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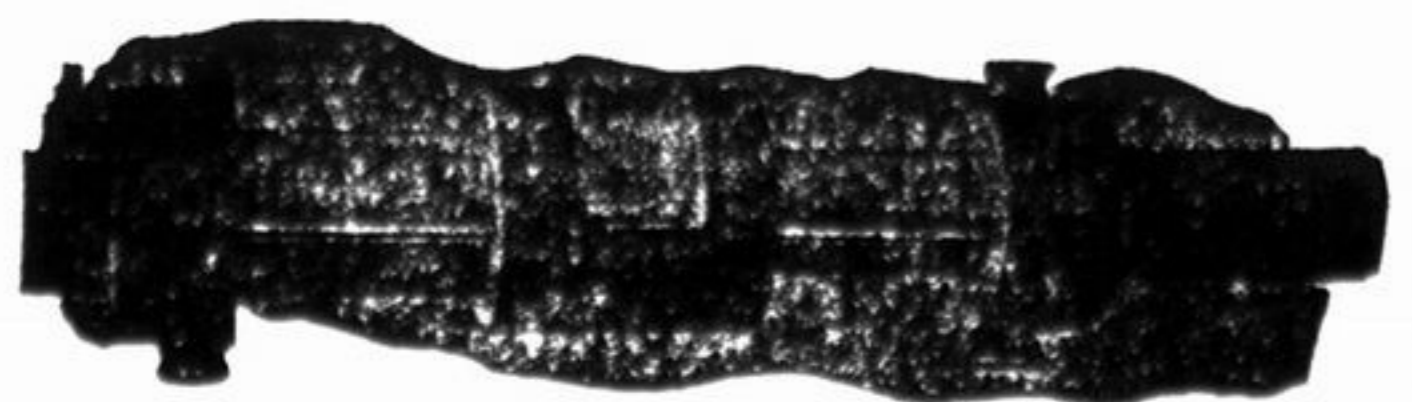
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RURAL TOPICS

WHAT SOUNDNESS MEANS.
A satisfactory definition of sound or soundness is not easily given. There is no other word that conveys quite the same meaning. A person is said to have a sound body, or an organ is said to be sound when it is healthy. This term as it applies to the horse includes a little more. According to a bulletin of the Indiana Experiment Station, the horse is sound when he is healthy, and when his conformation is such that he has not had and is not likely to have any tendency to any particular disease. The term "sound" as used by veterinarians and dealers is often loosely construed. It may mean anything from freedom from lameness or not windbroken, to an apparently healthy condition at the time of examination. There is no fixed technical or legal definition that is uniformly recognized. The English definition of unsoundness, while defective in that it is wholly based upon the usefulness of the animal, is one worthy of being repeated, and is as follows: "Any disease or alteration of structure from disease or accident, which does interfere or may in its ordinary course interfere with the animal's usefulness is unsoundness, and furthermore, slightness of disease or facility of cure is no qualification as regards such unsoundness."

An animal which may have had diseases that have been cured, or may have some disease at the time of examination that does not interfere with his usefulness for some purposes, is then said to be "serviceably sound." In some places "serviceably sound" refers only to wind.

A vice is not necessarily unsoundness, but some of them lean to unsoundness, and may, therefore, be considered as part of the examination in the selection of an animal. Vices are such traits of character or such habits as have the tendency to produce disease, or to lessen the usefulness, mar the appearance, interfere with or make dangerous the handling or cause the destruction of property. Before examining the horse, the purchaser should decide upon the character of the service for which the animal is intended, whether for slow draft, heavy or light harness, saddle or combination. The class or type, size, age, call, sex and color should be approximately settled. Ample time should be taken in the selection of a horse. This can usually be done when the animal is obtained from the dealer or producer, but seldom allowable at public sales or sales stables. At a public sale the horse is sold as sound, "serviceably sound," or at the "end of the halter." When the horse is sold as sound, the purchaser has the privilege of returning the animal if found to be otherwise within a day or two if sold as "serviceably sound," the return applying merely to wind and the ability to do work. In some cases the special disability is mentioned. If sold at the "end of the halter," the purchaser takes all the chances on the number and character of the diseases that may be present.

DAIRY PRODUCTS AND FOOD.
When it comes to making a comparison of the value of the animal food products of the farm the dairy leads them all, far and away. Over and over analysis by the best experts show that three pounds of milk are equal as food to one pound of meat of the best quality. Now we know also that about the best that can be done in making meat with the same farm products is two pounds per day. Only a fair cow gives 2,300 pounds of milk a year. That exceeds the food value of two pounds of meat daily for the year. But considering that good cows—not the best but only good—give more than twice 2,300 pounds yearly, and it gives one a fair idea of the value of dairy products. This is putting the question of comparative value on bed-rock facts.

Of course we all understand that meat and vegetables, fruits, etc., are essential in the dietary, and must be devoted time and acreage to growing all these? We allude to the dairy question in this way to give emphasis to the importance of it, and to show that if it does require hard work and constant attention these are most worthily bestowed in the great program of human industry.

Another important feature in dairying is well stated by the Iowa Agricultural College, as follows:

One ton of butter, worth \$600, robs the soil of only 50 cents' worth of fertility, while a ton of wheat takes from it \$7.50 worth. In reality the dairymen is selling air, sunshine and rain. If the population increases at the rate prophesied and expected in the coming year we will have three people to feed where we have one now.

Our grain crops are reducing in production per acre yearly, while dairying is increasing, and dairying in Europe is made profitable on land valued at \$200 to \$1,000 per acre. In fact the farmers there are even importing American feed and still making this land pay him for dairy farming purposes.—Indiana Farmer.

ECONOMY IN FEEDING.
Poultrymen do not care what the cost of the food is for their fowls as long as there is a proportionate profit. When there are no profits from the hens to pay for it any kind of food is expensive. If certain foods are used because they can be purchased cheaply and no benefit is derived there is no economy in the use of them. The fact that fowls are fed mostly on grain is due to the fact that it is easily handled and more easily procured than any other food, but unless the hens lay better than on other materials the food is wasted on them. It is better to have no hens at all than to feed them materials which might be more profitably disposed of in some other way.—Farmers' Home Journal.

MAKE THE COW COMFORTABLE.
Whatever adds to the comfort of the cow increases the milk yield. Discomfort decreases the yield. Strive to make the cow comfortable. Give her shade during the hottest days and the best protection you can from flies.

TALLOW IS FATTENING.
It is said that beef or mutton tallow is most excellent fattening food for poultry and may be fed at the rate of one ounce to each bird per day with profit, provided it does not cost in excess of six cents per pound.—Farmers' Home Journal.

SMALL FLOCK BETTER.
One of the reasons why a small flock of hens does better than a large one is because table scraps form a large part of the small flock's ration, and they are an evenly-balanced ration.—Farmers' Home Journal.

CLEANING DAIRY UTENSILS.
Sul soda is excellent for removing fat and disease from milk pails, cans and separators, but soap is best for dirt alone. Sul soda is neither poisonous nor corrosive. Use with water in small proportions.

A Christmas Tree for the Birds.
A Christmas tree for sparrows was a feature of the celebration of the day in West Chester, Pa., when Mrs. James Mowen, who feeds the birds of her locality every day, placed a large cedar tree in a snow drift in her yard and decorated it with pieces of cake, bread, meat and other things for the birds. It is said at least 100 sparrows got a portion of the food during the day, and a nearby baker did a rushing business. The home birds seemed to have invited all those within a distance of many blocks and the yard was a busy scene, the tree being almost torn down by the birds.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

PARM NOTES.
The cheese taste of butter is due to lack of thoroughness in washing and removing the buttermilk. Butter will not keep well if any of the buttermilk remains.
Remember that cows exposed to cold rains run down in milk yield.
It is only the regular good feeding that keeps up milk flow.
Pure air, sunshine and good balanced rations are all essential for the dairy cow.
It will pay to take extra good care of the heifers that are to come fresh next spring.
Most of us know what our cows are producing, but do we know what it costs us to make them produce it? This is the thing that counts.
It is not so much what we get for

butter as what we get over and above the cost of production that tells the story.

When milk is placed in the cellar particular attention to cleanliness must be given. Not a cobweb overhead, not a half-rotten vegetable, nor anything that will make a bad smell, must be permitted there. The floors must be kept perfectly clean.

Feed for the object desired, and never allow the fowls to become over fat. With proper feeding goes exercising and without proper muscular movements the digestion will be defective and no good results can be expected.

Keep the old geese for breeding purposes. Market the young ones. Geese may well be kept in service many years and thus differ from chickens.

When pruning is done it is a good plan to leave some of the trimmings on the ground so that the rabbits and mice will not have occasion to feed upon the trees.

SAPLINGS SHOULD NOT BE FELLEED.

It is worth while for farmers to pay a little more attention to their farm timber lots. Anyone who has had to buy timber lately knows that its price is almost prohibitory.

In fact, building operations on the farm as elsewhere have been greatly kept back by the high prices asked for all kinds of lumber.

Take a trip about the country, and you will see some things that will make your heart ache if you care anything for trees. In the mill yards of the east and middle west, where hemlock and pine grow, you will find little trees, hardly as large around as a stovepipe, waiting to be sawed.

Some of these will hardly make a two by four scantling.

If those saplings could have been permitted to stand a few years longer they would have been worth many times more than they are now. But the spirit seems to be to cut the trees down now and let them go for what they will bring. This is quite in line with much we do in other directions at the present time. The dollar we can get now is the dollar we must have. Tomorrow may look out for itself.

The farmer has it in his power to put a check to this waste. How? By cutting only such trees as are dead or beginning to die. The best farmers do this themselves, and if they rent their lands they insist that their tenants shall do the same. And then they may set out more trees.

If they are compelled to cut any live trees for building purposes, they may also set out other smaller trees to take their place. They may also fight fire, the worst enemy we have in our forests. They may work for better timber laws. And they may educate their boys to love the woods and try to keep them growing.—Weekly Witness.

REPORT OF RESOLUTION COMMITTEE.
The following resolutions were read by F. P. Hadfield, and adopted:
Whereas, The Common Council of the city of Chicago, on the recommendation of the Board of Health, have forbidden the importation of milk into the city, except it comes from tubercularized herds, and
Whereas, The veterinarians are again abroad in the county, equipped with thermometers and syringes loaded with tuberculin to inoculate our dairy herds; and
Whereas, From our past experience we believe the practice to be bad and a source of greater danger than of protection to the health of the public, therefore be it
Resolved, That we condemn the tuberculin test as of no practical value, as it is unreliable and determines nothing, and we call upon our representatives in the State Senate and legislature to use all honorable means to defeat any legislation or appropriation recognizing the tuberculin test as a diagnosis for tuberculosis in cattle.
We deny the statement that "tuberculosis exists to an alarming extent" in our dairy herds; in fact, they were never in healthier condition.
We accept as sane, sound and supported by facts and conditions the opinions of such eminent investigators as Doctors Koch, Smead and a host of others, that so-called bovine tuberculosis is not transmissible to the human family through the products of the cow.
The dairy interests do not oppose any sanitary measures safeguarding the public health, but are unalterably opposed to inoculating the herds with the poison known as tuberculin.
TITLE OF THE MEETING IN REGARD TO TESTING CATTLE.
George Barr opposed to test under present conditions.
Chas. Bierman opposed to test under present conditions.
George Benjamin opposed to test under present conditions.
Joe Clark opposed to test under present conditions.
F. B. Hadfield opposed to test under present conditions.
Peter Heinz opposed to test under present conditions.
George Keller opposed to test under present conditions.
Mike Kammes opposed to test under present conditions.

MILK PRODUCERS' PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION.

Organized at Wheaton, February 9, 1909. Roy Lewis was appointed to act as chairman, and Wm. Yackley as secretary of said meeting. The following members were nominated for Director: E. W. Plane, Roy Lewis, Edward Kearns and John Schramer. Motion made and carried that the man who received the most votes would be declared elected. Roy Lewis, 14 votes.
Edward Kearns, 12 votes.
John Schramer, 4 votes.
E. W. Plane, 1 vote.

Roy Lewis was elected director, George Keller was elected chairman, and Edward Kearns secretary of the Du Page County Milk Producers' Protective Association. A motion was made and carried that all charter members of the Milk Producers' Association of Chicago be made charter members of the Du Page County Milk Producers' Protective Association. Motion was made and carried that there will be a meeting held at Wheaton February 20, 1909, at 2 p. m., at the Court House, and all of the county delegates are to attend the meeting at Chicago the 15th of February, at 10:30 a. m., at the Sherman House.

REGISTRATION OF DELEGATES REPRESENTING FORTY SHIPPING POINTS.

- J. H. Brummel, Naperville, Williams Road, A. E. & C.
- George Barr, Downers Grove, C. B. & Q.
- Chas. Bierman, Elmhurst, Lombard, 4 platforms.
- George Benjamin, West Chicago, Ingallton, G. W. R. R.
- Joe Clark, Lombard, North Glen Ellyn, G. W. R. R.
- F. P. Hadfield, St. Charles, Smith Road, A. E. & C.
- Peter Heinz, Ingallton, G. W. R. R.
- George Keller, Naperville, No. 9, C. B. & Q.
- Edward Kearns, Naperville, Ferry Road, A. E. & C.
- Mike Kammes, Winfield, C. & N. W.
- H. E. Krumwiede, Wheaton, Greta, C. & N. W. R. R.
- John Kohls, West Chicago, Ingallton, A. E. & C.
- Roy Lewis, Wheaton, Weisbrook Road, A. E. & C.
- Phillip Lambert, Wheaton, C. & N. W.
- Robert Lockman, Wheaton, A. E. & C.
- George Mack, West Chicago, Mt. View, A. E. & C.
- B. F. Merles, West Chicago, Warrenville, A. E. & C.
- J. Nichols, Downers Grove, Gregg Sta., C. B. & Q.
- R. H. Ostrander, West Chicago, Eola, C. B. & Q.
- C. B. Patterman, Downers Grove, Nos. 18 and 19, A. E. & C.
- M. Player, West Chicago, Jewell Road, A. E. & C.
- E. W. Plane, West Chicago, Plane Crossing, A. E. & C.
- P. E. Rogers, West Chicago, C. & N. W.
- F. Schick, Schick, I. C.
- W. E. Schwartz, Lisle, C. B. & Q.
- Jake Klein, West Chicago, Foster Road, A. E. & C.
- Fred Voss, Elmhurst, 5 platforms, A. E. & C.
- John Wankentine, Hinsdale, C. B. & Q.
- John Wagner, Wheaton, Glen Ellyn, C. & N. W.
- M. J. Wurtz, West Chicago, bottling plant.
- Wm. Yackley, Wheaton, Glen Ellyn, A. E. & C.
- John Molik, Hinsdale, Byrnesville, S. F.
- W. Patrick Swift, Swift, I. C.

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George Mack opposed to test under present conditions.
H. Krumwiede opposed to test under present conditions.
John Kohls opposed to test under present conditions.
Roy Lewis opposed to test under present conditions.
Chas. Bierman opposed to test under present conditions.
George Benjamin opposed to test under present conditions.
Joe Clark opposed to test under present conditions.
F. B. Hadfield opposed to test under present conditions.
Peter Heinz opposed to test under present conditions.
George Keller opposed to test under present conditions.
Mike Kammes opposed to test under present conditions.
P. E. Rogers opposed to test. F. Schick, have tested; not satisfied.
Jacob Klein opposed to test.
Fred Voss opposed to test.
John Wankentine opposed to test.
John Wagner, some have tested; others will test.
Wm. Yackley, some have tested; others will test.
M. J. Wurtz, have not, but will if they get a 1-cent per quart advance in price.
J. H. Brummel opposed to test.
W. E. Schwartz, some have tested; others will test.
Emperor William, having what looks to him like a life job, can say what he pleases, and, if it is wrong, his ministers have to suffer.