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## AGRICULTURAL TOPICS FOR WHIG READERS

The value of sterilized skim milk as calf feed has been investigated by Prof. D. H. Otis, of the Wisconsin college of agriculture. He finds that it is better than the unsterilized skimmed milk, as calves fed upon it are less subject to scours, and consequently "off feet" less than others. It has sometimes been said that the feeding value of milk was seriously affected when it is sterilized to prevent the possibility of its being a medium for the spread of tuberculosis or other diseases. The necessary heating, frequently accompanied by injecting live or exhaust steam into the milk, adds from eight to fifteen per cent. of water, which it has been thought lowers its value as a calf feed. Experiments on six calves which were fed sterilized milk, and seven that were fed unheated skimmed milk, fresh from the hand separator for 142 days, show that both made practically the same daily gain per head, 1.75 pounds.

### A New Dairy Record

The Guernsey cow, May Rilma, owned in Pennsylvania, has given in 365 days 19,639.50 pounds of milk which contained 1,059.59 pounds of butter fat. Her year's work has been carefully supervised under the regulations for the Advanced Register of Guernsey cattle, conducted by the American Guernsey Cattle club. While officially supervised by the representatives of the Pennsylvania agricultural experiment station, her work has also been checked by six similar institutions in other states and by a representative of the dairy division of the United States department of agriculture.

This record surpasses that of any cow of all the dairy breeds in the world. Mal Rilman is producing more butter fat in her thirteenth month than in her first, thus widening the distance beyond her nearest competitor and more firmly establishing herself as "Queen of the Dairy World."

### Tuberculosis in Dairy Cattle

In the United Kingdom an effort is being made by law to stamp out tuberculosis in cattle. Speaking at a meeting of the British Dairy Farmers' association, Sir Sydney Pocock, the representative of the association on the committee which administers the new Tuberculosis (animals) act, reported with regard to the statistics that were to hand on their investigations up to the end of September last to the effect that out of 8,162 cows that were tested only 220 samples of milk were found to be tuberculous. After the way the public had been cautioned by scientific men against drinking milk which might be affected, and generally frightening them, it was the duty of the association to disillusion their minds, as it was not so very terrible after all, taking into consideration the fact that it had not yet been proved that the milk from a cow with tuberculous udder could transmit the disease to human beings. He considered the public had been frightened unnecessarily. The cost of administration and compensations paid amounted to £11,998, of which only £3,246 was for compensation when the animals had been slaughtered, which was very inadequate amount to compensate the farmers according to the scale fixed by the board of agriculture, and the order had proved a failure in many respects.

### Must Weed Out Stock

The man with two or three cows with phenomenal records who is selling all his calves on the basis of these records, is not doing the breed any good, because in every herd and from every class is may be taken and granted there are going to be both good and bad, and no matter what is the standard reached, one must keep culling and weeding out those poor variants that are bound to appear. No man, therefore, can sell or buy the individual on the strength of the breeder's or herd's reputation alone.

At the Ontario Agricultural college roots have been fed in comparison with corn silage for fattening steers, and in all cases the roots did not make so good a showing pound for pound as silage. In one series of tests silage showed twenty-five per cent. higher value per ton than roots, and in other tests the difference in favor of silage was greater. For young animals and sheep, however, roots are probably more wholesome than silage.

### Rape for Pork Production

High prices for all grain feeds have caused a large number of farmers of hogs to look for forage crops which, with a light grain ration, will produce rapid gains at a moderate cost. Investigation at the Ohio experiment station has shown rape to be one of the very best crops for this use if clover is not available.

Six pigs, weighing about forty-five pounds each at the beginning of the test, were kept on slightly less than one-quarter of an acre of rape for eleven weeks. During this time the pigs received 825 pounds of a mixture of nine parts, by weight, of ground corn to one part tankage, and gained 369 pounds in weight. Another plot, more fertile than this one, yielded an even more luxuriant growth of rape, and showed a larger carrying capacity.

The rape from the better plot showed a replacement value of over \$48 per acre when the gains produced and concentrates consumed by pigs, some receiving corn, alone and some receiving corn and tankage on the rape, and by similar pigs fed corn and tankage in dry lot, were compared. In this calculation corn was valued at fifty-six cents per bushel, and tankage sixty per cent. crude protein at \$48 per ton.

If wet, rain, rapeseed is pastured, soreness of skin, particularly about the ears, is occasionally developed. This may be avoided to some extent

by keeping pigs from the rape while very wet, or if it occurs may be relieved by the application of lard, oil, or other similar material.

Dwarf Essex rape is the variety best suited for forage. It may be sown broadcast or drilled solid at the rate of five to seven pounds of seed per acre, or drilled in rows at the rate of three to four pounds of seed per acre, at any time from April 15th to July 15th. Rape will do well in ordinary seasons if provided with a good seed bed in fertile, well-drained soil. On weedy land there is an advantage in drilling in rows far enough apart to permit cultivation; besides, there is likely to be less damage to the rape from trampling.

Under favorable conditions rape should be ready for pasture in six to eight weeks from time of seeding. It will continue to grow until late fall. A number of pigs continuously or may be pastured with a moderate number of pigs continuously or may be fed down rather closely and then allowed to grow up again, whichever plan is most convenient.

### Feeding Brooder Chicks

The yolk of the egg which is absorbed by the young chicks just before emerging from the shell supplies the necessary food during the first forty-eight hours of the life of the chick. The first requirement of the young chick is grit to aid in digestion and pure water. Small grains of sharp sand or pieces of egg shell are splendid for this purpose. Hard-boiled eggs, thoroughly mixed with breast cream or milk can be used the third and fourth days. Fine oatmeal can be gradually added to this mixture and fed sparingly at periods two or three hours apart.

A simple ration for chicks a week or more old may be made of two parts by weight of finely cracked corn, one part of broken wheat, one part oatmeal and one part of meat scraps. Whole wheat can be substituted when the chicks arrive at six weeks of age. Grit should be supplied at all times as well as green food. This ration ought to be fed about five times a day in a fine filter of straw or hay, thus encouraging the chicks to scratch for the feed. The water should be changed frequently and the food never ought to be allowed in any quantity greater than the chicks can eat up clean. Infertile eggs from the nests or incubator can be utilized. Finely cut grass, alfalfa, clover or oats may be used as green food. Successful chick feeding is based on carefulness to details, a well balanced ration and proper sanitation.—North Dakota experiment station.

Keep the incubator burner and all the heat flues clean and there is no danger from operating an incubator. When taking one hatch in the incubator always clean and disinfect the machine and the interior equipment before putting in the next lot of eggs.

Crows will catch young chickens and carry them off, and if they get started they sometimes steal dozens of chicks, unless stopped with a gun. Sitting hens should be kept free from lice and given a chance to eat all the whole corn, grit and charcoal that they want at least once every day.

### Potato Culture

A sandy loam soil usually produces potatoes of better quality than a heavier soil does. It also has the advantage of remaining in a more mellow condition during the growing season, thus giving the tubers chance to become more shapely, and making it easier to dig the crop. A heavier soil will sometimes produce a larger yield because it is often more fertile, but brown rot is apt to be worse on such soils. New land is the best for large yields, or sod land which has been in clover or meadow. Sod land is sometimes infested with white grubs and wire worms, which may do much damage. In planting on sod land the seed pieces must lie under the sod unless the plowing has been done in such a manner that large pieces of sod do not lie flat in the bottom of the furrow. If this precaution is not followed, the crop may suffer much more than usual during periods of drought. Soil which has produced a scabby crop of potatoes should be avoided, because the scab spores live ever in the soil, and will cause more or less scab on the tubers for five or six years afterward.

Good drainage is important. Potatoes will stand less excess of moisture than any other common farm crops, and artificial drainage should be provided whenever natural drainage is at all deficient. Potatoes rot more in low wet lands than in well drained upland in years when rot occurs. The same is true of heavy soils compared with light soils, which is because heavy soils do not part with their excess moisture as readily as light soils do.

Any common farm manure may be used for potatoes, at the rate of five to ten loads per acre, or even more, and will usually be found profitable. Rotted manure is preferred. When the potatoes are grown on clover sod or meadow, the best time to apply the manure is during the fall preceding the potato crop. In this way the manure can be plowed under by the fall, which prevents loss by washing and advances its decomposition.

Most farmers do not cultivate their potatoes the most profitable number of times. It must be remembered that the potato crop suffers readily from drought, and frequent cultivation is practically the only means by which the moisture can be conserved in the soil. Potatoes should be cultivated once a week from the time the rows can be followed until the cultivator wheels injure the plants; an ordinary six-shovel corn cultivator is probably the most practicable.

More and smaller shovels would be better in the moisture can be conserved. The wheels must be set closer together for corn, so that they will not

run on the rows until the plants become quite large. Level culture should be the general aim, or only slight ridging for its aid in controlling the weeds in the rows. The first cultivation may be deep and fairly close if there is plenty of moisture in the soil. It cuts off some of the roots, but at this stage does more good than harm by loosening the soil up deeply, and thus leaving it in better condition for the future growth of the tubers.

After the first cultivation the shovels should always be run shallow, about two or three inches deep, never deeper. Sometimes it is observed, after the last cultivation and when the plants have been killed up, that the plants are stunted—they seem to stop growing and they are

This is because in the effort to hit up the plants, the farmer has run the inside shovels a little deeper than usual, and probably a little close to the plants, and has cut off a large number of roots. Late cultivation is beneficial if the shovels are kept away from the plants and run shallow, otherwise it is dangerous to cultivate late.

In years when rot is bad or when the potatoes are becoming scabby, it is probably best to get them out of the ground as soon as they are ripe. Otherwise, there is no harm in leaving them in the ground until danger of freezing. There are several of the smaller types of diggers on the market that are sufficiently successful for small areas. Some things to look for in a digger are the quantity of vines and weeds that it will handle without clogging up, the manner in which the tubers are left behind the machine and the amount of apparatus there is that may get out of order.

### Products and Prices.

Kingston, May 15.—Market clerk reports the following: Meat, beef, local, carcass, 10 to 12c.; canase, cuts, 10c. to 22c.; mutton, 11c. to 14c.; lamb, 16c. to 22c. lb.; live hogs, \$2.50; dressed hogs, 13c. to 15c.; veal, 8c. to 12c.; lamb, by carcass, 17c. a lb.; western beef, 14c. to 15c. by carcass.

Dairy—Butter, creamery, 30c.; prints 27c.; eggs, 22c. to 25c. Onions, 5c. bunch; carrots, 75c. bush; parsley, 10c. bunch.

J. A. McFarlane, Brock street, reports grain, flour and food selling as follows:

Oats, 50c. per bushel; wheat, \$1 to \$1.10 per bushel; yellow feed corn, 85c. per bushel; bakers' flour, \$2.75 to \$2.90; farmers' flour, \$2.75 to \$2.90; Hungarian patent, \$3; oatmeal and rolled oats, \$3.50 bbl.; ormeal, \$2 per cwt.; bran, \$25.50 per ton; shorts, \$26.50 ton; baled straw, \$9 per ton; potatoes, \$1.10 a bag; beets, 75c. bush; loose (straw), \$10; loose hay, \$15; pressed hay, \$15. The Dominion Fish company reports the following prices: Whitefish, 15c. lb.; pike, 12c. lb.; live lobsters, 30c. lb.; blue fish, 15c.; escosces, 15c. lb.; silver Chinook salmon, 30c. per pound; fall salmon, 75c. per pound; fresh haddock, 12c. lb.; steak cod, 12c. lb.; salmon trout, 15c. lb.; fillets, 15c. lb.; fish haddock, 12c. lb.; salt mackerel, 15c. per lb.; oysters, 60c. a quart; kippered herring, 60c.; Yarmouth bloater, 40c. doz.; codfish, 12c. lb.; halibut, 16c. to 20c.; smoked salmon and halibut, 10c.

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