

This is where the sorry part comes in. It costs quite a way to merely bring young stock through alive. They must have all the roughage, such as straw, they can eat twice a day, to be kept in any shape. Now if a small amount of turnips and either a little hay or crushed oats were given with this straw ration, that animal would continue to grow. No time would be lost, when again turned on grass. They would make surprising gains. There can be no profit in the system of raising young stock where an animal is allowed to starve off in winter the gain in flesh made in summer. With young cattle it is a poor unbusiness-like system to let them fall in flesh, but is much more serious in the case of the calf heifers as the way they are handled during their first pregnant season will largely influence their usefulness for after years, and the more flesh we can keep on them the more development of udder and milk glands will result. A fleshy heifer will develop all the udder nature intended her to carry, but when an calf heifer is lean, poor, when the calf seem to absorb all her strength and when she seems to grow smaller as the time of parturition draws near how can we expect her to develop any udder. She is already overtaxed (with the amount of feed she is getting) developing that calf, so whatever we allow to suffer decide to feed the pregnant heifers so they will gain rather than lose flesh.

I have always observed that young stock will rapidly fall in condition immediately after being put on dry feed more so than they will when they become accustomed to the change and it is always wise to start them in on more succulent feed at once for a few weeks than will be necessary after they become accustomed to the change. To put young stock at once on dry straw alone, that have had the run of fair grass, is certainly making a very violent change. If some turnips were given even for a few weeks it would break them more gradually to the change and they will be found to keep in better afterwards but it never can pay by any way of figuring or looking at the matter, to allow any young cattle

worth raising to shrink in weight during the winter.

A good grade two year old or either dairy or beef will be worth at least \$50.00 if properly grown and fed. If any farmer think he can't afford to feed, to keep them growing he should cut down his number to whatever he can rightly grow. Always remember that it is only the feed that can make either milk, flesh or growth, and the fewer animals that can handle any given quality of feed are, may have, the greater our profit will be. For instance, if ten cows are kept and feed what six cows could consume we are losing what it takes to keep four cows. Again we can so crowd six cows that it would be better to have another one or two to handle the feed. However, a majority of stockmen are on the former method. The aim in feeding should be to closely watch all animals under our care and feed according to their individual capacities, all they can profitably consume, try to strike the happy medium.

CURB AND ITS TREATMENT

This is an enlargement of the ligament on the back of the hock, or of those structures which hold the bones of the hock in a proper position, upon some occasions extraordinary stress is put upon the hock, causing a sprain, an enlargement, and lameness. Severe galloping on heavy ground, high or wide jumping with a heavy weight in the saddle, injudicious backing, such as foolish riders or drivers sometimes have recourse to when an animal from ill-temper or otherwise, objects to go in the desired direction, are among the more common causes of the disease. It is also noteworthy that curb is one of the hereditary complaints the horse is subject to, therefore a mare suffering having suffered therefrom should not be chosen as a breeder. The best method to detect this defect is to stand close to the hind quarters of the animal, and look down the limb affected, from the cap of the hock, when a slight enlargement will be observed about 3 in. from the point of the hock. It is also easily detected by taking a glance at the leg sideways. To treat this the object should be to reduce the inflammation, and for this purpose a continual application of cold spring water will be the chief thing. Equal parts of spirits of wine, water, and vinegar also form a good application in the first stage of the complaint. After such treatment for a week or ten days, the inflammation should have abated, or have entirely left the part and the next thing to be done will depend upon the state of the disease. Under most circumstances, the best agent probably will be a blister, consisting of biniodide of mercury, but before it is applied the hair should be carefully clipped off the part close to the skin. In bad cases the hot iron even has to be resorted to, but before either blistering or firing it would be prudent to call in a veterinary surgeon as it would be more competent to advise what blister would be best in order to avoid a permanent blemish, or whether a more drastic remedy ought to be employed. The shoeing is the next matter to attend to. The heel of the shoe should be raised so as to take the stress of the back of the limb affected, and this precaution should be taken for a considerable time after the curb has subsided and the animal has resumed work. Rest however, is absolutely necessary for a considerable time after the swelling has gone down to prevent a recurrence of the inflammation.—Warwick

MORE EGGS FOR NOTHING

Most farmers keep fowls. Most farmers, too, do not get as many eggs as they should, and in most cases this would be remedied, not by more expense (for farmyard fowls must not cost much to keep), but a little more trouble and common sense. For instance, on many farms, the fowls are fed twice a day—in the morning and the early afternoon—generally after the farmer has finished his breakfast and dinner. This means that the unlucky creatures go without food, (except such as they pick) from mid-day, or soon after, till the next morning, sometimes for nearly twenty hours. Further, if a hen happens to be laying at feeding time, and does not come off the nest, she has to go without a meal for twenty hours and most people know that laying hens require more food than others. How can one expect her to lay well under such circumstances? And yet I know from personal experience, that these conditions exist on many farms.

THE DAIRY

DAILY THOUGHTS

The droppings from the cattle will benefit the pasture more if they are spread or broken up with a spike-tooth harrow. This prevents the grass from being killed out and weeds coming in where the droppings have lain.

The most important business of the dairyman is to increase the amount of manurial substances and apply them where they will do the most good to the growing crops.

He is in no wise a public benefactor who keeps two cows to do the work of one.

A poor milker is one of the surest means of diminishing a milk flow.

Too many dairymen are conducting their business as a side issue when they should be making it the leading feature of their farming.

The new cow has an individuality of her own and the feeder should become acquainted with her as soon as possible after she is brought into the herd.

Go your limit on a good bull. If your cows are deficient in the flow of milk, buy a sire that will make up the quality. If their milk is deficient in butter fat, breed from a sire whose tendency is to build up along that line.

Feed records are just as essential as milk records. It is the profits we want rather than the phenomenal milk yields that are made by feeding

THE EWE FLOCK

If it has not been sooner done it is time to separate the lambs from their mothers. First let us move all the flock to a bit of choice pasture, some bit reserved for this occasion. Let ewes and lambs run there until they become wonted to the place. Then quietly remove the ewes, leaving the lambs where they are, if the

lambs are destined for the market it is well to set out troughs and tempt them with oats. No matter how good is the pasture, a bit of dry grain seems to adhere to the ribs of a lamb. Herein can one distinguish the real shepherd. He remembers his little flock, he goes gladly to feed it, he sees that each lamb comes to eat and all at one time, so that none gets more than its share.

The ewe flock one studies with real interest. He culls some perhaps, but let him beware how he culls out the thinnest ones, possibly they are his best mothers and richest milkers. He carefully trims their feet, he puts the ram with them on rich pasture because that leads to twin-bearing.

A bite of grain will not hurt the ewe on poor pasture at the breeding season, only beware that it be not too large a bite. Green things are what make the ewe flock happy, and to conceive in multiples.—Breeder's Gazette.

FEEDING STEERS

This is the season of the year when those who intend to finish a few steers during the winter should keep their eyes open for good animals to work with. Many cattle are forced to pick their living from scanty pastures that contain very little nutrient after the frost and sun has parched and browned the grass. If left to rustle until snow flies they will lose a good deal of the flesh laid on during the summer, and it requires considerable unprofitable feeding to bring them back to a thrifty condition.

Get them early, and when picking out your feeders look for best type. Low-set, blocky animals with straight top and strong heart girth will invariably make the best use of their food. A very short, broad head with prominent lustrous eyes and big muzzle with open nostrils are always evidences of a profitable beef raising conformation. Once you have them never allow cattle to go back. Give them a little help until the time comes to start them toward full feed.

SYSTEM OF BREEDING

One great trouble with the people who are raising poultry today is the lack of system in breeding. Careful breeding and selection is necessary if one hopes to ever make a success in poultry raising. Select and breed from the individuals which come up to a certain standard of egg production or size, rather than from the entire flock, as most people who are raising chickens are inclined to do at the present time. The application of the laws of breeding is essential to success with any kind of live stock. This important matter is too often overlooked, and as a result many failures are recorded that otherwise would have been listed under the head of accidents.

A poultry farm, rightly conducted, operated by a man or woman with reasonable amount of experience common sense and judgment, will pay as well as most any other business for the actual amount invested. There are thousands and thousands of people in this country making a comfortable living raising poultry.—Maritime Farmer.

SHEEP SHOTS

Sheep eradicate weeds.

Send to the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, for literature on sheep.

Sheep pick up dollars from the stubble fields.

Sheep chores are the lightest chores about the farm.

It costs little to start in sheep, and there is always something to be realized out of them quickly.

Start the sheep flock with whatever stock is available and grade up with the down bucks until you have a first class farm stock.

The Merino-Shrop grade of sheep make a hardy, early maturing type, well adapted to the country, fine in the wool and well covered with flesh.

Organize your neighbors and buy a carload of sheep to put on your stubble.

Sheep will bring you dollars every month of the year.

There are two revenues from a flock of sheep—wool is going up in price, and mutton keeps down the meat bill.

THE MARKETS

HALLAM'S WEEKLY MARKET REPORT.

HIDES, SKINS, WOOL, JUNK.

Toronto, Oct. 23.

BEEF HIDES, on the local market are steady to easier while the U.S. markets are unsettled, sales having been made under market quotations.

City Butcher Hides flat, 14 to 15c. per lb. Inspected Hides No. 1 13c. No. 2 12c. Country Hides, flat, cured, 13 1/2 to 14c. Part cured, 13 to 13c.

CALFSKINS are quiet and stocks accumulating. High prices are causing the tanners to buy on a conservative basis. City skins green, flat, 16c. Country cured 17 1/2 to 19c. part cured 17c, according to condition and taker. Deacons or Bob Calf \$1.00 to \$1.50.

HORSEHIDES

are in good demand at full quotations. City take off \$3.50 to \$4.00. Country take off No. 1. \$3.50 to \$4.00. No. 2. \$2.50 to \$3.50.

SHEEPSKINS

show a slow movement at close price. City Lambskins, fets or Shearings 50 to 65c. Country Lambskins or Shearings 30 to 65c.

WOOL

market is quiet, the mill being well stocked up for present needs. Washed combing fleeces (course) 25c to 25c. Washed clothing fleeces (burry, chaffy, etc.) 19 to 19c. Unwashed fleeces combing (course) 16 to 16c. Unwashed fleeces clothing (fine) 1 1/2 to 17c.

TALLOW

Steady to firm, stocks moderate. City rendered solid barrels 6 to 6c. Country stock, solid in barrels, No. 1. 6 to 6c. No. 2 5 to 5 1/2. Cake No. 1 6 1/2 to 6c. No. 2 5 1/2 to 6c.

HORSE FAIR

Farmer or pedler stock is being moved at current prices. Deliveries normal. Farmer pedler stock 37 to 40c.

OLD RUBBERS, JUNK, ETC.

Heavy deliveries and stocks accumulating, with lower range of prices. Rubber Boots & Shoes according to trim 7 to 8c. Auto tires, 7 to 8c. Bicycle tires, 3 to 4c. Lead, heavy 3 1/2 to 4c. Tea lead 2 1/2 to 3c. Brass, heavy 9 to 10c. Light 6 to 7c. Copper, heavy, 11c to 12c. Light 10 to 10 1/2. Zinc 2 1/2 to 4c.

RAW FURS

Reports from the country indicate an extremely large catch of furs this season. The skunk already caught are unusually well furred for this time of the year, indicating that furs will be prime early. The trapping season on practically all of the animals except Muskrats opens November 1st.

To the Editor:—We publish "Hallam's Trappers Guide" (96 pages) both in English and French, which we would be pleased to mail free to any of your subscribers who are interested in trapping or in Raw Furs.

large quantities of expensive concentrates. Proper feeding determines the amount of gain in the dairy business.

Milk records and feed records make knowledge definite.

If we are to make a success of the dairy business we must put thought behind and into our everyday work.

A cow will never do her best unless she has perfect confidence in you.

The modern dairy cow must be handled with understanding, and her owner must have a knowledge of her wants and make every effort to supply them.

A good cow in the hands of a poor dairyman is a poorer proposition than a poor cow in the hands of a good dairyman. Both are very poor combinations, however, a good dairyman will not keep poor cows more than one season.

Good pasture lands are the basis of successful dairying.

To make dairying a success we must make it of interest to the boys. Good cows are not developed by chance, but are the product of good foods.

WHEN DAIRYING DOES NOT INCREASE SOIL FERTILITY

Far too few farmers raise enough cows or other live stock on their farms to supply enough manure to keep up the fertility of the large averages. There should be an increase in the number of head of cattle kept and a decrease in the number of acres necessary to supply food for these cattle. In other words, he should resort to more intensive methods. What farmer is there who has sufficient manure to cover the per cent. of his farm that he would like to each year? The man with a 16 acre farm who keeps 40 or 50 cows and 20 or 30 young stock besides hogs and horses is going to see results in the increased productivity of his field from the manure derived from these animals.

Some may believe this to be impossible. And it is, if everything that goes to feed the animals comes from the farm. But this should not be the case. If the animals receive no feed other than that grown on the farm the fertility of the soil would be decreasing, for it has been calculated that only four-fifths of any crop fed to animals is returned to the soil in the form of manure. That is, one-fifth goes to make milk, beef or pork. Hence it is easily seen that if nothing is obtained from outside the farm there is an actual lessening of the plant food. The remedy for this state of affairs is to grow all the roughage on the farm necessary to feed the animals and what concentrates are possible, but in the main the concentrates will have to be purchased from outside in the form of cottonseed, meal, linseed, gluten or corn meal, the kind to be determined upon by the price and fertilizing value as well as the food value.—G. V. T.

GOD ROADS

HOW TO USE A DRAG.

(Continued.)

The successful operation of a drag involves two principles, which when thoroughly understood and intelligently applied, make road working with this implement very simple. The first concerns the length and position of the hitch, while the second deals with the position of the driver on the drag. Each influences the other to a large extent, and successful manipulation of the drag is dependent upon an understanding of both of them.

For ordinary purposes the snatch link or clevis should be fastened far enough toward the blade end of the chain to force the unladen drag to follow the team at an angle of 45 degrees. This will cause the earth to move along the face of the drag smoothly and will give comparatively light draft to the team, provided the driver rides in the line of draft. Sometimes, however, conditions are met which require special treatment, and in rolling country such conditions are not infrequent. Often a flat piece several rods in length or a seepy spot needs special attention.

The distance from the drag at which the team is hitched affects the depth of the cutting. Shortening the chain tends to lift the front slab from the ground; a longer hitch causes the blade to cut more deeply. The length of hitch may be regulated by lengthening and shortening the chain at the end which runs through the hole in the blade end of the drag.

If small weeds are to be cut or a



The Abegweit (2) 2.43 1/4 Champion 2 Year Old of 1913 for the Maritime Provinces.

The above picture is a striking likeness of C. P. Thorne's 2 year old colt. The Abegweit 2.43 1/4, which won the first money at the Charlottetown Exhibition races last September, outclassing one of the finest bunches of 2 year olds, that has assembled on a Maritime track for years.

The Abegweit is naturally fast, in the early spring he showed a 1 mile in 37 seconds hitched to a heavy bike, and a few weeks later was given a fast 1 mile brush in 17 seconds he has gone 1/2 miles driven in same gear in 1.14 and miles close to 2.30 going at his own clip, without company.

The Abegweit doesn't wear boots of any kind excepting a pair of quarter boots, for fear of danger, and he wears the smallest amount of rigging of any horse training on our tracks this year.

He was broken, and trained throughout the season, by an amateur—his owner—who before handling this colt never drove in a bike, or even hitched one—we are wondering how fast the Abegweit would have raced had he been worked, by an up-to-date professional trainer. His owners methods were very crude in the training of this speedy colt.

He worked him very easily, giving him fast brushes on the stretches,

not having any full miles until a few weeks before his race, he was not blanketed, bandaged or rubbed out and on account of his being so highly spirited, he could not be fed more than six quarts of grain per day, but was given all the green grass he could eat, together with the usual amount of hay.

The Abegweit is sired by Princeton 2.19 1/4 dam Parkona (also dam of Oakley H. 2.21 1/4, and Rex light trial 2.24) by Parkisle 2.21 1/4, second dam by Allright, the mother of Iona Girl 2.19 1/4, Perillian trial 2.18, Viola, trial 2.22 and others.

Princeton's mother, Reina Victoria, was sired by Hambletonian 10, the fountain head of race blood and is listed among the world's greatest brood mares. She sold at auction for nearly \$8,000 dollars. Princeton's grand dam was Woodbine, an equally famous brood mare being the dam of 5 in the list away back in the eighties.

Princeton's sons are fast making a name for themselves as sires.

Guy Princeton 2.19, a son, having several in the 2.10 list and over 40 in the 2.30 list.

It can be seen by the above breeding that The Abegweit, is bred in the purple, being strongly bred on both sides, in the producing line.

furrow of earth is to be moved, the doubletree should be attached rather close to the ditch end of the drag. The drag will now move nearly ditch end foremost, and the driver should stand with one foot on the extreme forward end of the front slab. This will swing the drag back to the proper angle and will cause the blade to plow. This hitch requires slow and careful driving in order to prevent the drag from tipping forward. If the blade should plow too deeply, as it may do in a wet spot, the driver should shift his weight toward the back slab.

If straw and weeds clog the blade, they can usually be removed if the driver shifts his weight to a point as far as possible from the ditch or blade end. Similarly, if he steps quickly away from the ditch end a low place or mudhole.

Some attention should be given to the edge of the blade. In the beginning the average earth road requires no steel plate on the drag, though the drag will be better preserved if the steel is applied at first. At the end of a year's work, if the dragging has been faithfully done, a steel plate will be needed. If the twist of the log is properly used, or the three-cornered strip of wood is placed under the blade as previously described a flat piece of steel will answer. In case the blade stands perpendicular it should be slightly cupped when sharpened.

WHEN TO USE A DRAG.

The drag does the best work when the soil is moist, but not sticky. The earth then moves freely along the faces of the slabs. If the roadway is very badly rutted and full of holes, it may be well to use the drag once when the ground is slushy. This

treatment is particularly applicable before a cold spell in winter when it is possible to have a roadway freeze smooth.

A smooth road surface is secured by this method. Clay, when mixed with water and thoroughly worked, becomes remarkably tough and impervious to water. If compacted in this condition it becomes extremely hard.

Another valuable result of dragging is the reduction of dust, for the particles of clay cohere so tenaciously that there is but little wear when the surface is smooth. Dust on an earth road is due to the breaking up under traffic of the frayed and up-turned edges of ruts and hoof prints. If the surface is smoothed after each rain and the road dries hard and even, no edges are exposed to crushing and the only dust which forms is that due to actual wear of the road surface.

There are so many influences at work and conditions are so varied in different localities that it is quite impossible to lay down a general rule for the number of treatments needed to keep a road in good condition. A rough clay or a stiff sandy clay will resist the action of wheels and hoofs for a longer period than loam, other things being equal. Certain sections of a roadway will require more attention than others because of steep grades, seepage, exposure to hillsides wash, etc. The best guide in meeting these conditions is the knowledge and experience gained while dragging the roadway.

There is one condition, however, in which special treatment should be given to a road. Clay hills under persistent dragging frequently become too high in the center. To correct this it is best to drag the earth toward the centre of the road twice and away from it once.

USE OF A DRAG ON ROCKY OR GRAVELLY ROADS.

In soils full of loose or even small boulders the drag has done good service. The loose stones are drawn into a windrow down the center of the road while the earth is deposited around the boulders in such a way that the surface is leveled. The loose stones in the center of the road should of course be removed. Where there is a large proportion of small stones or gravel the drag will keep down the inequalities in the surface.

Usually two horses are enough to pull a drag over an ordinary earth road. When four horses are used, they should be hitched to the drag by means of a four-horse evener. The team should be driven with one horse on either side of the right-hand wheel track or rut, the full length of the portion to be dragged, and the return made over the other half of the roadway.

The object of such treatment is to move earth toward the center of the roadway and to raise it gradually above the surrounding level. While this is being accomplished, all mud-holes and ruts will be filled, into which traffic will pack the fresh earth.

(To be Continued.)

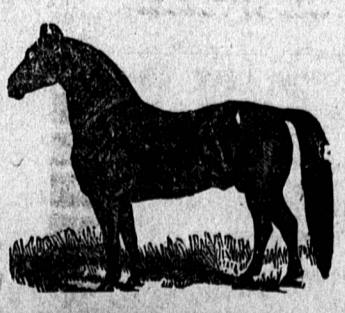
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(Pure Bred Certificate No. 51)

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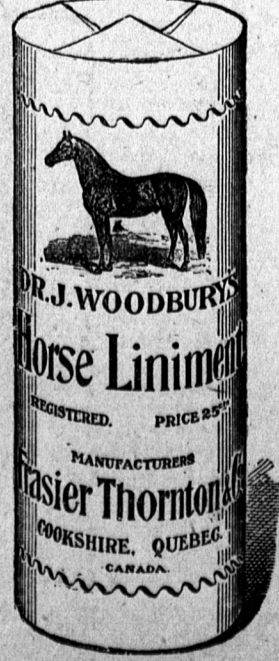
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