



One of Ray Long's beef cows grazes contentedly near the four pole barns that can house some 1200

Ray Long [Continued from Page 1]

steers gain about three pounds a day on this diet and some of them do better. They usually go out of here 75 or 80 days after they come in. I buy every pound of feed I use, and that can get expensive. But I figure I make up the difference with faster gains, lower labor costs and by not having my capital tied up as long.

"We fed cob chop and silage at first, but I'd never go back. I think we cut our labor in half with this feeding program."

Again, Long saves trucking expense by handling all transportation himself. He buys both shelled corn and supplement in bulk quantities and trucks them to the farm. The steers eat about 20 pounds of corn a day. When they first enter the feedlot, Long uses a converter feed to get the animals onto a no roughage diet. They're switched completely over in 12 days, and he says he's never had any health problems.

"I wouldn't try to run a cow-calf operation like this, but the steers just aren't here long enough to develop any problems," Long said.

In previous summers, Long has pastured some steers, but he said he'll be switching his pastureland to a cow-calf operation this year. He plans to run upwards of 150 cows on his pasture which, he feels, can take care of one animal for every two acres. Some hay and grain will also be fed to the cows over the summer and in the fall Long plans to sell the calves for feeders.

steers at a time.

Long fertilizes his pasture every other year and limes it every third year. Manure from the steer pens goes onto the pasture, too.

The four steer barns are bedded down with straw whenever necessary. Long says he has to use straw even though it might be selling for more than hay. "They go crazy for roughage," he says, "and they even eat a little bit of the straw that we give them. But if we'd bed down with hay, they'd eat till they'd bloat up and die."

In addition to the beef steers, Long occasionally feeds some heifers and some Holstein steers. He has a broker in Virginia who keeps him supplied with feeders. The calves from his Virginia operation are sold as lightweight feeders.

How does Long feel about the near-term future of the cattle business? "Feeders with the guts to stick it out will be all right. But they can't miss one day of watching the market. They've got to keep up. I don't intend to quit."



In the 17th and 18th centuries, bagpipes were outlawed in Scotland, as seditious instruments of war! It was no music to King George's ears!



Just as there are travel book fans, there are avid cookbook readers. The armchair traveller enjoys great adventures to far away places without stirring from her chair. And the armchair cook conjures up great culinary masterpieces and mentally tastes foods of bygone times without stirring a spoon. For cookbooks are a form of history, especially those old recipe collections compiled by local groups. Midwest cookbooks

of the late 1880's show culinary heritage and skill and how inventive women were with the new foods appearing in the country stores. Among the first of these was the PREMIUM Saltine Cracker. It wasn't long before its merits as the makings for a pie or dessert crust were apparent, as in these Lemon Cracker Squares. Plain or topped with whipped cream, as pictured, they're delicious to serve with tea or coffee.

LEMON CRACKER SQUARES

- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup cold water
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 3/4 cup butter or margarine
- 1/2 cup lemon juice

- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 30 PREMIUM Saltine Crackers, finely rolled (about 1 cup crumbs)
- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup flaked coconut
- 3/4 cup light brown sugar, firmly packed

In top of double boiler combine sugar, cornstarch and salt; stir in water. Cook over low heat, stirring gently, until thickened. Place over boiling water. Cover and cook 10 to 12 minutes, stirring occasionally. Slowly stir into eggs; return to double boiler. Cook, stirring constantly, 4 to 5 minutes longer. Remove from heat. Stir in 1/4 cup butter or margarine, lemon juice and vanilla extract. (Mixture will be thinner). Strain into a bowl. Let cool while making crust. Combine cracker crumbs,

flour, coconut and brown sugar. Cut in remaining 1/2 cup butter or margarine until evenly mixed. Sprinkle 2/3 mixture over bottom of buttered 9x9x2-inch baking pan. Pour filling over; sprinkle with remaining crumbs; press lightly. Bake in a preheated moderate oven (350°F.) 20 to 25 minutes until browned. Cool at room temperature. Serve cut in squares, topped with whipped cream, for dessert (as pictured); or cut in bars. Makes 9 (3-inch) squares or 18 (3 x 1 1/2-inch) bars.

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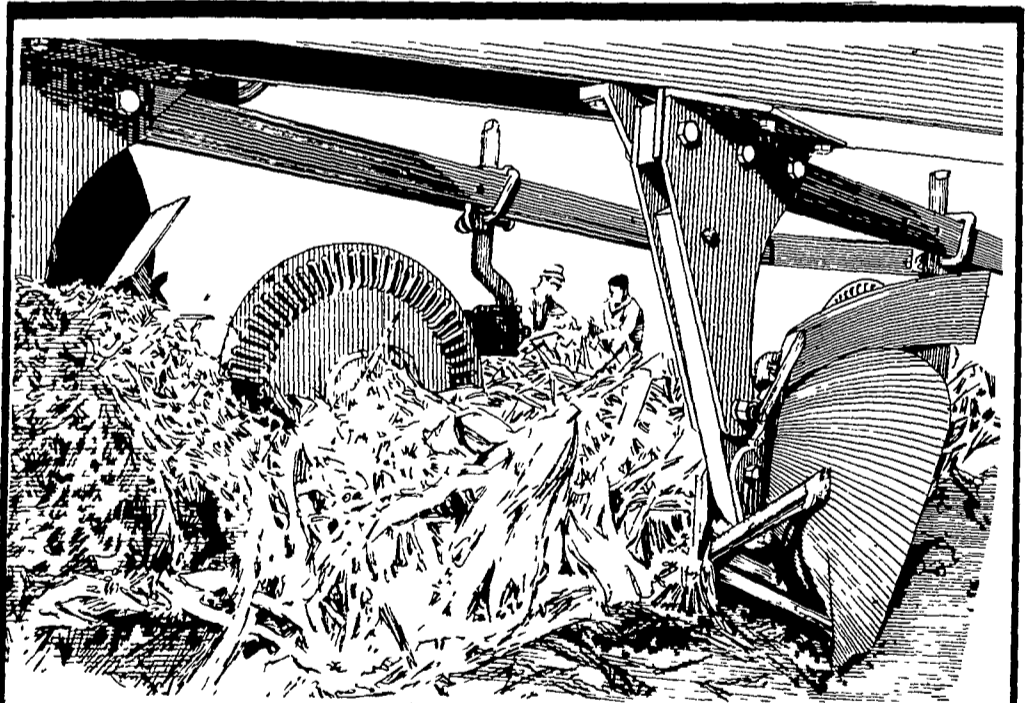
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