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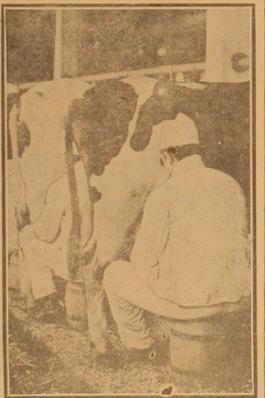
HOME COURSE IN SCIENTIFIC AGRICULTURE

FOURTH ARTICLE—TYPE OF MODEL FARMING.

By W. J. SPILLMAN, Agriculturist in Charge of Farm Management, Bureau of Plant Industry, Department of Agriculture.

THE method of management on a fifteen acre farm that raises all the roughage for thirty head of stock, seventeen of which are cows in milk, cannot fail to be of interest to farmers in all parts of the country. The farm in question is situated in southeastern Pennsylvania, near a large city. About thirty acres are in cultivation, the remaining two acres being occupied by buildings, yard, etc. This farm was purchased in 1881 with a mortgage of \$7,200 upon it. For the first year the farm lacked \$46 of paying expenses. During the next six years the mortgage was paid.

The soil of the farm is a reddish, somewhat gravelly clay. It was so run down in 1881 that it did not support the two cows and one horse kept upon it. It has been brought up to its present remarkable state of fertility solely by the use of stable manure applied directly from the barn as it was produced. The system of handling manure is such that not an ounce is lost, either liquid or solid. No commercial fertilizers have ever been used, and no manure has been hauled from the city. The crops are ordinarily all fed and are thus largely returned to the land in the manure. Of course much valuable fertilizer is added to the farm annually.



MILKING AT THE MODEL FARM.

usually from the rich mill products fed the cows. The roughage is all raised on the farm, but all the grain is bought. The owner, a minister with no previous experience in farming, has read whatever agricultural literature has been available. The writer has never seen a farm on which system is more pronounced a feature. A peculiar feature of the management is that each of the principal operations is performed on a fixed day each succeeding year or as near to it as the weather will permit. The farm is more nearly independent of the weather than any other soil the writer has ever seen.

The farm is strictly a dairy farm, the only products regularly sold being milk and a few head of young cattle each year. The cows are mainly registered Jerseys, not pure bred, but well bred. Scrupulous cleanliness is observed.

One man and a boy do the labor of the farm, except in hay harvest and during the cutting of silage, but these have all they can do. On a farm of this size, with high priced land, pastures are out of the question. There is not even a barn lot. The thirty head of stock remain in the barn the year round.

The writer has never seen a thrifter, better kept herd of cows. They are fed balanced rations every day in the year. Every feed consists of three parts. A portion of it is some succulent material—silage in winter and rye, timothy and clover, corn, peas and oats or some other green crop in summer. A second portion consists of dry hay or fodder. This is used to give the manure proper consistency and adds much to the convenience of caring for the cows. A third portion consists of mill products, of which three kinds are used—bran, oilmeal and gluten. The proportion of concentrates fed depends on the condition of the cow and is regulated by the flow of milk and the manure consistency.

The soiling crops used are as follows: Green rye, beginning about May 1 and continuing about four weeks or until the rye is ready to cut for hay; then timothy and clover are fed till peas and oats are ready. When the latter is cut for hay the silo is opened (about July 4), and silage is fed till early corn (planted May 8) is ready.

Enough of this is planted (about one-fourth acre) to last till late corn (planted about June 22) is ready. Late corn is then fed till it is time to put it in the silo. From this time forward silage is fed daily till green rye is available in the spring. No abrupt change is ever made.

These carefully kept cows are given

four ounces of salt each, daily, mixed with their feed. The cows are fed three times a day, and the salt is divided among the three feeds. Fine table salt is invariably used.

Every particle of roughage fed on this farm, including hay and all soiling crops, is cut in quarter-inch lengths. Even the bedding is cut thus. There are two round silos on the farm, each ten feet in diameter and thirty-four feet high. These together hold about 100 tons of silage, and this quantity of corn silage is produced on four acres, planted about June 22. Eleven men, three teams and a traction engine to run the cutter are employed in filling the silos.

There is no systematic rotation of crops on this farm. It is not necessary since every foot of land receives an abundance of manure every year or two. Every green crop grown on the place is utilized for soiling purposes, more or less, the surplus being converted into hay or silage. The crops grown are rye, timothy and clover, corn, peas and oats and millet. At least two crops a year are harvested from most of the fields. The grass crop is a mixture, the seed sown being as follows: Red clover, six quarts; timothy, five quarts; alsike, two and one-half pounds; redtop, one pound. The farm is divided into twelve small parcels, varying in size from one-fourth acre to two and one-quarter acres. In April, 1903, six of these (five or six acres in all) were in grass. About half of this was sown the last week in August, 1900, one-fourth in 1901 and one-fourth in 1902. That sown in 1900 was cut once for hay in the spring of 1903 and then plowed for late corn. The crops which preceded these plots of grass were in two cases rye, grown the preceding winter.

When this was cut for soiling or for hay the ground was plowed and harrowed into fine tilth. One and a half bushels per acre of German millet were then sown. This was cut for hay before it had made seed. The land was plowed again and harrowed into fine tilth. Grass seed was then sown broadcast late in August. Sowing thus early, using no nurse crop, gives a full crop the next year. In fact, because of the farm's fertility, three large crops are cut the next year after sowing grass in August. Two cuttings are made the second year. In the spring of the third season, if the crop promises to be abundant, a crop of hay is taken before breaking up the sod for late corn. If the grass crop is scanty the sod is broken earlier for any crop for which it may be needed. The sod is always heavily top dressed during the winter before it is broken up.

Some of the fields are kept in rye in winter and corn in summer indefinitely. Rye is sown broadcast at the rate of two bushels per acre, the seed being covered by a spring tooth harrow. The hay made from this rye is readily eaten by the stock, but a part of it is used for bedding. Three of the twelve subdivisions of the farm are thus devoted regularly to rye in winter and late corn in summer. Oats and peas are sometimes sown in early spring on land sown in rye the previous fall, the rye being turned under in spring. Sometimes a piece of corn land is left bare during the winter and sown to oats and peas the next spring. Grass is occasionally sown on land from which soiling crop has been cut. One small field was devoted to oats and peas for several years and then put down in grass, to be followed by corn. Oats and peas do not fit very well into the cropping systems followed on any of these small fields. They must be sown in early spring and are off early in July, yet they yield so much nutritious hay or soiling material that a small area is usually grown.

The method of handling manure on this farm can be used only on farms on which stock is kept in stalls. Behind each row of cows is a gutter eight inches wide and seven inches deep. These gutters have no outlets. They are thoroughly cleaned daily. (The whole barn is disinfected twice a week, and the interior is frequently whitewashed.) When cleaned the gutters are sprinkled with ashes or dry dirt to absorb what moisture may be present. During the day a quantity of absorbent, consisting of leaf mold, rotten sod, etc., is placed in them. Each gutter ends near a door. The manure is lifted from the gutter into a cart backed up to the door. The end of the gutter next the door is slightly lower than the other end. One man lifts the manure with a fork and places it in the lower end of the trench. A second man then lifts it into the cart. In this manner the liquid manure is all got into the cart. Finally the fragments that remain in the trench are swept to the lower end and removed. The cart goes immediately to the field, and the manure is spread at once. In summer it is spread on the land from which the soiling crops are removed. In winter it is spread on the rye and grass fields, on the latter particularly when the ground is too soft to place it upon the rye fields. No manure is used on newly seeded grass lands, but the second and third year grass fields are top dressed in winter.

Since this account was first presented in 1903 marked economic changes have occurred, which, if this farm were still in operation as it was then, would materially affect the profit obtained. Most of these changes relate to the price of concentrated feeding stuffs. The writer is of opinion that under present conditions this farm is smaller than a dairy farm ought to be, especially before the land has been made exceedingly fertile. It is now very desirable to have the dairy farm large enough to permit growing at least a part of the concentrated feed used, and the larger the proportion of this class of feed grown the better.

ONCE A TERM OF REPROACH

Golf "Caddying" Not Always the Respectable Occupation It Is in This Century.

It is delightful to the average citizen to discover that the golf player can display a kindly human sentiment outside the strict rules of "the royal and ancient," and it is cheering to note that that flood is just now pouring out toward the caddie. This constant subject for cynical speech and caustic picture is to be suitably provided for, and an accomplished golfer pleads almost with tears in his voice that "caddies are identified with the one pleasure which helps the elderly gentlemen to feel young." The hearts even of the well preserved middle-aged cannot be touched by such an appeal; and yet there lingers the haunting memory that the very name of caddie is suffused in some strange fashion with a shade of ne'er-do-well.

The earliest known use of the appellation, and then as "caddie," is to be found in the London Morning Penny Post, when George II. was still on the throne, and "the forty-five" was in very immediate popular remembrance. News from Scotland had it that "one Duncan Grant, a discharged soldier, who had passed in Edinburgh some time as a street caddie," had incurred a heavy penalty for a rather trivial swindle in a transaction over herrings. He was to be taken from the Talbouth and "put in the pillory, to stand for the space of an hour, with half a dozen herrings about his neck, and thereafter to be banished from the City of Liberties forever."

It was a rough sort of making the punishment fit the crime, which some irate golfers would desire to revive for their caddies even in this more humane age.—Westminster Gazette.

RAVEN ATONES FOR OLD SIN

Since Middle Ages One of Its Kind Has Been Confined in Saxony as a Punishment.

There is a new raven in the cage of the historic raven of Merseburg in Prussian Saxony. The number in succession of the new bird is not recorded, but it occupies a place that has held a raven since the middle ages. In consequence of the contrition of a certain knight of Merseburg who condemned to death an innocent man. Thilo von Trotha was the lord of this section in the middle ages. One day he missed from his room some jewelry, accused a man servant of stealing it and had him beheaded in the courtyard. Before his decapitation the condemned man proclaimed his innocence and said that he would reassert it after death by raising his arms above his shoulders. Tradition says that he did so.

Some months later the missing jewels were found in a raven's nest. Thilo von Trotha thereupon ordered that for all time a raven should be kept in the courtyard, and the raven just put into the cage is the successor of that first bird. The arms of the von Trothas have a quartering showing a headless human trunk with the arms raised.

Easy to Reduce Flesh.

It is said women can reduce their weight much easier than can men. This is probably accounted for by their home training.

Woman's training in the home is one of such constant forced self-denial that when it comes to working like seven horses and going without anything to eat the ordeal is in the nature of a vacation.

Every woman of family is used to making sacrifices; it becomes second nature.

After doing all the unpleasant chores around the house for every member of the family—putting collar buttons in papa's shirt, sewing on buttons for big brother, telephoning for the tailor to send for clothes, wrestling with every domestic problem and downing it—the trifling matter of working off forty pounds is child's play.

Dress Same as Rent.

A French judge has given a unique decision on a contested dressmaker's bill. The dressmaker sued the husband of a customer for \$2,800, the cost of dresses and cloaks which he had delivered. The woman's husband refused to pay, saying that the tradesman had, at his own risk, allowed his wife an absurd credit.

The court inquired into the rent paid by the defendant. Learning that it was \$800, the court decided that no woman ought to spend more for her year's clothes than her husband spent on his year's rent, and ordered payment of \$800 and costs to settle the dressmaker's bill.

Helped Snake Get Coat Off.

Snakes in captivity sometimes find great difficulty in getting rid of the skin which is shed every year. In a state of nature they rub off the skin against the roots and herbage.

In the Bombay Museum there was an Australian diamond snake, which appeared likely to die because it could not get rid of its skin. It was quite blind and refused all food. An English surgeon happened to see the predicament and volunteered his services. He engaged the native keeper to hold the snake, and then with knife, scissors and forceps he ripped the old skin down the back and performed the delicate and risky operation of removing the membrane which adhered to the eyes.



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Fuller's earth, so named from its earliest use in fulling wool, is a rather rare, soft, friable rock whose value depends altogether on its texture and its filtering and absorbent properties. It has no definite composition, mineralogically, its physical properties rather than a chemical analysis determining its commercial value. Fuller's earth was first produced in the United States in the early 'nineties.

Shakespeare on the Road.
Hamlet had just been hit by a cold-storage egg. Whereupon he turned gravely to his audience. "How truly spoke the good Marcellus!" quoth he. "Something is rotten in the state of Denmark!"

Baldness and Intellect.
According to the statement of a professor in a German university the percentage of baldness among intellectual men is only two for musical men and sixteen for writers and others.

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