

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

most of it and drag the cows through on corn stalks and shredded fodder. Of course, some are justified in so doing as there are a few cows that unquestionably do not pay for their feed and that is where the benefits of testing come in. Among the strictly dairy bred herds this is not so noticeable, but even there we find it too frequently. It is true that we often find good cows among the scrubs, but as a rule they have missed their calling, and their owners have failed to hear the call of the butcher.

We find as a rule that the members of the association are ready to adopt better methods of feeding and caring for the cow and the handling of her product. Of course there are exceptions to this and the best we can do in this case is to grin and bear it, and speak the advice mentally, trusting that the rut will eventually become deep enough to bury the man or make him sit up and take notice. As an experience to a young man, I think it cannot be valued in dollars and cents (especially when they are slow about paying their dues) as we meet with so many different ways and ideas of doing things that work toward the same end. Not alone in the way of housing, feeding and general care of stock, but all around the farm there is a chance to learn some very good lessons.

LA CROSSE COUNTY COW TESTING ASSOCIATION.

OLE HANSEN, ONLASKA, WIS.

The La Crosse County Cow Testing Association was organized in the spring of 1910, and began its work May 10th, with O. J. Mottard as tester. December 1st O. J. Mottard gave up his position and O. C. Hansen took charge. At the end of that year some of the smaller herds dropped out, and we took a few larger herds in their places.

We have some members who think there is nothing like the testing association. They say it is the best thing that has ever been started from the school. They can't see why it is that more farmers do not join, as the price is comparatively small considering the profits derived. They take more interest in their work, as do also the hired men.

A member of our association, whose herd stands in the lead of all the herds tested, fed balanced ration for most of the winter, and said that he never thought there was so much difference in feeding.

Results of last year's work were published in the local paper, and this fall I hope to balance rations for many of the members. There