

I will relate a little incident of two of the farmers on the route last winter. They both had fairly good dairy cows. One was feeding grain and the other was not. I asked the latter why he did not feed grain. He answered, "It costs too much to feed grain."

Now I will show you as I showed him the figures for these two herds for the month of February. The former was feeding ensilage, timothy hay and one pound of grain to every three pounds of average testing milk. The latter was feeding ensilage, timothy hay and no grain. It cost the former 60.6 cents to produce one hundred pounds of milk and 12 cents to produce one pound of butter fat, while it cost the latter 91 cents to produce 100 pounds of milk, and 29 cents per pound butter fat. In addition to this the man's cows that were getting grain were in fairly good condition and were holding a good flow of milk, while those that were not getting the grain were losing in both milk and in flesh. They gave as good a flow of milk as long as the excess body tissues would supply them, but when those began to give way, the milk decreased and very fast. The man who was not feeding grain thought that when he had a silo he did not need to feed any grain.

Some of the most progressive dairymen on my route are putting water into their barns so that their cows do not have to be exposed to the cold even to get their water, which is an essential thing if the cattle are going to give the best returns for the money invested and the feed given them.

The worst trouble I find is to get the men to feed a balanced ration. They want to get the balanced ration, but don't want to use them.

One man last year used the balanced ration who had not used it the year before, and he increased the butter fat from his herd sixty pounds per head with the same herd with the addition of a few heifers.

IMPRESSIONS OF A COW TESTER.

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Fellow Testers:—As I have been in this work only a few months it will hardly be right for me to contrast the best herd with the poorest as we had planned. It will be enough to state that the only man who has had the testing work done before, has the best producing herd so far. I do not think I have anything new to say but some of the things have been brought home clearly to me. One of the things is this: I believe pasture is profitable, on high priced lands in small tracts only.

Those who have had very small pastures this summer have received just as much good from them as those with large ones. One of my patrons has only eight acres for fifteen cows. He has used no more supplementary feed than his neighbor who has about three times as much and his cows have been fed to their full capacity.

Another thing is the cheapness of silage. Not only have the cows fed silage produced more milk and appear better than those not fed silage, but they produced it more cheaply. I have been surprised to find how little really good corn it takes for silage. One of my patrons filled a silo 14 feet by 32 feet with a little over five acres. Another filled three silos from 45 acres. One of the silos was 20x48, another 16x40 and the other 14x40. These silos were filled in spite of the fact that we had a poor year for corn in our county.

One of the things we testers have to contend with is the breeder of pure bred cattle who will not test. I have found two such cases in my work. They are afraid their cattle will not make a good showing. Their cattle are good because they are pure bred, not because they are high producers. Is it less than a crime to sell an animal for a good one when the only thing good about it is that it, by accident of birth, is bred pure? This is what I call a pure bred scrub. Will not a pure bred scrub be a poorer breeder than a common scrub, because of its prepotency? It is wrong not only to the purchaser but to the breed as well.

Some day these breeders will awaken to the fact that their cattle are not as good as those who have tested systematically and regularly and have graded up with good pure bred sires.

TROUBLES OF A TESTER.

By C. O. HELDSTAB.

To begin with, the difficulties of the work are not so very numerous. The working out of balanced rations with the feeds we have at hand is, I believe, the worst we have to contend with, and that is becoming much easier with the advent of the silo, as a ration is easier to compound with silage and good results are sure to follow in use in connection with other feeds; that is, if it is properly put in and cared for when taken out.

Another trouble is to induce men to feed liberally. With the high prices of hay and other feedstuff it is a great temptation to sell off the