

Can The Dairy Cow Compete With Cotton

BY M. E. BEMIS

As I may have said before on divers and sundry occasions, there is no real competition between the dairy cow and cotton. In fact the reverse is true for they should both have a place on practically every farm in the southwest where alfalfa and cotton can be raised as successfully as they can be in the Salt River valley.

It matters little whether we crown cotton king and confer to the cow the title of queen, or reverse the designations, the fact that we don't want to get away from it is that it is not good for the community as a whole or any farm as an individual unit to let either cows or cotton become strangers.

With cotton worth 30 cents a pound as it is today, there is a strong incentive to plow up every acre that will produce even a fair crop and plant it to cotton. Before this is done, however, one should look at every angle of the situation. An acre of cotton producing a bale of lint and worth \$400 or more is most certainly alluring, but there are some limiting factors and we may as well be honest with ourselves and acknowledge them, and be also fair to ourselves and play safe.

The Maximum Crop
Among the things that should be considered by any farmer is how to produce the maximum crop per acre with a minimum cost. Obviously the maximum crop cannot be produced on land that is not adapted for it, and it is a fact that land that has not been in alfalfa for some time, as a general thing will not produce a maximum crop of cotton. Putting this another way around, the biggest cotton crops, with few exceptions, have been produced on land that has been in alfalfa for some time, and many of these yields that are exceptional have been on land that has been run as a dairy farm for some years previous. In other words the dairy farm is an ideal farm for raising cotton, but in order to make it perpetual, it is evident that some land must be kept in alfalfa and the product fed to livestock of some kind, or there will come a time when there is no more alfalfa to plow up and the land which has produced a profitable crop of cotton for a number of seasons will fall to produce a profitable crop.

Half a Bale Average
Therefore the limiting factor which may be styled number one in the series of limitations is the area which will produce a maximum, or at least above an average crop, and the average is approximately one half bale to the acre. The second limitation and it may be even more important than the first, is the labor question. Most of the cotton pickers this season and last have been Mexicans that have been brought in under bond from old Mexico under a special war time ruling. The provisions of this ruling require that no more be brought in after January 1st of the coming year. Unless some means are found for bringing in laborers from Old Mexico, there will be no labor available for picking next season's crop. It is useless to say that some means will be found, without having in sight some possible source of labor. With the labor troubles that exist in so many lines, the danger from strikes is too great to hazard the risk of bringing in indiscriminately laborers from the cities of the east.

Picking Is Big Factor
Again the laborers that would be available from such a source would be inexperienced and would not be able to make living wages in the cotton fields, or at least many of them would not. The cost of harvesting cotton even at three cents a pound amounts

to a considerable item. Without the present labor which we have had for the past two years, it is easily possible that the labor cost of harvesting cotton may be increased to twice what it is at present.

It is of course to be devoutly hoped that special legislation may be had which will enable us to bring in laborers from Old Mexico the same as we have for the past two seasons, but there is very grave doubt that congress will pass such legislation, and without it the cotton growers who never furnish the labor from their own families are taking a chance when they plant cotton next season. It is not the intention of this article to take a pessimistic view, but these facts are well known and should have emphasis rather than be suppressed.

Danger From Pests
A serious danger to cotton growers is the diseases of the plant and the insect enemies. So far we have been very fortunate in combating the diseases, in fact we have practically none with the exception of the root rot. Just how serious this may become is problematical, but it is one of the factors that will limit somewhat the yields and therefore the profits of the cotton growers on land where it prevails. The insect question has been so far one that has not worried the growers to any great extent. We do not believe that the boll weevil would prove as destructive here as in the humid sections, but it is a menace that might prove destructive. The pink boll worm, if introduced here, would most certainly endanger the cotton industry, possibly ruin it altogether for a number of years. Every precaution that can be taken is being used to keep these insects out, but the unfortunate history of other countries where these insects have got a hold should be warning of the danger that we constantly face.

This is preliminary to an argument for not "putting our eggs all in one basket" to use a trite but fitting expression.

All Eggs in One Basket
To summarize: The farmer that has all his land adapted to cotton would make more money next year to put that all in cotton, if he could be absolutely sure that he would have no labor troubles, and that there would be no troubles and incident loss from insects or plant diseases. These things are uncertain, therefore he plays safe who keeps a part of his farm in alfalfa and feeds that to dairy cows or other livestock.

The immediate profits from dairy cows will not be as much as the profits from cotton on land that is adapted to cotton, provided that the crop can be harvested. So far as anything can be determined in advance, there will be a good market for milk and other dairy products. There is an increasing demand for dairy cows and one that will almost certainly increase as the years go on. The farmer who has dairy cows to sell next fall will be far more fortunate than the farmer who may be looking for good dairy cows to buy.

The dairy farmer is playing safe. The all cotton farmer is taking a chance.

COURTING JUSTICE
"I noticed you wave your hand to that traffic policeman."
"Yes," said the motorist.
"Old friend of yours?"
"In a way. He's carried me to court a few times."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

BUILDING IN PHOENIX PASSES ALL RECORDS 1919 IS REMARKABLE

"There has never been a time in the history of Phoenix when so many houses have been built regardless of the almost prohibitive cost," said F. W. Griffen, president of the chamber of commerce, in discussing the rapid strides which Phoenix has made in building during the year 1919. "Every one knows that the town is growing as never before, and if anyone doubts, let him go to the office of the county recorder, where from 20 to 50 real estate deeds are handled in a day now, as compared with four or five two and three years ago."

Mr. Griffen was most optimistic over the growth which has been made, and estimates that in 1920 the city will have a population of 100,000 people. He called particular attention to the growth in that portion of the downtown district bounded by First and Seventh avenues, Washington and Monroe streets, where more than half a million dollars worth of construction is in course at the present time, he says.

"In addition to the dwelling houses which are being sold as fast as they can be built," continued Mr. Griffen, "we must look back over the year and remember the new hotel, the new Heard building, the country club, the centralization here of the business of the Babbit company, and other things which have either been definitely planned or actually set under way. The backers of the new country club will have invested between \$100,000 and \$175,000 when it is finished, and it will be something we all can be proud of. It is something which we have needed for a long time."

"Having in of course being continued at a rapid rate. The success of the recent Y. M. C. A. campaign is another evidence of prosperity. New money is being invested in banks, as witnessed by the reports issued the other day from the National Bank of Arizona and from the Central bank. A new bank, the Commercial National, is coming in. That is the greatest feature of the year, to me, the large investments which have been made by outside capitalists."

"Land values have gone skyward, of course. On January 28, 1916, for instance, 80 acres of land near Peoria sold for \$60 an acre. Last week it was re-sold in smaller tracts at \$60 an acre. That is an increase of 83 per cent. I know that there are pessimists who are looking for a slump, and although values now hinge on cotton, I don't think there will be a slump. I believe that day is past when a dollar will buy a bit more than it will buy today, at the close of 1919."

"Cotton, of course, is practically king. I think everyone should be conservative, and instead of making investments with 30 cent cotton in view, make them figuring cotton at 50 cents a pound for next year. Then anything above that will be an agreeable surprise."

"Another thing I think we should look forward to is the elimination of disastrous floods such as the last one by building dams on all the watersheds of the valley. We can irrigate by the conservation of water."

"I am optimistic as can be over future prospects. We mustn't go crazy, but there is certainly every excuse for optimism."

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LARGE LAND DEAL WAS NOT FAILURE

It was categorically denied yesterday by Sidney P. Osborn, of the firm of Osborn and Boyce that the deal for the Kingsbury ranch involving a quarter of a million of dollars had fallen through. It had been erroneously reported in a southside paper that the deal had not been consummated and that the ranch had been leased.

The deed for the land conveying one of the largest ranches in the valley has been recorded and a syndicate headed by Angus Cashion and composed of Sidney P. Osborn, C. R. Greene and Cecil Boyce, has taken possession of the tract. W. J. Kingsbury, former owner of the ranch which is situated near Kyrene Station, has leased another tract of 200 acres. It was this deal which led to the report that the larger proposition had fallen through.

It is the intention of the syndicate to put the entire ranch of 750 acres in cotton. This is one of the largest land deals consummated by a local real estate firm in the valley in some time. Osborn and Boyce have been in the land business but a comparatively short time, but during that period they have gained for themselves a reputation of putting over several of the largest deals in the valley in a manner thoroughly satisfying to their clients.

PROMINENT EDITOR PASSES

LONG BEACH, Cal., Dec. 30.—Luther H. Clark, 65, for the last 20 years editor-in-chief of the Dallas, Texas, News, died of heart trouble at his temporary home here today. He had been in poor health for five years. He came to Long Beach six months ago after a tour of Europe in the hope of improving his health. He is survived by a widow. His body will be sent to Dallas for burial.



Work more—
Produce more—
Save more—

But we can't continue increasing our production unless we continue increasing our railroad facilities.

The farms, mines and factories cannot increase their output beyond the capacity of the railroads to haul their products.

Railroads are now near the peak of their carrying capacity.

Without railroad expansion—more engines, more cars, more tracks, more terminals—there can be little increase in production.

But this country of ours is going to keep right on growing—and the railroads must grow with it.

To command in the investment markets the flow of new capital to expand railroad facilities—and so increase production—there must be public confidence in the future earning power of railroads.

The nation's business can grow only as fast as the railroads grow.

A vast amount of work now remains to be done which the intervention of war has necessarily delayed and accumulated, and the result is that ***** very large capital expenditures ought to be made to make up for the interruptions inevitably due to the war and to prepare the railroads to serve adequately the increased traffic throughout the country.

WALKER D. HINES,
Director General of Railroads

This advertisement is published by the Association of Railway Executives.

Those desiring information concerning the railroad situation may obtain literature by writing to The Association of Railway Executives, 61 Broadway, New York

Greetings!

To the hundreds of Dodge car owners in Phoenix and the Salt River Valley—
—to the many who contemplate the ownership of a Dodge Car—
—and to our host of friends, We Wish a—

A Happy New Year

McArthur Bros.
Central and Madison
Dodge Bros. Cars

