

OTHER PEOPLES' EXPERIENCE

HOW IMPROVEMENTS CAN BE MADE IN BUTTER-MAKING ON THE FARM

(BY GEORGE H. BARR.)

(Continued from last week.)

THE HAND POWER SEPARATOR.

The hand power cream separator is the most reliable and best method of skimming milk at the farm.

Some of the advantages over the other methods are: (1) Less loss of fat in the skim milk; (2) a better and more uniform quality of cream, and (3) the skim milk is in the best possible condition for feeding young stock.

HANDLING AND CARE OF THE SEPARATOR.

It is important that the separator run smoothly. Any trembling or shaking of the separator while skimming will cause a loss of butter fat in the skim milk.

Advantages of a Rich Cream.—Skimming a rich cream leaves more skim milk for feeding young stock; there is less cream required for the cream; less cream to cool; it will churn sweet longer than thin cream will.

Cooling the Cream.—The cream from deep setting will not require much cooling, but cream from shallow pans or from hand separators should be cooled to under 50 degrees, immediately after skimming, and kept cool until about twelve hours before churning.

If cream is allowed to stand at a higher temperature (70 to 75 degrees) for any length of time, the flavor will be injured and it is apt to become curdled or sour.

We would recommend keeping the cream in shotgun cans and the cans put in a box similar to the one recommended for deep setting. Tin cans are preferred for churning, because they are easier to handle, and if the temperature of the cream has to be changed for churning, it can be done very much more quickly and easily when in the tin cans, by surrounding them with either warm or cold water.

Preparing the Cream for Churning.—This means developing the proper acidity (sourness) and having the cream at the right temperature. No fresh cream should be added for at least twelve hours before churning. If the cream is sweet at this time, a small quantity (5 to 10 per cent.) of clean sweetened condensed milk may be added with good results and the cream apt at churning to be over-churned.

The appearance of the cream when ready to churn should be thick and "lossy" and pour like thick syrup; it should smell and taste slightly sour. The proper temperature of the cream for churning depends upon:

- 1. The richness of the cream.
2. The length of time the cows have been milking.
3. The breed of the cows, and
4. The feed of the cows.

It will therefore be seen how difficult it is to give any temperature as the best for churning. The best temperature for churning can only be known by testing the per cent. of fat in the cream.

CHURNING.

All the cream should be passed through a finely perforated tin strainer as it is being put into the churn. Churning will be completed in the shortest time when the churn is about one-third full. The churn should never be more than half full. If a small amount of cream is being churned, it is difficult to gather butter properly and it is apt to be over-churned.

The proper speed for the churn depends upon its size. That speed which gives the greatest concussion will be the most effective. If the cream has been properly prepared and is at the right temperature, the churning will be finished without adding any water. If for any reason the butter is coming a little too fast, it is advisable to add just when the cream is breaking, some water with a little salt in it about two degrees colder than the cream.

Two common causes for cream churning too slow are: (1) too much cream in the churn, and (2) the temperature of the cream is too low. This is an important point and has a great deal to do with the quality of the butter. The churn should be stopped when the granules are about the size of wheat or split peas. When the butter is churned to small granules many of them will go through the strainer to the buttermilk and cause a considerable loss. Over-churning should be avoided as much as under-churning. Over-churned butter will retain a large amount of buttermilk which will be difficult to remove in washing. The buttermilk should be drawn off as soon as churning is completed. A dipper with a wire gauze can be used for straining the buttermilk.

The butter should be washed as soon as churning is finished and only pure clean water should be used. The butter is for immediate use, rinse the butter by sprinkling two or three dipperfuls of cold water over the butter, allowing it to run off at once. Then run in a little less water than there was cream and revolve the churn as in churning until the granules are about the size of large peas and draw the water off immediately. In very warm weather have the water about two degrees colder than the buttermilk and in cold weather from two to three degrees colder than the buttermilk.

If the butter is intended for packing, run in slightly more water than there was cream, about two degrees colder than the buttermilk and revolve the churn quickly about half a dozen times and draw it off, then wash a second time, using a little less water than there was cream at the same temperature as the buttermilk, and revolving the churn until the granules are about the size of large peas and draw off the water at once.

A large quantity of dairy butter is too heavily salted, and there is very little uniformity in the amount of salt used. We would suggest that for prints 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 per cent. be used, and for packed butter not more than one ounce per pound.

In creamery butter-making the salting is done almost entirely in the churn. If the amount of butter in the churn can be fairly well estimated, it is the best method to follow. Add the salt as soon as the washing water is drained off, sifting one half of the salt evenly over the butter; then turn the butter over with a wooden ladle or by turning the cover of the churn and revolve slowly until the butter is gathered into a solid mass, and allow it to lie in the churn for ten or twenty minutes before working it. If the salting is done on the worker, the butter can be weighed and the salting done accordingly. Take the butter out of the churn in the granular form, and weighing it, spread it evenly over the cover of the churn and when the salting is commenced, endeavor to have the salt well mixed with the butter while it is still in the granular form.

For farm butter-making a lever butter worker is preferable to a butter churn for working the butter (see figure 4). In working the butter sliding or scraping motion should be avoided. The lever should be pressed downward, double the butter over with a ladle, or by inserting the lever under the butter over with a wooden ladle, or by turning the cover of the churn and working as before. When the butter is sufficiently worked it should present a smooth, solid appearance which can be tested by drawing a line between the worker and the ladle; the moisture should show in small

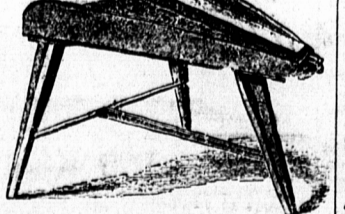
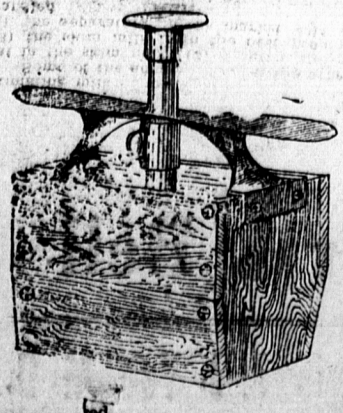


FIG. 4.

oats evenly distributed over the cut surface. Butter which has been salted in the churn will not require as much salt as butter which is salted on the worker. Only fine dairy salt should be used, and it should be kept in a clean place, as salt will absorb odors and thus may injure the butter.

If there is any one thing that needs improvement in the dairy butter business, it is the package. The butter is put up in all sizes, shapes and forms, and is wrapped in factory cotton, towels, paper, and some not wrapped at all. For local trade there should be only one package, the brick-shaped one pound print, wrapped neatly in parchment paper. It is much more economical to buy a good printer than the ordinary printer offered for sale, and we would recommend the style shown in figure 5. For packed butter there is nothing as neat and good as a ten or twelve lb. spruce tub, lined



THE CROPS

TRIED METHODS OF SEEDING THE WINTER'S WHEAT

Home Grown Wheat Will Do Well if Carefully Selected.

HINTS ON SMUT TREATMENT.

(BY N. A. CLAPP.)

Winter wheat fills in the rotation of crops, and it is difficult to select any other cereal that will take its place. It is an excellent crop to seed when the wheat is sown, or soon after, in the fall, and the clover put on during the early spring, if the ground is loose enough to cover it as soon as rains come.

Aside from the value of wheat as a grain for home consumption and for sale, the straw is a necessity for bedding where stock is kept. It is an excellent absorbent of the liquid manure, and worth for that alone more than ten times its value as a grain.



HOW MANY CANADIAN GROWERS CAN BEAT THIS?

These splendid Alexander apples took first prize at Wisconsin (U.S.A.) State Fair. They weigh a pound and a half each and are absolutely free from defect. Canadian growers apply early to the best of the rest of the world. Who will be first to put this exhibit in the shade?

PREPARING THE GROUND.

If one has coarse manure he will find a good place for it on the poor spots in the field to be ploughed for wheat. The ploughing should be done as soon as is practicable, if it is an oat field, after the crop is taken off. If the oat ground was ploughed in the spring and the soil was not too wet, it is very rarely gets too hard to be ploughed soon after harvest.

After the ground has been ploughed like to roll it down and begin to work it and get it in as fine a tilth as possible. When the soil is well compacted and well worked on the top, there is a chance for the fine, fibrous roots of the wheat to get a foothold and grow.

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It is not necessary to go to some distant part of the country for seed wheat if one has any that is of a hardy variety and yields well. As good results are likely to be obtained from properly selected seed of the home-grown varieties, it is better to select seed from wheat that is not acclimated, or been allowed to adapt itself to that portion of the country.

It is too late to select seed by the appearance and size of the heads, but one can accomplish much by the small, inferior kernels. It is the large kernels that start to grow quickly, make the large stems that are topped with large heads. Don't fail to give the seed what a good cleaning.

HOW TO TREAT FOR SMUT. If there was any smut on the wheat heads when the crop was growing, or if there are any smut kernels in the seed, do not fail to treat it to kill this disease. Soak the seed in a solution made by putting a pound of formalin in fifty gallons of water.

If one prefers to use the hot water treatment, place two tubs, or barrels that will hold water, side by side. In the first one heat the water to around 120 degrees. In the second one the water should be up to 133 and 133. Immerse the sacks by holding the wheat in the first until well warmed, then immerse it in the second tub and hold it from five to ten minutes, after which it should be spread and dried if it is to be sown with it. If it is to be sown broadcast, it can be sown as soon as taken out of the water if the ground is not too dry. It is the proper time to sow the wheat.

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SHEEP

SHOULD BE MORE GET CHICKS INTO WINTER QUARTERS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Lots of Good Land, and Big Market, But Few Sheepmen.

SOME SUCCESSFUL FLOCKS.

(BY C. W. PETERSON.)

In Western Canada sheep raising is carried on under two widely different methods. Where general agriculture is pursued, sheep raising is carried on in much the same way as in the East. A portion of the farmers have small flocks which are kept in inclosed pastures during the summer season and are red in more or less inclosed sheds during the winter.

No class of live stock does better, returns in Western Canada than sheep. The only reason that more small flocks are not kept is simply that settlers have not given the sheep industry serious thought. Mutton commands a high price, 12 to 14 cents per pound dressed being not an uncommon figure received by the producer of mutton for local consumption.

Another advantage in moving early to permanent quarters is in the work saved. Chicks are not hard to accustom to a change early, while later they are very persistent about returning to their old roosting places. When I move direct from brooders or coops, as I usually do, I find it necessary to confine for only a day or two, and this more to prevent flight from fright than returning to their old quarters.

By early moving much vexation is saved. I start my chicks in the backyard, near enough to the house to care for them conveniently. This is what the majority of farmers' wives, overburdened with work as they usually are, do also. But I never have my yard and walks overrun with half-grown chickens, as so many do, nor

Every farmer in Western Canada might keep a small flock of sheep with very little trouble and expense. I am convinced that nothing but a hand-to-hand trade would give him a greater proportionate profit. This statement is borne out by the experience of those who have kept small flocks. A flock not exceeding 100 is to be preferred. If no one is employed to watch them it is found that with a larger number than this they are apt to stray too far from the buildings in search of grass.

If one does not intend to keep too large a flock he should build a dog-proof fence, of wire that will cost between 50 and 75 cents per rod and will soon pay for itself. He has just purchased 1-2 miles of dog-proof fencing. It is 26 inches high and 40 cents per rod. This wire netting will be put at the bottom and above the three strands of barbed wire will run to give the necessary height and to keep heavier stock off the fence, as well as make it proof against coyotes, setting 50 inches high could have been purchased for 75 cents per rod, which, with one or two strands of barbed wire on the top, would have answered the purpose very well.

The grade flocks generally have a dash of Merino in the ewes. Lincoln and Shropshire bucks are bred from, but the wide-awake farmer are finding out it is a better investment to buy pure-bred male stock. The lambs from these small bands is usually heavy. One farmer raised 130 lambs from 100 ewes.

PASTURES MUST BE DRY. In choosing a pasture, a situation that has high and dry land in it should be selected, but sheep must have water at all times. If time allows, the sheep can be turned out of the pasture and herded. Sheep are easily trained to graze over a particular area. This will be a beneficial change for them. A shed with an open front and a board corral is quite satisfactory for winter quarters. A close, water-tight house is not good. Sheep naturally have a high temperature and a thick coat of wool which prevents the easy radiation of heat from the body. They prefer a cool place if it is well sheltered.

Lambs do well to be born in the middle of April to the beginning of May. Ewes carry their lambs 147 days. If the ram is turned out in December 5, the lambs will come May 1. Those who wish to have lambs for the sake of having them more fully matured at the opening of winter will have to provide more commodious quarters for lambing time.

Prices in western Canada to-day are high, and the numbers of breeding stock offered very small. If prices weaken a little south of the line it may be possible to buy a few more. The range sheep differ widely from those reared in the eastern provinces. The foundation stock is chiefly Merino. The stock, these naturally give small carcasses and heavy fleeces. In

Installing the young poultry in permanent quarters is with many farmers one of the trying features of the business. Not infrequently it means the turning out of all hands after nightfall. In the autumn, perhaps in the middle of an early snowstorm, gathering the chickens from all sorts of inaccessible places, and carrying them to the poultry house, only to repeat the process every time they get out for weeks. The chances are that a part cannot be broken away from old haunts, and continue to roost where they are not wanted to the end of their lives. All this I avoid by moving early to permanent quarters which are fowls are to occupy permanently.

There are many advantages in this. First, it insures safety. A chicken from the shell up is a tempting bait for thieves of various sorts, and in trees and open places it is very liable to be picked off. Even in temporary quarters, such as some poultry raisers advocate, the danger is little less. But permanent quarters will afford efficient protection and save not only the chicks, but all fear for them. I have my poultry house windows covered with fine mesh poultry netting and outer doors of the same. This enables me to leave the houses open and exclude all kinds of depredaters during hot weather.

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There are many advantages in this. First, it insures safety. A chicken from the shell up is a tempting bait for thieves of various sorts, and in trees and open places it is very liable to be picked off. Even in temporary quarters, such as some poultry raisers advocate, the danger is little less. But permanent quarters will afford efficient protection and save not only the chicks, but all fear for them. I have my poultry house windows covered with fine mesh poultry netting and outer doors of the same. This enables me to leave the houses open and exclude all kinds of depredaters during hot weather.

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SWINE

GET CHICKS INTO WINTER QUARTERS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Time and Trouble Saved By Early Moving Into Permanent Home.

ECONOMIZE ON WORK.

(BY S. M. NEWTON.)

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Lambs do well to be born in the middle of April to the beginning of May. Ewes carry their lambs 147 days. If the ram is turned out in December 5, the lambs will come May 1. Those who wish to have lambs for the sake of having them more fully matured at the opening of winter will have to provide more commodious quarters for lambing time.

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Installing the young poultry in permanent quarters is with many farmers one of the trying features of the business. Not infrequently it means the turning out of all hands after nightfall. In the autumn, perhaps in the middle of an early snowstorm, gathering the chickens from all sorts of inaccessible places, and carrying them to the poultry house, only to repeat the process every time they get out for weeks. The chances are that a part cannot be broken away from old haunts, and continue to roost where they are not wanted to the end of their lives. All this I avoid by moving early to permanent quarters which are fowls are to occupy permanently.

There are many advantages in this. First, it insures safety. A chicken from the shell up is a tempting bait for thieves of various sorts, and in trees and open places it is very liable to be picked off. Even in temporary quarters, such as some poultry raisers advocate, the danger is little less. But permanent quarters will afford efficient protection and save not only the chicks, but all fear for them. I have my poultry house windows covered with fine mesh poultry netting and outer doors of the same. This enables me to leave the houses open and exclude all kinds of depredaters during hot weather.

Another advantage in moving early to permanent quarters is in the work saved. Chicks are not hard to accustom to a change early, while later they are very persistent about returning to their old roosting places. When I move direct from brooders or coops, as I usually do, I find it necessary to confine for only a day or two, and this more to prevent flight from fright than returning to their old quarters.

By early moving much vexation is saved. I start my chicks in the backyard, near enough to the house to care for them conveniently. This is what the majority of farmers' wives, overburdened with work as they usually are, do also. But I never have my yard and walks overrun with half-grown chickens, as so many do, nor

Every farmer in Western Canada might keep a small flock of sheep with very little trouble and expense. I am convinced that nothing but a hand-to-hand trade would give him a greater proportionate profit. This statement is borne out by the experience of those who have kept small flocks. A flock not exceeding 100 is to be preferred. If no one is employed to watch them it is found that with a larger number than this they are apt to stray too far from the buildings in search of grass.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

W. B. Sheppard, Ont., has a year that takes more of fatness in her legs and head and feet than when she was a yearling. She has brain disease. The disease is contagious and likely to grow more so. See a good veterinary