

FARMERS' COLUMN.



FARM NOTES.

There is pushing to the front in the dairy business. She thrives to soon have many creameries as Illinois.

When a farmer's village neighbors know that his pork is fattened on good, healthy food, he will usually find a ready market for it.

The hope to winter successfully, that is in a profitable breeding season. The winter will be a good year for wool, but it will be better in a good warm barn rather than in cold out of doors.

Mr. J. H. Walker, Worcester, Mass., reports 204 pounds of butter in one week from twenty-eight Jersey cows. Five of the herd had three quarters of corn meal per day; the rest had pasture and cut grass.

A Vermont cow, named Jersey Queen, is reported to have given 4,403 pounds of milk during the first 100 days after calving and 231 pounds of butter. But the knowledge work most in dairy trials is the yield for 303 days, or the full amount from calf to calf.

Mr. Brown, in charge of the Ontario Model Farm at Guelph, says that it is thirty per cent more profitable to sell fat cattle at two years of age than to keep them a year longer. The fattening of old cows and steers a dozen years old cannot then have a very profitable business. It is to be feared that farmers generally do not appreciate this fact.

Prices for Jersey cattle in the Island of Jersey were never so high as now. A herd of 175 head was shipped to the United States on August 4, some of them costing \$300. This would indicate another cause in the cattle breeding business. The prices are speculative, because farmers who raise the progeny of these \$1,000 cows and bulls cannot get their money back through dairy products.

No dairymen should say they "cannot afford" to feed or house their stock as carefully as some rich neighbors do, provided the latter's system is profitable. It is the poor man always who cannot afford to be negligent and wasteful, nor indifferent to accurate experiments or good examples. The little cost of a system of cattle feeding in a little season provided it brings a good profit. That is the general testimony that interested animals, or even grades, are always superior to common stock. By common stock is meant breeding at random, with no attention to improvement.

It is more than the average man, who improves by breeding only from his best animals, but while this is better than no care, it is a slow and uncertain process because pure-bred animals are reasonably certain to breed their like. That is the chief characteristic of the pure breeds.

The recent Live Stock Exhibition at Chicago was very successful. The Prairie Farmer reports the number of cattle at "probably not less than a thousand," with nearly as many horses. Mr. W. Dunham had about 75 head of stock of all ages. Since 1872 he has imported over 800 Friesian Normans from the finest specimens ever collected and bred into the herd. Of sheep there were of fine wools 221; long wools 180; middle wools, 775.

An exchange speaks of two cows which lately broke into a cornfield and ate so much that they blined and died. This was bad, but it is a result of the pasturing system. To turn a herd into a field where the pasture is eaten off and burned out by dry weather and except the cows to stay there contentedly is to expect too much. Well fed, well housed cows will not eat themselves to death even with the change before them, but a starving cow knows no more law than that a starting cow.

In selling cattle one needs, first, concentrated food, which can always be bought as needed; and second, the grass, green in summer and dried in winter. But grass even in summer is not essential, as with good cows, good butter, and a good market selling can be made more profitable even when everything is purchased, than the average dairyman makes it by pasturing, exposure to sun, heat storms and flies, waste of manure, bad water, no feed at the stable, and other wastes and up and down of that slipshod system. But it cannot be made profitable, of course, with cows that give 4,000 pounds of rather blue milk a year. Weigh each milking, and when you get cows that double these figures it will pay you to sell all the year.

A Country Gentleman writer says his cows have kept "splendidly" during ten years on corn-fodder cut into half-inch lengths, with three quarters of ground feed, one peck of turnips and three pounds of hay as a daily ration. But he always noticed that they gained milk on good pasturage. Just so good pasturage is better than any corn-fodder that grows, and with six quarts of corn meal a day, six more of wheat bran, a dose portion of cotton seed meal, or oil meal, he might have omitted his half-inch corn feed, and his herd would have done still more "splendidly," and he would have been richer for it. A man who has thoughtfully tried concentrated food and whose wife can make good butter, will not fuss much about cutting corn-fodder into half-inch lengths. Cows will not eat corn-fodder, nor if ground fine, and coarse corn-fodder cut fine are just about as good as bean-pods.

The New Jersey cranberry crop is plentiful and good.

The largest apple orchard in the State of New York, and probably the largest in the world, is owned by Robert McQuary, near Hudson, Columbia county.

England last year imported 1,448,000 barrels of apples from the United States. Of these 100,200 were shipped from New York, and \$10,500 from Boston.

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