FOR FARMERS, STOCK BREEDERS and GARDENERS

DAIRY TOPICS

Prepared by Provincial Department of Agriculture in Co-operation With the Directors of Dairymen's Association.

WHY CREAM TESTS VARY

(Continued from last week)

AMOUNT OF FLUSH WATER USED

Experiment

Three lots of milk each weighing and testing exactly the same were separated using the same separator under the same conditions, except in the amounts of flush water used. In each case 100 lbs. milk testing 3.8 was used.

Result

Lot No. 1, no flush water used, cream tested 32%.

Lot No. 2, 1 pint flush water used, cream tested 29%.

Lot No. 3, 1 quart flush water used, cream tested 26%.

Explanation

The reason for the flush water decreasing the test is quite apparent. Simply, the flush water goes into the cream. It is practically impossible to cut the flow off at the cream spout the same time at each separation.

Experiment Applied to Farm Conditions

Flush water or skim milk is generally used after separating to force out any cream which is sticking to the bowl. (Water and skim milk have the same effect). If the amount of flush water is not measured but guessed, at each seperation, the test will vary.

Again, if about one quart of flush water is used the year around, it will be readily understood that when the cows are giving their heaviest flow of milk, the proportion of flush water to the cream produced is much less than when the cows are giving a small quantity of milk. In other words if the same amount of flush water is used when the cows are low in milk as when milk production was high, the test will be lower.

SPEED AT WHICH THE SEPARATOR I STURNED

Experiment

Three cans of milk, each weighing 100 lbs. and each testing 4 per cent, were separated using the same separator and all conditions the same except the speed at which the separator was turned. One can was separated with the machine turned at the normal speed (as specified by the makers), one can 6 revolutions below and one can 6 revolutions above.

Result

Turning the seperator six revolutions below normal speed reduced the test of the cream 6 per cent, equal to 1 per cent for each revolution reduced. When the speed was increased 6 revolutions per minute, the test of cream increased 7 per cent. The ratio being practically the same in each case. The loss of fat in the skim milk was not high in any one of the lots, but the lowest percentage loss of fat was with high speed.

Explanation

When the speed of the separator is increased, the centrifugal force (the force that caused separation) is increased. The greater the force the more quickly does the skim milk leave the bowl, the force not acting on the cream to such a marked degree because the cream is lighter than the skim milk. The skim milk leaving the bowl more quickly, increases the volume of skim milk, or in other words, there is less skim milk going into the bowl.

High speed also brings about a more complete separation causing a higher testing cream.

Experiment Applied to Farm Conditions

Speed is a factor which cannot be entirely controlled. There are some makes of machines which are equipped with a speed indicator usually in the form of a bell. These devices warn when the speed is below normal but they do not indicate when the separator is being turned too fast.

A separator should be turned at the speed specified by the maker and adjusted to give cream of the desired test—for butter making, not less than 30 per cent.

It should be stated that there are makes of separators when, if the speed of the separator is increased, the test will be decreased. This is contrary to what has been stated. This is due to the skim milk outlet being situated nearer the centre of the bowl than the cream outlet. This type of separator is not common in Prince Edward Island.

This experiment has also been carried out with different makes of machines and in some cases when the speed has been decreased 5 r.p.m. below normal speed, the test is dropped as much as 20 per cent.

OTHER CONDITIONS CAUSING THE TEST TO VARY

Mechanical Conditions of the Separator

If the separator is not level and balanced, separation will not be efficient. The test of the cream will vary and a high loss of fat in the skim milk. The tremble and jar of the bowl will cause a remixing of the cream and skim milk in the bowl which is the cause of the loss of fat in the skim milk and the variation of test.

The jarring of a separator may be caused by separator not being on a solid foundation; not level, or parts of the bowl worn or not put together correctly, bent or sprung bowl spindle, worn bearings and bushings.

Dirty Separator

The dirt which accumulates in the bowl of the separator is very sticky, retarding the progress of the milk during separation and sometimes small pieces of dirt become stuck in the cream or skim milk outlet, partly or completely blocking the flow. Such a condition is sure to cause the test to vary.

The loss of fat in the skim milk is usually high in dirty separators. The cream from a dirty separator bowl will not keep sweet and usually is of a bad flavor.

Condition of the Milk Separated

(a) SOUR MILK AND OLD MILK — Milk that is sour clogs the separator, blocks the skim milk and cream outlets causing the cream test to vary and the loss of fat in the skim milk will be excessive. Milk should be fresh when separated.

(b) DIRT IN MILK—If the milk is allowed into the separator bowl before it is strained, small particles of dirt will get into the bowl and has the same effect as sour milk. The small particles of dirt block the cream and skim milk outlets.

Conditions of Cream When Sampled

SOUR CREAM—Cream that is slightly sour which has been well stirred and is of an even smooth appearance, can be sampled with accuracy if well mixed before sampling.

Cream that is very sour, lumpy and of an uneven consistency, cannot be sampled accurately no matter how much stirring is given.

Sweet cream can always be sampled with accuracy because it can be thoroughly mixed by stirring.

FROZEN CREAM—Frozen cream is a problem to all creamery managers during the severe winter months.

The question is often asked, "Can frozen cream be sampled accurately?" When cream is frozen it cannot be sampled accurately until it is carefully reduced to a liquid state.

The watery part of the cream will freeze first. It will be noticed that the frozen part of cream, that is before cream has been completely frozen, consists of icy crystals. If the sample be taken from the liquid portion of the cream when it is in this partly frozen condition, the test will be too high, resulting in a low over run, a loss to the creamery.

Frozen cream should be placed in water not too hot, about 130 degrees Fahrenheit and melted slowly as to prevent the fat from running together, usually called "oiling off."

What Should Cream Test?

For butter making purposes cream should test from 30 to 35 per cent.

Some reasons why cream should not test too low:

It is hard to sample if sour.
It sours quickly.
It increases the cost of transportation.
It does not churn easily.
It costs more to pasteurize.

Some reasons why cream should not test too high:

It clogs the separator.
It is hard to pour from one can to another.
It is hard to sample.

Extract relative to Cream Grading as Defined in Prince Edward Island Dairymen's Association Act

40. All cream delivered, sold or purchased at any creamery shall be "graded" as to quality and payment shall be made upon the basis of this grading.

43. The grades of cream and qualifications of grade shall be as follows:

(a) Special grade shall include any lot of cream which is clean in flavor, of a uniform consistency and fit for making into special grade butter. The acidity of cream in this grade shall not be more than .25 per cent (one quarter of one per cent) at the time of being graded at the creamery where it is to be manufactured into butter and shall contain not less than 25 per cent butter fat.

(b) First grade shall include any lot of cream which is clean in flavor, of a uniform consistency and fit for making butter of this grade. Its acidity shall not be more than .55 per cent (fifty-five one hundredths of one per cent) at the time of grading at the creamery where it is to be manufactured into butter and shall contain not less than 20 per cent butter fat.

(c) Second grade shall include any lot of cream that does not meet with the requirements specified for the next higher grade, or which is bitter, stale, musty, metallic, fermented or otherwise unclean in flavor.

44. A premium of not less than two cents per pound butter-fat shall be paid by any creamery for special grade cream over first grade cream and a premium of not less than three cents per pound butter-fat shall be paid by any creamery for first grade cream over second grade cream.

CONCLUSION

It has been demonstrated by the experiments described that the separator is a very sensitive machine. Unfortunately, in most cases, the power to turn and operate the separator is human. Human nature is very variable. Until a mechanical device is invented to control the conditions which are not controlled by human nature, tests will continue to vary. Information and a knowledge of the conditions which cause the cream tests to vary, will help to control this variation and make a better understanding between the producer and the man who is responsible for the cream testing. However, if you have any reason to believe that at any time a mistake has been made, please do not hesitate to write Dairy Superintendent, Provincial Department of Agriculture, Charlottetown Prince Edward Island, and we shall do all in our power to adjust the matter satisfactorily.

PEACH CHUTNEY

Four quarts peaches, five cups onion, one-half cup sugar, one-fourth poung raisins, two tablespoons white mustard seed, two ounces scraped ginger root, two teaspoons hot red pepper. Add two cups vinegar to the peaches and cook till soft. Mix he spices and sugar gradually with the remaining vinegar. Add onions and raisins and cook with the peaches 15 minutes, stirring constantly. The original recipe calls for a little garlic which you can add if

- NEWSY NOTES -

By AGRICOLA

Fairy Tales

A belief in fairies and other beings of a supernatural character long survived in the north of England, and it had hardly died out at the end of the eighteenth century. Even when I was a schoolboy a few old folk, in remote districts still admitted to a belief in witchcraft, though they confessed they had never seen any fairies! Still, many a fairy tale helped to pass away the long dark nights, and to induce a hair-raising thrill among the little folk round the fire. Our local fairies do not appear to have been of exemplary character, and one species, known as "Duergers," must have been a great nuisance to belated travellers in the wild districts of central Northumberland. Here are two tales told of Tosson Hill, a bleak fellside, about 1,450 feet in altitude, near the village of Hepple. A traveller wandering in that treacherous solitude, began to shout "Tint, tint!" (Lost, lost!), when a light appeared at a short distance, like a lighted candle in a shepherd's hut. But the traveller was cautious; he went forward carefully and found himself on the edge of a deep slough in a peat-bog. He picked up a piece of turf, threw it into the pool and shouted "Tint! tint!" The light vanished in a flash, but three hideous little elves appeared, carrying torches in their diminutive fists. He betook himself to flight, only to be followed by an innumerable multitude of the malevolent sprites, armed with little clubs. At bay he charged the leader, but encountered no palpable form, and sank down in a kind of stupor to the ground, where he remained till next morning.

Another traveller was once benighted in these parts, and seeing a glimmering light, hastened towards it. He found what appeared to be a hut, on the floor of which, between two rough grey stones, the embers of a fire were still glowing. He seated himself on one of the stones, and presently a strange little figure, in human shape, not higher than his knee, came in and sat on the other. He spoke but received no reply, and remained silently watching his diminutive companion until the fire went out and the dawn came. Then he perceived his danger. The roof and walls of the hut had disappeared, and he was seated on a stone sure enough, but it formed one of the higher points of a steep rocky precipice! After a good deal of trouble he made his way down to the safety of the highway.

High up the lovely Vale of Derwent, on the border-line between Northumberland and Durham counties, there stands a village known as Black Hedley, not far from Hedley-on-the-Hill. This locality, in former times, was haunted by a sprite whose pranks were mischievous rather than malignant. Its name, according to tradition, was the "Hedley Kow", but nobody was able to give any explanation of the latter part of the term. One of the Kow's favorite tricks was to appear before some young fellow in the form of his inamorata, slowly sauntering along in the distance. It was only to be expected that the swain would put on a spurt to overtake her, but the Kow was equal to the occasion and put on a spurt too. Presently both were racing along, until the Kow led the young fellow into one of the "whaggs" (quagmires) with which the place abounded, when it would vanish with a mocking laugh.

When the farm hands were stooking the Kow would take on the form of a sheaf, which would be placed with others to form a stook. As the farm-hand turned away the Kow would slip to the ground, and the stook would collapse. The farmer had to stook it all over again, and this would be repeated until he "caught on," when the Kow would disappear with a "nicker"—(a neigh). If the farmer went to catch old Dobbin in the pasture, it was more than likely that it was the Kow in Dobbin's shape, and he only became aware of the substitution by the cantrips played by the sprite. Many other stories were told of the Kow, but these must suffice.

There is another story concerning a being much higher in the social scale than the plebeian Kow, now comes to mind. At Shortley Bridge, a romantic village on the river Derwent, there was (and still is) quite a colony of Quakers, or as they called themselves members of the Society of Friends, a very estimable religious sect. Their "meeting house", i. e., church, was at the neighboring village of Benfieldside, where it has stood for two centuries. In a curious old book called "Turner on Providence" it is related that Satan appeared, in great wrath, at the meeting house, to snatch away the key which was to imprison him for ever. Unfortunately the details of this event are not forthcoming so we have no means of knowing how this key came into the possession of the Quakes of Benfielside.

Scotland has no fairies now; they all left without giving a reason, so Hugh Miller, the eminent Scottish geologist, tells us in his book "The Old Red Sandstone." The fairies (he says) have deserted the Burn of Eathie; but we have proof quite as conclusive as the nature of the case admits, that when they ceased to be seen there, it would have been vain to have looked for them anywhere else. On a Sabbath morning, nearly sixty years ago (1780?), the inmates of the little hamlet had all gone to church, all except one of the cottages; when, just as the shadow of the garden-dial had fallen on the line of noon, they saw a long cavalcade ascending out of the ravine through the wooded hollow. It wound among the knolls and bushes; and turning round to the northern gable of the cottage beside which the sole spectators of the scene were stationed, began to ascend the eminence towards the south. The horses were shaggy diminutive things, speckled dun and gray; the riders, stunted, misgrown, ugly creatures, attired in antique gerkins of plaid, long gray cloaks and little red caps, from under which their wild uncombed locks shot out over their cheeks and foreheads. The boy and his sister stood gazing in utter dismay and astonishment, as rider after rider, each one more uncouth and dwarfish than the one that had preceded it, passed by the cottage and disappeared among the brushwood which at that period covered the hill, until at length the entire rout, except the last rider, who lingered a few yards behind the others, had gone by. 'Wha are ye, little mannie? and where are ye going?" asked the boy, his curiosity getting the better of his fears and his prudence. "Not of the race of Adam", said the creature, turning for a moment in his saddle; "the People of Peace shall never more be seen in Scotland." This legend, for all its modern setting, seems reminiscent of an ancient migration of the aboriginal Picts or Scots. With it the subject is dropped for the time being.

The Railway Worm?

"Dear Agricola: Can you tell me, troug the columns of The Guardian, how to get rid of railway worms in apples? Last year was the first year I noticed them, and I tried to gather the apples as they fell, but this year the worms have spread to other trees. I have been told that it is nearly impossible to get rid of them, but I feel that there must be a cure. I shall appreciate it if you will deal with the subject some week. I am sure you must have encountered my trouble and know a common-sense way to eradicate the pest.—Very sincerely, Arthur G. Putnam, Eldon."

I certainly have encountered the trouble my Eldon correspondent tells of, but for the moment I was non-plussed when it was referred to as the "railway worm." That name is not given in any of the approved lists; the culprit in this case is the larva of the "Codling Moth," and it is always termed thus in spraying calendars, entomological lists, etc.

For all the larvae are so common, "not one orchardist in fifty has seen the adult moth." That is because it flies at night, is not attracted by light-traps, has not got a craving for sweetstuff and so cannot be killed by sugar-baiting. It is manifest that nothing can be done against that stage of the insect.

Everybody, however, is familiar with the worm or caterpillar that feeds in the interior of the fruit. The moth lays her scale-like eggs on the leaves, stem, or skin of the young apple, just about the time when the tree is in full bloom. In a few days the larva is hatched out and proceeds to bore into the fruit, usually by way of the cavity at the calyx end. (This is the most vulnerable period in the life history of the insect, as we shall see.) After a time the infested apple falls to the ground, the "worm" emerges, and usually finds its way back to the tree where it forms its cocoon in crevices of the bark, or even among any vegetable remains and rubbish round the trunk.

Where there is but one brood in the year, as in this province, the remedy is comparatively easy. It consists in spraying with poisoned Bordeaux mixture just after the blossoms have fallen, and again a week later. This will ensure the destruction of the majority of the worms. Most of those that escape can be got rid of by gathering the fallen fruit and feeding it to the pigs. A parasite of the Codling-worm was introduced into the U. S. someyears ago, but I have not heard of it lately; perhaps it did not acclimatize.

The spraying outfit for a large orchard is expensive; but for a small orchard a good barrel pump costing perhaps eighteen to twenty dollars, would be amply sufficient. For individual trees a good bucket pump, with a fine nozzle attachment, would answer very well. But the main thing is to do the spraying at the right time and not to let the fallen fruit lie till the worm gets away. It is carelessness in the latter case that causes most of the trouble. If A cleans up all the infested apples, and his neighbor B doesn't, both A and B will have a plague of codling-worms the following year. That is because of the migration of the adults.

Two trees (the first two) in my little orchard came into bearing this year, and about half of the apples have fallen. I am paying for my neglect!

I may remark, in conclusion that the scientific moniker of the Codling Moth is Carpocapsa pomonella, and that a codling is a small kind of apple.

(I regret that it was not possible to reply through these columns the same week, since I do not reside in the city, and my correspondent's letter had to be re-mailed.)

Postscript. Since writing the above I bethought me of a report issued in 1910 by the Hon. John Richards, Commissioner of Agriculture. It gives a very concise explanation of the reason for spraying. When the blossom falls, the calyx lobes are widely spread, forming a cup which is easily filled with the poisoned spray. It is through this cup that the larva eats into the apple. In a day or two the calyx lobes are drawn together, closing the cup against effective spraying. The second spray, a week or so later, will catch any larvae that have hatched late and may attempt to "dig in" through the skin of the fruit.

Some Unlisted Plants

There has been nothing new reported by local botanists this summer so far. From the year 1933 to 1937, a total of ninety-four species of Island plants, previously unlisted was brought under the present writer's notice. A considerable number were found by Professor John Adams, Ottawa, on a visit here in 1937. Other "new" plants were found by Professors H. Groh and R. R. Hurst, Dr. W. L. Holman of the University of Toronto, reported several unlisted species from the Summerside district, and Mr. Harold A. Messervy, City Surveyor, contributed a list from different localities of the Island. This forms a supplementary catalogue to that issued by the Royal Canadian Institute in 1933 and makes our plants up to 688 species and varieties as against the 414 species formerly known.

Dr. Holman, on a recent visit to the writer, pointed out that Gray's Manual of Botany, (Seventh edition) specifically points out "P. E. I." as the loca[illegible] of certain plants (twenty-one in [illegible]) and furthermore that eight of these are not in our list! Through the courtesy of Dr. Holman I have the complete list of these references, and have [illegible] putting the "new" ones before my botanical readers. The [illegible] numbers indicate the page in the Manual.

[illegible] (P. 76).

P. interior R. [illegible] Fallform Pond-weed, (P. 77).

Carex umbellata Schkuhr. Umbel-like Sedge, (P. 235).

Stellaria uliginosa Murr. Swamp Starwort, (P. 381).

Rubus setosus Bigel. Bristly Blackberry, (P. 491).

Viola septentrionalis Greene. Northern Blue Violet, (P. 582).

Pterospora andromedea Nutt. Pine Drops (P. 630) a tall wand-like leafless plant well worth looking for, as it is apparently parasitic on the roots of pines; unknown to the writer.

Aster frondosus (Nutt.) T. and G. Leafy Aster (P. 816).

A "new" plant has just come in as I write! Dr. Holman brings from Dalvey a specimen of the Purple Crowberry, Empetrum nigrum, L. var. andinum (Philippi) D. C. It has the fruit larger and more juicy than the common Black Crowbery, and of a reddish plum-color in hue. Both kinds are growing at Dalvey.

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BLUEBERRY PUDDING

One-fourth cup shortening, 1-2 cup sugar, 1 egg, 1 cup flour sifted with 1-4 teaspoon salt, and 1 1-2 teaspoons baking powder, 1-3 cup milk, 1 pint blueberries, 1-2 cup sugar, 2 tablespoons flour, 2 tablespoons butter, 1 teaspoon lemon juice. Cream shortening, add sugar, then beaten egg, and cream well. Then add sifted flour to first mixture, alternately with the milk. Place in baking pan. Spread the blueberries on the mixture, and then the lemon juice. Mix together the sugar and flour, and rub in the butter. Place this on top of the berries. Bake in a moderate oven for three-fourths of an hour. Serve warm with cream.

NINE-DAY PICKLES.

Cut up enough medium-sized cucumbers to make 4 quarts. Cover with brine for 3 days. Drain, cover with fresh water for 3 days, changing water every day. Drain, stew in weak vinegar until tender. Drain again, and pour over the following mixture, boiling hot, the last three mornings: Three pints vinegar, 3 pounds white sugar, 1 ounce each of allspice, celery seed and cinnamon buds. Boil mixture until quite thick the last morning.

The larger cucumbers can be cut in one-inch lengths—cutting across cucumber. In fact, I like them better than the small gherkins.

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TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming

As these fox notes are being written two-thirds of August will have passed into the annals of recorded time and we will soon be delving into September, which the fox rancher associates in his mind with the first development of fur. It is therefore wise that precautions be taken in the next few weeks to see that that development is not impaired or injured or anything done that will retard the production of a good clear pelt.

I will briefly take up a few of the principal matters to attend to. Eradication of parasites such as round worms and hookworms. This is very important as it is definitely established that hookworm, by causing malnutrition, will impede development of fur and cause it to assume a brown shade. Years ago when foxes were kept in the open pens and hookworm was rampant, one would see pelts as red as the proverbial Island clay. Now that phase of color has pretty well disappeared, but there is enough tinge to cause a great depreciation on what would otherwise be good pelts.

Hookworm is evidenced by emaciation even though good nutritious food is given, by coughing and throbbing of the sides of the fox. Animals affected should be placed on wire floors, fed generously with considerable meat in the diet. There is other treatment, but it is rather difficult for the ordinary man to perform. It consists in the brushing of the thorax with a solution of oil of eucalyptus in alcohol. The writer has tried it out with good results but it is not adaptable to every day technique.

Fleas. It is curious the number of ranchers whose foxes are harboring fleas, that will insist that they have no fleas in their ranch. They are present to some degree in all ranches and now is the time to get busy and clear them out, because if you do not they will interefere with the nutrition of your foxes and make them anaemic and cause the fur to be patchy and in some cases present a moth-eaten appearance. Get rid of fleas by dipping if you like with a one in 100 solution of Izal in warm water, in which the fox is immersed for some seconds, then after a minute or two in the open re-dip in clear warm water. Other methods consist of powdering with a good flea powder such as pulvex or other good brands on the market.

Round worms. Round worms are present in most foxes at some season of the year. They are taken in with the food supply and from other sources, so it is wise to treat for them. There are capsules on the market that have a combination of round worm and hookworm medicines which eradicate both at the one operation, thereby saving time and also saving the foxes' constitution, because worm medicines are powerful and cannot be administered too frequently with impunity.

Last call for a general clean up while the hot weather is on. This is a general call and every fox rancher should spend some time in careful clean up of all premises, sheds, dens, in fact everything connected with the ranch should be in apple pie order. From the minute the visitor steps inside your place of business to the time when he leaves, he should be presented with a neat habitation that will please the eye and also appeal to his sense of sanitation and have him go away with the expression, "Well, that man knows his business."

The use of a good disinfectant, particularly one with a strong odor but not necessarily an expensive one, is indicated on all fox ranches. The strong odored disinfectant drive away fleas and do away with bad odors from refuse and fox excreta. Good disinfectant is indicated in the feed house, where flies will be driven away by its odor. Flies are a dangerous carrier of disease and should not be allowed to light on meat or any food stuffs that you are giving to foxes.

Feeding of fish. A number of theories are current regarding the time to stop feeding fish. The writer is not an authority on the subject and in fact does not know any one who can definitely state whether fish should be cut out altogether from the diet during the fall months when the fur is maturing, or whether it can be fed in limited quantities with benefit. In our own ranch we are feeding about two ounces of fresh fish daily, mixed in with meat such as horse meat, tripe, fresh meat with ground green bone and cereals. In the ranch of nearly 2,500 foxes—1523 of these pups—we have not had a casualty for a month, which is very much out of the ordinary for us, as other years we had considerable losses from bloating, so this year our diet must be right and the fresh fish mixed with the meats have had no deleterious effects.

By the way, in quoting about the ranch which the writer is connected with, it is not done with a tendency to assume a superiority complex. We know our weaknesses, but when we give our own experiences on a large scale operations we assume that they may be of benefit to others who are on a smaller scale. Being on a large scale we have to conduct our business in a very strict manner, and can tell you to the cent what it costs for each item of feed for every month of the year, and the exact cost to produce a pelt. Curiously enough it is the general belief that we must go to the wall because of the slump in prices, but take it from the writer, friends, our big ranch is producing pelts at about the lowest average possible to do so when all factors are charged in such as telephone, truckage, light, insurance, taxes, repairs, depreciation, medicines, feed, labor, improvements and all the hundred and one things that enter into the cost of running a fox ranch.

The speech of Senator Marshall at the opening of the Provincial Exhibition was one of the most inspiring that I have ever had the pleasure of listening to. It was the kind of speech that took a man out of his lethergy and created strength and courage instead of a disposition to fall by the wayside and give up the fight. There is a great deal in keeping up morale. It was powerfully played up during the Great War, and as every soldier who took part in that conflict knows, morale was backed up by the power of oratory before great battles. It seems to me that we need speeches like Duncan Marshall's to give us the necessary will-to-win in this battle for fur supremacy. In my opinion there are no more intelligent people in agriculture or fur farming than our Prince Edward Islanders. You could see every evidence of that in the wonderful animals displayed at the Provincial Exhibition, and you know you are right by the comments of the greatest live stock judges in Canada who were there to do the judging.

In fox farming we patted ourselves on the back too long. We held to the bogey that we were supreme and that nobdy could grow pelts but ourselves. That foolish idea has been knocked out and is right in the discard. Now we have to think, yes, think and work, and as surely as we do, just as surely will we win back the name and fame that once was ours.

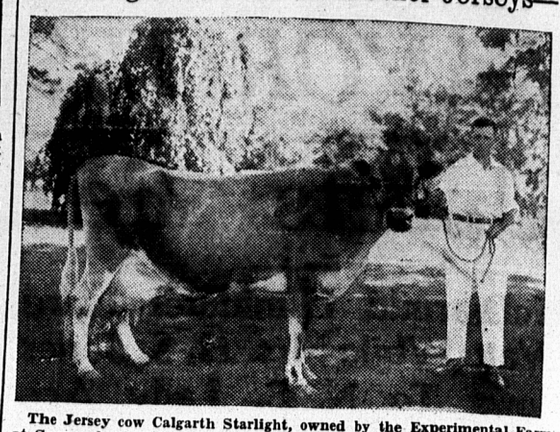
Experimenting with mice, H. T. Goodale of Mount Hope Farm, Mass., reports that they have been able to materially increase the size and weight of mice by selective breeding. The same thing applies to silver foxes. Large foxes can be produced by using selective polygamous males if you want to increase quality, or by monagamous mating if you can afford the time.

Elizabeth Rydon, a very clever woman who has the entree of all the great fashionable centres of London, and in fact all Europe, writes a monthly letter to the Fur Trade Journal of Canada. In the August number she says some things which are very interesting to us, so we take the liberty of quoting:—'Because of her fondness for black, the silver fox has become a favourite with the French woman. But the French purse has now been very thin for some time, and as the little sou here and there must be reserved for the inevitable National stocking, French fur buyers have of necessity had to favor low priced pelts. Traders have bid briskly up to six guineas for the past six months or more. Above that, they search only for a bargain in some rare, high quality skin, because they have in mind some fortunate furrier who has a rich clientele that is dependable.

"Six guineas in the Canadian language is $30.00. Just how much of that $30.00 will go to the fur farmer? Not more than $20.00 if all is fair and square. This brings silver fox pelts down to the level of butter and egg money, at twice the risk in raising. The remedy lies in the hands of the fur farmers themselves. When goods sell for a given price over a long period of time, as silver fox pelts have been selling, the public take that price to be more or less standard. And the low bids of European buyers have encouraged British buyers to expect a standard price which will enable retailers to sell silver foxes at ten guineas a skin. ($50.00).

"I think we can expect this to be an average price for some time to come, with occasional fine skins fetching a high figure, and a lot of throw-outs to feed the cheaper market. The fur, itself, has become standard all over the civilized world—as standard as men's soft felt hats. Style, and the manner of wearing will change from time to time, but silver fox fur is standard until somebody can invent a new animal which can be adapted to such a universal purpose. This having been a cool summer, the single pelt scarf has returned again to brief popularity. This in itself proves the fur as an accepted standard. Queen Elizabeth has accepted the mode with her costume for morning functions and shopping; a single scarf worn lightly over one shoulder, or often carried on her arm. Now that she is in mourning for her mother she will doubtless wear the fur in other fashions, forward throughout the day, and with the black velvet she had adopted for evening wear. All the royal ladies now wear silver fox furs quite frequently, so I am afraid this gives the lie to one of our popular Canadian magazines which stated not long ago that Canadian silver fox has lost popularity because Royalty had snubbed it."

—Starlight Outshine s All Other Jerseys—



The Jersey cow Calgarth Starlight, owned by the Experimental Farm at Summerland, B.C., has recently become the world's record life time Butterfat producer of the Jersey Breed.

To July 31st., Starlight has produced 7579 lbs. of fat from 181,083 lbs. of milk. Starlight is shown with Jimmie Aitken, her caretaker throughout her sensation production. They were photographed the day Starlight wrested the honors away from Sophie 19th., of Hood Farm, that grand old cow that has held the world's record for 15 years.

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