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Tips For the Farmer

BY UNCLE JOSE.

A Big Yield of Corn.

A prize of \$50 was offered for the heaviest yield of shag corn grown from the Eureka variety on one acre of land. This prize was awarded to Mrs. H. William Harris, of Lenawee county, Mich. Mrs. Harris, in writing The Rural New Yorker of what she has accomplished, says: "We planted two-thirds bushel of ear corn on three acres of land. One acre is a fine clay loam and was used only for pasture the year before. After this land had been carefully prepared we drilled into it with a grain drill 350 pounds of phosphate. We set the drill for seven inches apart in the row. The clay loam was plowed and we set the drill for 150 pounds to the acre, and went the other way over the land. This acre yielded something more than fifty tons of fodder and ripe corn. There is something more than 100 bushels of ears of corn. The other two acres were covered with rich manure from the cow stable during the winter. One acre of this piece, the one on which we won the prize, had been, part of it, an old hen yard, and the rest an old hog yard. This land was carefully prepared and some phosphate hoed into the ground after the corn was up, the hoeing on both pieces always being just thoroughly stirring the top of the soil, not deep enough to disturb the rootlets. The corn was planted with a two-horse planter, set to seven inches apart in the row. The clay loam was plowed May 15th, the other two acres, May 30th. It was carefully cultivated, and, as said above, hoed. After the crop was as high as a man's head the foliage was so dense there was no chance for weeds to grow, another could it be best cultivated. We needed feed through the long dry time of last summer. We began to feed of the two acres about the 25th of July, and kept five cows, four horses, a number of hogs, geese, etc., ever since. We have hilled a small silo, forty-five tons, and are still feeding from corn raised on these two acres. Everything eats it as they do sweet corn. The stalks are large but tender, there is little waste when fed green from the field. I think that we can keep our seven head of cattle and four horses on these two acres and have feed left."

Feed For Hogs.

At the Ottawa Farm last year some 100 hogs were disposed of, partly for breed and partly in the ordinary market. The cost of feed for these hogs was \$5,000 for feed and attendance, the men being paid \$40 and \$50 per month respectively. The cost of feeding for summer runs was also figured. The hogs disposed of realized \$7,000, or \$2,000 over and above cost of feed and attendance. Nothing was allowed in this calculation for the first cost of the building on the one hand, or value of manure on the other, and pig manure is, Prof. Grisdale said, the most valuable manure on the farm. On the basis stated, the returns were \$2,000 in excess of outlay. The breeding pigs sold at six weeks at \$8 per pair. The bacon hogs made a profit of about \$2 per head. About \$4,000 of the total returns came from breeding stock, and \$3,000 from those fed for market. Speaking of feed with meal alone, it takes about five pounds of grain for each pound of gain in finishing hogs. With skim milk and roots in addition three pounds of grain will make a pound of pork, the milk and roots added being equal in value to another pound of grain.

Poultry Pointers.

Says a well-known poultry man: "During my long experience with fowls I have scores of times been asked whether it is not advisable to run really good layers for three years when it is known for a certainty that they have proved themselves to be great money-makers, which means they must have come from a good strain. 'Heatherless' writes in Farmer and Stockbreeder. Hens that are three years old may turn out to be good layers, but there is a lot of risk attached to keeping them and this is what utility poultry keepers cannot afford to run. It is well-known that if hens are kept until the third year their eggs are very large, but how many customers will give more for eggs simply because they happen to be large ones? Not many. I think in some parts of the country, notably in the north of England, it is quite a common practice for people to kill or sell even yearling hens. Although this will surprise a lot of people, there is far more sense in it than there appears at the first glance. In places where the winters are cold it takes a very long time to complete the moulting process, and bad weather is on the birds long before they are in a fit condition to start laying, while every poultry keeper knows that when cold weather comes and yearling hens have not commenced to lay the odds are greatly against them start-

ing until spring approaches. In the case of those who keep just cross-bred fowls I have often thought it will pay them quite as well, if not better, to kill off at the beginning of the moulting period.

Typical Dairy Farm.

A typical dairy farm of the modern class is to be found about two and a half miles out of Brockville, along the road that leads to Lyn, says the Toronto Weekly Globe. It is known as Avondale farm, and is owned by Arthur C. Hardy, son of the late Hon. A. S. Hardy, premier of Ontario. It is run over largely to dairying although a considerable quantity of grain is harvested there each year. Mr. Hardy's stock is all Holstein, his herd comprising seventy head, being all registered animals. A large cow that was purchased for the farm less than a year ago, registered under the name "May Echo Silvain," has given over 14,000 pounds of milk in eight months, establishing almost a record for the province.

The stables on the Avondale farm are an example of what can be accomplished by the way of installing labor and time saving devices. Notable among these are the litter and feed carriers, the latter running direct from the foot of a large silo to the opposite end of the stable, and the litter carriers going a good distance from the building. A new calf stable has just been erected with separate accommodation for twenty-eight animals. The floors have been covered with coal tar, the walls whitewashed and the building has an unusually bright and clean appearance. A small stove with steam pipe connections having each calf stall provide heat on the cold winter nights. A principle of the Hardy farm with regard to calves is that they are scarcely ever allowed to go out on the pasture until they are a year old, it being believed that they do better on stable feed than on green fodder.

During the past summer between twenty and thirty cows have been producing milk, and, unlike the dairy farms of the district, this was not sold for the manufacture of cream, but was separated and the cream churned by a large steam churn on the premises. Although the price of cheese this year has made dairymen toward that end more profitable, there have no doubt been a number of farmers who have found that making butter paid them better, especially where they had a large number of calves, as on the Avondale place.

Notes of Interest.

A small amount of alfalfa may, said Prof. Day, be fed to hogs of any age but it is not so suitable for very young pigs. In experimental work carried on at the O.A.C. pigs were fed a little over a pound of green alfalfa per day and four and one-half pounds of this grass proved equivalent to one pound of dry meal. It gave rather better results than the same weight in skim milk. At Vancouver experimental station, Prof. Day said, 170 pounds of green alfalfa had been found equal in feeding value to 100 pounds of corn, but this was considered an extreme case.

Alfalfa hay may also be used with advantage in wintering mature hogs, especially brood sows, as it provides the bone and muscle forming material necessary for the litter that is being carried. For this purpose it should be cut, steeped in water and mixed with meal. A common practice in washing milk cans is to start with hot water. This is not the best method. In boiling milk a skin forms on it. The hot water likewise hardens this on to the sides of the milk vessel, making it hard to remove. The better way is to first rinse the utensil in cold water, and it should be rinsed as soon as it is dried, and then rinsing will not so thoroughly remove it.

"I've had a great experience this year in vealing calves," says W. C. Shearer, of Bright, Ont. "I had heard about it being profitable, so when one of my grade cows brought twins I thought I'd try vealing them. At five weeks old I killed them and they sold for \$18.50, which was more than the cow could have done in milk. Other cows were coming in during the summer, so in nearly every case I turned the calves over to this cow to raise, and she did not object as long as they were black and white. Altogether she has raised fifteen calves since last March. I sold the last one the other day for \$11, and out of the bunch I made \$11. My best cow I believe I made me \$75, and I believe I made most of them were between 150 and 200 pounds. I would recommend killing nearer the 200 than 150 weight."

Produce and Prices.

Kingston, Dec. 30.—The market clerk reports prices prevailing as follows: Oats, 48c; local wheat, \$1.05; bush wheat, 80c; seed rye, \$1; peas, \$1 to \$1.10; yellow feed corn, 90c; bakara's flour, \$2.75 to \$2.90; farmers', \$2.75 to \$2.90; and rolled oats, \$3.50 per bbl.; cornmeal, \$1.50 to \$2; bran, \$24 ton; shorts, \$26 ton; baled straw, \$7; loose, \$8; hay, loose, \$13 to \$15; pressed hay, \$14 to \$15. Meat—Beef (local), carcass, 6c. to 7c.; prime western beef, \$10 per cwt.; by carcass, cuts, 10c. to 15c.; live hogs, 5c. a lb.; dressed hogs, 8c. to 10c.; pork, 8c. to 10c.; spring lamb, 11c. to 12c. per lb.; veal, 6c. to 10c. per lb.; ducks, \$1 to \$1.25 pair; turkeys, 16c. to 18c. lb.; fowl, 75c. to 90c. per pair; geese, \$1 to \$1.25; butter, creamery, 30c. to 32c.; prints, 27c. to 28c.; rolls, 25c. per lb.; eggs, 35c. to 45c. Dominion Fish company reports as follows: fish, 15c. lb.; pike, 10c. lb.; salmon, 30c. lb.; kippered salmon, 30c. lb.; salt codfish, 30c.; fresh haddock, 30c. lb.; mackerel, 25c. lb.

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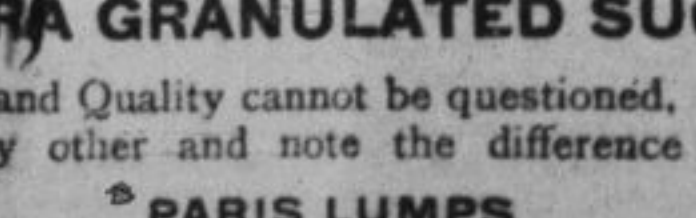


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