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The Dairy

Do You Brand Your Butter?

"A pound of good dairy butter, please," said the customer.

"Dow's is fifty cents, Denman's sixty," the storekeeper explained briskly. "Which'll you have—Denman's?"

"No," the customer's tone was conclusive. "We had a pound of Denman's the other night. Worst butter I ever tasted!"

"How did you know it was Denman's? Mrs. Denman doesn't print her name on her butter. Her butter is always extra nice."

"You told me yourself the stuff was Denman's. Give me Dow's."

Which floored the storekeeper. He handed out a pound of 50-cent butter.

The explanation of this was simple. The storekeeper had overreached himself, as storekeepers sometimes will. He had sold for Denman's, butter which was really the product of a less competent buttermaker. He had done the same thing before. He will doubtless do it many times again. And inevitably he will pay heavily in injured good-will for his poor business judgment.

But there is another angle to the incident. It revealed the ugly thing that was happening to the Denman reputation, innocently entrusted to a grasping merchant. What this good farm woman gained at the separator and churn she was losing because she overlooked a simple old thing—the branding of her butter. Old-fashioned housewives still make butter with sheaves, cows, initials, and the like, molded in the butter itself, a distinctive farm brand which no dealer's chicancery can remove. Many buttermakers in district where the brick is the universal butter form do not use printed butter wrappers. Some others do not use either stamp or printed wrapper, but simply write the name on a piece of paper and place it beneath the wrapper. Such slips, of course, can be easily lost or removed.

When a stamp and pad are used the imprint is often smutted out and undecipherable when it reaches the consumer.

The farm making poor dairy butter has no particular ground for advertising it. There are a good many in this class, so many, in fact, that excellent buttermakers in self-protection must brand their butter unless they deliver it to consumers in person. The printed wrapper is ordinarily the best protection. The cost of the printing is negligible; the protection is complete; the advertisement of great value. The home buttermaker whose market product sells at a premium on the local market has something to point to with pride. Such a reputation, attained only with great pains, can be destroyed in a month by a dishonest dealer unless the producer safeguards it.

To Drain Your Land.

Money spent now in properly draining wet farm lands will serve the best interest of our country, and will pay a high rate of interest, often as high as 100 per cent. There is scarcely a farm in Canada where some drainage is not needed to make the soil produce the maximum crops possible with ordinary tillage.

There are millions of acres where good drainage would double the annual food production. There are other millions of acres which lie wholly useless for the want of proper drainage. In many sections the early Autumn frosts last year ruined the corn crop on poorly drained fields, but only slightly damaged that on properly drained fields.

There are thousands of miles of ditches that need to be made now by dredging machines. Laterals should spread out from these further to carry off the excess water.

In many sections ditches are blasted out by the use of dynamite alone. Ditches from 3 to 1 feet wide are quickly loaded and fired under favorable conditions.

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Keep An Account of Your Crop.

No farmer is in a position to exercise justice toward his business unless he keeps a record of its details. He must keep account of each crop that he raises, and with his various fields as well. The latter is even of more importance than the former, for an account with certain fields for two or three consecutive years will reveal that land's deficiency and suggest its improvement.

A great deal of money can be wasted by growing crops on soil not adapted to them. Where one crop is grown upon a field having several different soils, the tract should be roughly plotted as to soil, or a just estimate cannot be made.

No busy farmer has time for any elaborate system of account-keeping, but anyone can use an ordinary journal and keep it in this way:

At the top of the page write the name of the crop, the year, and its location. As each expense item, such as seed, soil preparation, fertilizer and its application, planting, cultivation, harvesting, etc., occurs, it is written in the journal page opposite the date upon which the operation occurs. The hours spent in working the crop are charged according to the rate the farmer is paying for labor. Package, packing, and selling expense must also be entered against it.

Credited to the crop are the returns from the sales and an estimate of fertility value of the root and crop remains. The last-mentioned item is difficult to estimate, because it cannot be weighed or measured in most cases.

There may yet exist much of the applied fertilizers or manures which the season's crop has not used. This is also difficult to estimate. These fertilizing values cannot be credited in terms of dollars and cents, but since the full cost is charged against the crop this may be mentioned as an unknown variable credit value in the case of all crops known not to be exhausting.

On the other hand, every crop grown removes some of the original soil fertility which has been made available during its life by its own action upon the soil. Again we are dealing with values we cannot ascertain, and we have to mention it on the debit side as an unknown variable debit value.

Now as to the account with soil plots: In another part of the same journal, or in another journal, if the book is small and the farm large and crops numerous, choose a page for each plot. Write the name or description of the plot at the top of the page. In the date column write the year, then on a line by itself the crops for that year and each item of cost for the year, such as tillage, fertilizing, seed, etc., placing the amounts in the debit column. Then should follow the items of sale, prices being entered in the credit column clear of all selling expense. The balance of loss or gain should be stated below this. The plot records of each successive year should follow.

In this way the farmer can know at a glance whether a certain soil section is making him sufficient returns or is losing him money for his time and labor. It also shows him his crop successions and the tendency toward a richer or poorer farm.

A map of the farm plan should be drawn and pasted in the front of such a book for ready reference.

Hemorrhagic Septicemia.

Hemorrhagic septicemia (blood poisoning), anthrax and blackleg are terrible scourges and used to kill live stock without man being able in any way to stay their ravages. Now they are well understood by trained veterinarians, and fairly successful methods of control have been discovered and put into practice; but no remedy has been discovered.

Within the past ten or twelve years hemorrhagic septicemia of cattle has been rightly recognized and properly attributed to its actual cause. Swine and sheep have been found to suffer from the same disease caused by the similar baccillus of each of those animals, while a like disease has been found to kill poultry. Swine plague has been the popular term for hemorrhagic septicemia of hogs, and chicken cholera is the name of the like disease of poultry.

Rapd advance is being made in the improvement of preventive agents for each animal, and that for cattle now is being widely and usefully applied by veterinarians. "Pasteurella vaccine," serum, and a bacterin are being successfully employed in staying the ravages of the hemorrhagic septicemia of cattle and our readers should understand that such treatment instantly should be given by the attending veterinarian if the disease suddenly appears in a district. Let us see, then, by what symptoms the disease is characterized.

Hemorrhagic septicemia of cattle takes several forms and is much similar to anthrax and also to blackleg. The last-named disease, however, is confined practically to young cattle under two years of age, whereas hemorrhagic septicemia attacks cattle of all ages, but principally "stockers" and "feeders," which have come through stockyards. Anthrax not only attacks cattle of all ages but rapidly spreads to sheep and swine. Horses may acquire it from the bite of an insect. People take it in the form of malignant pustule from infection of a wound, or the bite of an insect, and the attack tends to prove fatal.

In anthrax of cattle the spleen is greatly engorged with black tar-like blood and the blood does not coagulate. In blackleg the blood coagulates, the spleen is practically normal after death and blood does not flow from the natural orifices of the body, but it does so in anthrax. In anthrav the swellings show a gelatinous fluid when opened, while those of blackleg crackle when handled, as gas is present under the skin, and there is a strong smell from the latter swellings when opened.

In hemorrhagic septicemia bloody froth may run from the nostrils and mouth, and blood may be present in the passages before death. After death, red or bloody spots are found upon the serous membranes lining the chest and abdominal cavities, the cavities of the heart and under the covering of the heart and kidneys. Similar spots (small) may be seen upon the membranes lining the nostrils and eyelids, while large and small bloody spots or patches are seen upon the carcass after removal of the hide.

Absolute certainty in diagnosis is only possible by microscopic examination and testing with laboratory animals, but the experienced veterinarian usually can differentiate fairly well between the three diseases in question.

When hemorrhagic septicemia is definitely diagnosed the preventive biological agent should be hypodermatically applied at once by the veterinarian, and each animal separated and kept separate on a different pasture than the one where the disease occurred, or in clean, well-ventilated stables. Each animal should be given drinking water from its own marked pail. By such isolation and treatment the spread of the disease may be stopped; otherwise, it would be likely to quickly kill every exposed animal.

Pure glycerine will help to dissolve fruit stains from linen.

Remove stains from the fingers by washing them with a nail brush wet with tea, and then in warm water.

For washing windows, which should be done when the sun is not shining on them, use warm water with a tablespoonful of kerosene added to each pail of water.

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Pests That Are Welcome.

When I hear farmers bragging about the hawks, owls, weasels, and minks they have killed, my "dander" begins to rise. Here in this Eastern Ontario community such wholesale killing of rodents, owls, and hawks was the common attitude when the country was newer. But there has been a radical change. After the killing and trapping of these so-called "pests" had continued for several years, a plague of rats and mice assailed us. With the rodents' natural enemies killed off they multiplied until corn and grain fields, meadows, orchards, and buildings swarmed with rodents, big and little. Half, and even more, of our grain crops were sometimes destroyed in fields and storage.

We got our lesson, and now we make our poultry houses pest-proof, and give a kind welcome to weasels, owls, hawks, snakes, and toads—all friends of the farmer—and song and game birds as well. What is the loss of an occasional chicken, a few cherries, and small fruits compared with the damage done by hordes of destructive rodents and insect pests?—D. H.

The Farm Tractor.

The tractor on the farm arose
Before the dawn at four;
It milked the cows and washed the clothes,
And finished every chore.
Then forth it went into the field
Just at the break of day;
It reaped and threshed the golden yield,
And hauled it all away.
It plowed the field that afternoon,
And when the job was through,
It hummed a pleasant little tune,
And churned the butter, too.
For while the farmer, peaceful-eyed,
Read by the tungsten's glow;
The patient tractor stood outside,
And ran the dynamo.

—The O.A.C. Review.

Black lead mixed with turpentine instead of water gives a brilliant and lasting polish and prevents the stove from rusting.

The Best of the Perennials

This is the best season of the year to plan the spring garden. It is much easier to think out alterations now with the garden in plain view than it will be later on when it is deep in snow. The mistakes and successes of the 1919 season are fresh in one's mind and plans may be made accordingly.

Peonies, a June flowering perennial, are beloved by every one, easily grown, very hardy and have large showy flowers which are fine for cutting. There is a great variety of colors from which to choose. It has practically no insect enemies. The flowers will not be as perfect the first two years but by the third year the finest kind of blooms should be produced.

The most popular white peony is without doubt, Festiva Maxima, followed in popularity by Duchess de Memours and Marie Lemoine as mid-season bloomers, followed again by Gloria Mundi, a late bloomer.

Of the pink varieties, La Tulipe and Eugene Verdier are early light pink beauties. Monsieur Jules Elie and Madam Coste are excellent mid-season bloomers.

For those who like red, the following peonies are good. Adolphe Rosseau, one of the darkest, is the early blooming variety; Felix Crousse, a rich shade of red; Berloiz, currant red, which bloom next; Rubra Superba, a deep red, is known as the best late-blooming crimson peony.

The Iris is the easiest possible flower to grow.

To have an Iris garden in bloom from tulip time till August, get some Dwarf Iris, which are the first to bloom in the spring. They are excellent for borders.

Follow these with intermediate Irises, which are next in height and next in time of blooming. These can be had in various colors.

To continue your Iris garden's summer bloom, select some of the white, blue and purple Siberian Beardless Irises and the Tall Border Irises, such as Aurea, Monspur and Spuria, Mrs. A. W. Tait.

The last of the series is this wonderful pageant are the Japanese Irises, which are not nearly well enough known. Many people confuse them with the Siberian Iris, and think them small and, therefore, uninteresting. On the contrary, they are huge, umbrella-like flowers.

Excellent varieties are: Yellow, Aurea, Darius, Gracchus; pink, Her Majesty; white, Mrs. H. Darwin; lilac, Queen of May; blue, Blue Belle, Delight.

The Larkspur is one of the handsomest and most satisfactory of all hardy plants. Do not omit the stately and old-fashioned hollyhock, which has been brought to a high state of perfection and displays a variety of colors.

Phlox is another flower which should find a place in every perennial garden. During late summer and fall months they are a rich mass of bloom. The following varieties are especially beautiful: Africa, a royal purple; Asia, rich shade of mauve; Doreen, salmon-rose; Etna, orange-red; Jeanne d'Arc, white; Lord Kelvin, red; Rynstrom, bright pink.

The Oriental Poppy makes a gorgeous display, whether planted singly or in masses. Golden Glow has flowers of the brightest golden-yellow and attains a height of six feet. It is excellent to plant along a fence that you wish to hide. Sweet William is a beautiful, old-fashioned border plant. Columbine is a favorite for early summer blooming. Canterbury Bells should find a place in every garden. Chrysanthemums give life and beauty to the garden from September to November. They need a covering of leaves during winter. Coreopsis have golden-yellow flowers, borne on long stems, and are a mass of bloom from June until frost. The Bleeding Heart is an old favorite. The Foxglove is a handsome plant of stately growth.

Of the flowering vines the following are desirable: Dutchman's Pipe, Trumpet Vine, Clematis, Honeysuckle, Wistaria, Cinnamon Vine.

Hardy Flowering Shrubs will give a variety of bloom from early spring until frost. The earliest is Forsythia (yellow), then Flowering Almond (pink, red, white) blooms in May, followed by the Spirea (white), Dentzias (pink, white), Weigelia (pink, white), Hydrangea (white), and lastly, the Rose of Sharon, from August to October, having lovely double rose-shaped flowers of blue, pink, red and white.

Perennials, whether in plant, vine or shrub form, are most satisfactory from every standpoint, and are especially the sort to be chosen by the busy person, as once planted they require little attention from year to year.

Mothers and daughters of all ages are cordially invited to write to this department. Initials only will be published with each queston and its answer as a means of identification, but full name and address must be given in each letter. Write on one side of paper only. Answers will be mailed direct if stamped and addressed envelope is enclosed.

Address all correspondence for this department to Mrs. Helen Law, 239 Woodbine Ave., Toronto.

Lucille:—There does seem to be much mystery about making introductions, does there not? When a girl introduces you to a girl friend, just say, "I am very glad to meet you." Say the same thing to a boy whom you are meeting the first time. Your friend who did not introduce you to the young man who came up to talk to her while you were standing by, was either rude or knew no better. Even if she did not know you very well and knew the young man much better, it was her place to introduce you. There are many people in the world, who neglect the opportunity to make people known to each other, whether because they are not sure of the propriety of the thing, or whether they are not naturally gracious and kindly, I do not know. It is far better to err on the side of introducing people too freely than on the side of withholding the few words that may be the seed of a very happy friendship.

A. B. C.:—You write me that you want to go to the city to train as a nurse and that your very best girl friend wishes to go to the city likewise, but does not care about a nurse's career. Also that her parents do not approve of her going to the city and might not let her go, anyway.

Just because you are close friends, you do not both have to become nurses do you? I grant it would be nice to be in the same work but in your case, if you insisted, you might force her to do something she did not like and really ought not to do, and then if some day she was not happy in her work, you would regret having influenced her. As to her family, there is nothing you can do to make them change their minds. The girl herself must talk sensibly to them and present her case fairly and trust that if she is in the right, they will see it her way. Friends must learn this tremendous lesson: Each individual must live out and work out her own problems for herself. Friendship does not mean and cannot mean an identical life path.

Gertrude:—You should not accept presents of jewellery from this man unless you are engaged to him.

L. C. K.:—I would like to name my farm. Can you help me find an appropriate name? I keep about fifteen head of cattle and sell milk. The land is level and a brook flows through one end of farm.

More than one person besides L. C. K. has been puzzled by this same question—what name shall I give my farm? Of course, it is purely a personal matter, one for the owner himself to decide, yet it may be of some assistance to state in a general way what has influenced some people to select the name which they did for their farm. Many times some natural object or distinguishing feature of the farm suggests the name. For instance, a nice spring brook that can be seen by passers-by suggests the name of Spring Brook Farm, or a grove of oak trees suggests the name of Oak Grove Farm or Oak Lawn, or Maple Crest because of a grove of maples which are on a rise of ground, or Orchard Grove, Hillside Farm, etc. In fact, any individual characteristic of the farm can well be used. Again, any characteristic of the buildings can be used. For instance, Green Gables when the gable of the house are painted green, and especially if the house is so built that the gables are a prominent feature.

You can probably make a choice from the following: Meadowbrook, Green Meadows, Running Brook, Hearts' Delight, Maplerow, Dairyland, Sunlit Lands, Golden Harvest Dairy Farm, Fallingbrook.

Bedtime Stories

A Real Little Neighbor.

Michael was poor and old. Edith first saw him one Sunday when he hobbled up the church steps and sat in the last pew to see the flowers and the children on Children's Day. Then she saw him when father hired him to mow the grass in front of her home.

Micheal loved flowers and trees and grass. Once he had taken care of the flowers in a rich man's garden. But that was long ago; now the rich man was dead, the garden was gone, and Michael was old and poor.

He told Edith many stories about his happy days of long ago.

"Miss Edith, I wish I could see my daffodils once more. They looked like a river of gold," and Michael rubbed his old coat sleeve over his eyes.

When winter came, there was no more grass to mow. Michael's place in the church was empty; he was ill.

How sorry Edith was! But just being sorry wasn't enough to give to Michael; Edith knew that. She said to herself: "I'll tell other people, and they'll be sorry, too. I'm going to shake all the money out of my bank."

Some other people shook money out of their banks also, when Edith told Michael's story. The grown-up people opened their pocketbooks.

When Edith counted her own bank money and the gifts that others had given, her face shone with surprise and gladness. Then a happy thought came to her, because happy thoughts are apt to come to those who are busy about doing good things.

"Mother, may I buy a pot of flowers? And father, may I change the money into two gold pieces and hide them in the leaves?"

Mother and father helped, for it was such a splendid plan. The flowers were bought at the florist's, and the money was changed at the bank. The florist heard the story, and gave the prettiest blossoms in his store. The banker heard the story, and gave the brightest gold coins he could find.

Color Scheme.

In every good landscape the artist uses all the colors there are. You do not quite believe that. Then notice next time you see a fine view or a really natural painting. The landscape, even though it seems at the first glance all one green, will show tones of yellow and red, all fitted into a harmony of complementing colors in the light that envelops the whole. A good painting of outdoors has its mixtures of red, yellow and blue, the three primary colors, no matter what amount of light may determine the color values.

That bit of color theory does not sound as if it had much to do with doing over the living room. But it has. As a matter of fact, the nearer one approaches to a natural outdoor arrangement of colors in decorating a room the better the effect. It is one step in the right direction to use a single or two harmonizing colors—a blue bedroom, a green living room and so forth. The next step toward a perfect room is to adjust several color values so that people will say: "Why anything looks right in that room!"

New tins should be set over the fire with boiling water in them before food is put into them.

To keep drawstrings from pulling out of garments sew a small brass embroidery ring to each end and buttonhole it.

Flour must be kept in a perfectly dry place. If it is allowed to become damp, heavy cakes and bread are the result.

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