

LIVE STOCK AND DAIRY.

Not Enough Cows and Not Enough Feed.

Southern Dairy Cattle Largely Underfed—Maintenance Comes Before Milk Production, and Unless the Cow Has Feed Enough for Both, the Yield of Milk Falls Off.

By Prof. John Michels.

THE SOUTH LOSES annually high grade, but it must be stock at least twenty-five millions of dollars for want of enough milk. A beefy cow, which nature intended for beef purposes, cannot be made a high milk producer under any system of feeding. Having selected the proper cattle, the next important matter is to select the proper feeds. Cottonseed meal is the cheapest dairy feed we have, and hulls are the most expensive. Therefore see to it that no hulls are fed and that the cows receive a liberal allowance of cottonseed meal.

There is perhaps no feed with which cottonseed meal can be fed so successfully as with corn silage, and the latter is also the cheapest rough feed that can be fed to dairy cattle. But those who have no silage to feed, and those who do not handle enough cows to warrant the erection of a silo, may feed corn stalks, cowpea hay, or almost any other roughage more economically than cottonseed hulls. For a number of years I have fed from five to six pounds of cottonseed meal per cow daily, supplemented with some wheat bran or dried brewers grains, when the roughage consisted chiefly of corn silage. Where no corn silage is available and the cows must be fed on dry forage, I do not think it would be safe to feed more than three or four pounds of cottonseed meal per cow daily. My advice to every farmer who has ten or more cows, is to build a silo, and to do it at once, even if he has to borrow the money to do it.

There is no greater waste in agriculture, I believe, than the destruction of the feeding value of cottonseed meal by using this material as a fertilizer direct. For butter production, it is safe to estimate the feeding value of cottonseed meal at \$15.00 per ton. The best proof of this we have in the fact that for many years Denmark and Germany have been importing large quantities of cottonseed meal from the Southern States for the purpose of butter production, and while this meal has cost the foreign farmer \$10.00 or more per ton, he and his lands have become greatly enriched from butter produced on imported cottonseed meal.

Southern Products Making European Soils Rich.

Denmark imports annually eight hundred million pounds of oil cake which is unground cottonseed meal and linseed meal after the oil has been pressed from it. Germany imports over one billion pounds of this meal annually. Both of these countries have been importing this meal primarily for the production of butter; but incidentally, by virtue of the fact that the feeding has not lessened its fertilizing value, the lands in these two countries have become enormously rich, selling in many instances at from \$1,000 to \$2,000 an acre.

A matter which is beginning to appeal strongly to the farmers is the growing of leguminous crops. But the reason no more of these crops are grown at the present time, I think, is due to the lack of live stock to which to feed these crops. Leguminous crops as well as other crops are handled in the most economical manner by feeding them to stock.

Another matter of importance to remember in connection with feeding stock is that there is nothing that has such a beneficial effect upon the soil as well made manure. This is not only rich in available plant food but is also rich in humus in which most of our soils are sadly deficient; and what is of no little importance, manure is rich in bacterial life which is as necessary to the soil as water and air.

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To feed dairy cattle economically we must feed only stock of the dairy breeds. It does not matter so much whether this stock be pure bred or



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