

PROFIT FROM SCRUB COWS.

Money in Dairying Even for the Man Who Cannot Buy Pure Bred Animals--By M. R. Tolstrup.

The best of the 688 cows which were under test in the Benson and the Pioneer cow testing associations near Waterloo, Iowa, in 1909, returned a net profit of \$106.77; while the poorest cow gave a net loss of \$19.14. This difference between the two cows was due first, to the individuality of the cows, and second, to the care and feeding which they received.

Differences in individuality of course made it impossible to make as great a profit from the poorer as from the better cow. At the same time, it should be remembered that the better cow would not have made so great a profit had she not received good care. On the other hand, it is more than probable that the poorer cow would have made an even greater loss, had she not been under test and had better than ordinary care.



A Common Cow that gave 285 Pounds of Butter Fat in a Year.

In this test, the cow that gave the high profit was a grade Angus cow, having presumably some Holstein blood. The cow was not especially beautiful, blackish in color, having only fair conformation, constitution and capacity. In other words, she was what is ordinarily called a "scrub cow."

You may say that such a cow is an exception and you are right. Yet at the same time, in the testing associations named, the best 200 cows gave an average net profit of \$51.85; while the poorest 200 cows gave an average profit of only \$19.84. This leaves a difference of \$32.01 apiece in favor of the best cows.

Let us consider that two farmers have each 15 cows, that Mr. A has the better kind of cows; while Mr. B has the poorer kind. Considering that the labor is equal for both kinds of cows, the difference in income between these two farmers in a year is \$480.15, or in other words, enough difference to pay the salary for a good man to do the work.

Another striking example of what good care and feeding will do toward profit from scrub cows is found at the Iowa Experiment Station. Some 3 years ago they purchased a number of Arkansas bred cattle. These were, at the time, animals which I thought it would be utterly impossible to make any profit from. It was with a great deal of interest, therefore, that I watched these cows thrive and im-

prove from time to time, as I was doing the weekly testing. Fully as great was my surprise at the end of the year to find that one of these Arkansas bred cattle, "Faith," when 2 years old, produced 2,144 pounds of milk containing 114.5 pounds of fat. This was sold for \$38.06 while the cost of feed was \$27.79, leaving a net profit of \$10.27.

Another of these cows, "Hope," when 4 years old produced 5,709 pounds of fat, valued at \$87.83. The cost of her keep was \$39.07, leaving a net profit of \$48.76.

The cow, "Betty," when six years old produced 5,439 pounds of milk containing 251 pounds of fat valued at \$77.10. The cost of keeping this cow was \$43.37 leaving a net profit of \$33.73.

"Katy," another one of these cows, when 6 years old produced 4,632 pounds of fat valued at \$63.21. Subtracting the cost of keep, \$49.79, we have a profit of \$13.42.

These figures show that some cows are much more economical producers than others. Further, it gives evidence of what good care and feeding will do. For, although the work was done at the Experiment Station, the conditions were no better than the average farmer can have for his cows. The cows were pastured during the summer, and kept in the barn most of the winter. The feed during the winter was nothing above the ordinary. The following is a daily ration, which was fed to the cow, "Hope," when she was at her highest production; 3 pounds of bran, 3 pounds of ground oats and 2 pounds of oil meal. Together with these concentrates were fed 25 pounds of corn silage and 10 pounds of hay.

Other examples along the same line of production I give from the records of a crossbred Jersey Shorthorn cow owned by the Iowa State College. At 8 years old her record was 10,498 pounds of milk with 390 pounds of fat valued at \$133.04. The cost of production was \$71.67 leaving a net profit of \$61.37. A grade Shorthorn cow produced 7,790 pounds of milk and 358 pounds of fat valued at \$108.98. The cost of production here was \$53.22 leaving a net profit of \$55.76.

My object with these figures is not to discourage the use of pure bred stock. The idea foremost in my mind is, that since we have such a large number of "scrub" and grade cows on our farms, why not, then, until we get something better, make the best use of what we have? Why not follow the examples of some of the European countries, and grade up our herds? Test the cows and find out what they are doing. Then eliminate the unprofitable ones, and finally by means of good care and feeding make a profit from our scrub cows.

The Squire's Probation

Squire Thomas Jefferson Skaggs was the most talented swearer around Merryville. The squire swore if he lost a dime or found a dollar, if it rained or if there was a long dry spell, wind blew east or wind blew west. He could hold his own with a circus boss, and make a sailor's parrot hang its head in shame.

The squire was rather proud of his accomplishment, until he began courting the Widow Lindsley. Then he came to wish that his prowess ran along different lines.

"Look here, squire—you say you love me?"

"Yes, by—" began Squire Skaggs. "Tut, tut!" checked Widow Lindsley. "If you will go 30 days without one word of profanity, I'll marry you; if not, I won't."

Then the squire began the great battle. The first day he spent conjuring up and jotting down a long list of words and expletives to be used for substitutes for his own blue-flame, sulphurous vocabulary. The list began with "Zum" and he put it into practice next morning when the gray mule, old Mol, stepped upon his foot.

"Great Abou Ben Adhem! What in the name of Zoroaster is the matter with you, by Zum?" And old Mol gazed at him reproachfully.

The squire held manfully to his little manual of polite expletive, daily reporting progress to the widow. He found that for trivial provocation, such as receiving a dun from the Weekly Foghorn or stumbling his toe, the manual did fairly well, but that for really trying situations, such as chasing his hat in the mud, "By yum!" and "Oh, Caesarea!" were wholly inadequate. The widow censured the manual and cut out such transparent substitutes as "Rotterdam" and "Amsterdam" on her own account.

Toward the end of the month of probation the squire took the widow behind old Mol to the Foot Washing Baptists' camp meeting at Hickory grove. The squire had a flawless record, and both were in fine spirits over the prospect of a speedy union. While at the meeting, however, it set in to rain, and by the time they reached Wolf creek on the return journey it was tremendously high. When exactly in the middle of the stream old Mol balked. The squire lashed and coaxed her, then rallied at her in the revised near-swearing, but she planted her fore feet more firmly. The buckboard was awash and floating dangerously. Great logs and rails were bumping down stream. The widow fretted. The squire grew desperate.

"Widow," he announced, "if you will crawl back in the hind end of the wagon and stick your fingers in your ears good and tight, maybe I can reason with this perverse creature." The widow hesitated, but the danger was great and she went.

"Got 'em stopped good and tight?" asked Spire Skaggs.

The widow did not answer, so that the squire drew his own conclusions and sailed in. He began with the Alpha of his own original, blue-flame, sulphurous code, and went straight through to Omega, omitting nothing. At the first familiar expletive old Mol perked up her ears. In half a minute she was looking back with approval. Before Squire Skaggs had half finished old Mol clicked her heels together and hauled the buckboard high upon the bank.

When the widow climbed back upon the seat, Squire Skaggs hung his head, as one who has stolen a baby sheep. He could only utter brokenly:

"I guess I've spoiled my probation, widow. I had to talk right positive to that mule."

To his astonishment the widow's face was radiant. "Squire Skaggs," she replied, "my fingers slipped out, and I must say you are the most eloquent man I ever heard. After the wedding I'm going to teach you to pray."

His Objection.

Mrs. Rickquick—John, I want you to buy a new parlor suit. Mr. Rickquick—Maria, I've been agreeable enough so far to get different clothes for morning, noon, afternoon and night, but I'm consumed if I'll change 'em every time I go into a different room.—Brooklyn Life.

Her Gain.

Mrs. Jones—Does your husband remember your wedding anniversary? Mrs. Smith—No; so I remind him of it in January and June and get two presents.—Harper's Bazar.

Feminine Ideals.

I look for the day when women will cease to be imitative, copying men, but will become completely, perfectly and proudly women.—A Woman's Letter in London Times.

Too Much Like Work.

"The boss's son is kicking." "Why?" "Say's he's overworked. All he used to do was tear the pages off the office calendars once a month. Now he has to wind the eight-day clock, too."

Made Father Bestir Himself. When Dorothy Meldrum was a little younger—she is but ten now—her father asked her on her return from Sunday school what the lesson of the day had been.

"Dandruff in the lion's den," was her answer.

Ever since Rev. Andrew B. Meldrum, D. D., has personally applied himself to the religious instruction of his little daughter.—Exchange.

RAILWAY TIME TABLE

Chicago & Northwestern. GOING WEST. No. 11 Denver Special 4:48 a.m. No. 1 Overland Limited 5:41 a.m. No. 9 Fast Mail 7:01 a.m. No. 17 Local Passenger 7:21 a.m. No. 23 American Express 7:47 a.m. No. 7 Los Angeles Limited 10:01 a.m. No. 2 China-Japan Express 12:55 p.m. No. 3 Fast Mail 1:09 p.m. No. 33 Local Passenger 1:14 p.m. No. 5 Omaha Special 9:55 p.m. No. 47 Way Freight (local) 10:40 a.m. GOING EAST. No. 2 Overland Limited 1:40 a.m. No. 8 Los Angeles Limited 11:07 a.m. No. 26 Fast Mail & Express 10:22 a.m. No. 19 Eastern Express 8:54 p.m. No. 22 China Special 8:16 p.m. No. 16 Denver Express 7:23 p.m. No. 18 Local Passenger 7:05 p.m. No. 6 Atlantic Express 2:40 p.m. No. 12 Denver Special 9:47 a.m. No. 32 Local Passenger 9:27 a.m. No. 48 Way Freight (local) 12:00 a.m. \*Do Not Stop at Denison.

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Illinois Central.

GOING EAST. No. 4 Chicago Express 9:00 a.m. No. 2 Chicago Limited 7:52 p.m. No. 32 Omaha, Ft. Dodge 6:38 p.m. GOING WEST. No. 1 Omaha, City & Co. B. 5:43 a.m. No. 5 Fast Mail 1:53 p.m. No. 31 Ft. Dodge & Omaha 9:00 a.m. \*Daily.

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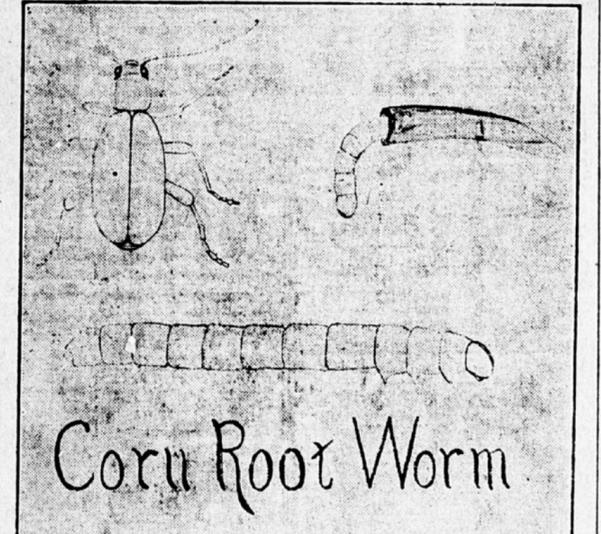
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Corn Root Worm. The corn root worm does a great deal of damage to the corn crop by burrowing into the roots. Rotation of crops, not planting corn more than two years in succession on the same ground, is the most effective remedy.

SOWING ALFALFA.

H. M. P., Perry, Iowa, writes: "We have a piece of ground which I have been informed by parties that have had experience raising alfalfa would make an excellent alfalfa field, and I wish to ascertain when would be the best time to sow the seed, in the spring or in the fall. I thought I would put in ten acres and if it does well later put in about fifty acres."

Answered by Farm Crop department: "Alfalfa in this section of the country seems to do best when it is seeded in the early fall or late summer. It is not advisable to use a nurse crop, but a thorough preparation of the seed bed long before the time of seeding and up to that time will pay well. If any crop is on the land it should be one that may be removed very early, such as winter wheat, barley or early oats in order that the soil may be fitted for the alfalfa crop to follow, but it is safer to have the land worked in the summer in preparation for the alfalfa and with nothing else in mind. We sow from 15 to 20 pounds of seed to the acre."—H. B. Potter, in Iowa Agriculturist.

MACHINERY MAXIMS.

Remember the low-priced machine is not always the cheapest. Look for quality not price, service not beauty.

What is there that adds more to the general appearance of the farm and farmstead than straight well kept up fences?

When you attempt to start that plow that has sat out all winter without any grease to prevent rust, just think how much easier it would have been to have greased it last fall and had no difficulty in giving it a polish.

About 13 per cent of the farmers' fixed capital is in buildings. Thus we can see the importance of proper location and construction. When these buildings are built also the necessity of keeping them painted.

When buying a gasoline engine be sure you have one that is large enough to do the work you have or it. Don't condemn the engine just because you got it too small. Keep it in a clean, dry place, treat it right and it will do your work more cheaply than electricity, steam or horse power.