

Improving Grade Dairy Herds.

In travelling through the country, we notice that if there is any one branch of agriculture that stands in need of improvement it is the live stock branch, and especially cattle. In nine cases out of ten, when look. ing at a herd of cattle it is impossible to tell what ideal the farmer had in view when breeding them unless it was to produce an animal. The breeds are so mixed that in most cases they are worse than twenty years ago, as they have more variations, but it is now easier to beed up on account of each new crossing making the whole more pliable or susceptible to improvement. Is there anything we can say to help the farmer improve the stock he has? There is always the common answer: "Better feed and better blood' -a good solution of the problem if he knows how to use them to better his stock. These two factors must always go together, but after them comes that great problem of selection, which is in fact the only law of breeding that is entirely under our control. The other laws, such as "like producing like," and "reversion, or breeding back," are largely beyond the farmer's control, but he must use them as much as posible to help him in his selection. We often hear instructions as to bow to select animals for their particular functions, so that for the present it is necessary only to discuss the question of how to select them for breeding purposes to get the greatest improvement.

There is an old saying among breeders that the best results are generally produced by breeding from a dam that produces offspring like the sire, and I believe that is the fundamental basis from which we can expect to receive the greatest benefit from better blood in the grade herds of this country, whether they are dairy or beef.

Test Cows Before Breeding Them .- Find out by weighing and testing milk what our cows are doing; then increase the food and give better care and weigh and test again; then you will find the cows that are most susceptible to improvement and that respond most readily to better care.

Use Only the Best Sires .- Now comes the time for better blood. Get a bull belonging to some one of the recognized pure dairy breeds with a long line of high-producing ancestry as possible, and see as many of them as are within reach. Find out if possible if the dam and the grand-dam have good shaped adders, for it appears that dairy qualities, although entirely a female function, are transmitted very largely through the sire. That is why a good sire is so valuable in improving dairy herds. Now we expect our bull is bet ter than our cows as he is pure bred of a deep milking strain, but what use is he if he does not transmit the power he has inherited from his ancestors to do something? If the bull has the power of transmitting the good qualities of his ancestors it does not look as if it made much difference which cow was the dam of the calf we wished to raise. If the ball is better than the cows, it is his qualities we want, if they blend with those of the cows so much the better. The best calf to raise is the one that shows most largely the qualities of the sire. By observing closely we find that it is generally the calves of the cows which showed the greatest improvement for better food and better care that are best to keep. Those cows are the least liable to transmit their own qualities; they are the most pliable, as their characteristics are the least firmly fixed.

Select Heifer Calves .- I would raise as many heifer calves as possible with the expectation of discarding them when two or three years old, or even before that age if we notice any tendency to revert back to the original scrub. We must not stop, as there is no such thing as standing still in stock breeding. We have either to keep on improving or they will go back in spite of us, because the tendency of our domestic animals is always toward deterioration, and we must put forth our best efforts towards improvment. Now what can we do to counteract this tendency toward reverting back? We can reduce it to a minimum by in-breeding, either by breeding those heifers to their sire or to another that very closely resembles him. When we get past that point we want to breed or blend the qualities of both sire and dam, for now the tendency to reversion to the original will have almost disappeared. This is because the animals become in a few generations to all intents and purposes almost pure-bred.

Principals of importance in the repair of

(1) Use the same material in the repair of roads as was used in construction.

(2) When square shoulders of earth and sod form at the sides of gravel or stone roads, they should be cut away with a grader, turning this material outward-never drawing it to the centre of the road.

(3) Never allow hollows, ruts or puddles to remain on the road, but fill them at once; if an earth road, use earth; if a gravel road use gravel; if a stone road, use stone.

(4) Deep holes in gravel and stone roads should have the earth and soft material cleaned out of them before putting in new metal.

(5) Ruts and holes should be filled a little above the surface of the road so that there will not be a depression when the material is consolidated.

(6) Loose stones should be raked into piles, to be taken up by a wagon and hauled away. This stone should be collected in a convenient place to be used afterward for crushing, putting into fills, or in such other manner as occasion may require.

(7) It is especially necessary that all ditches and drains shall flow freely in the early spring, so that the cold water may be drawn away as quickly as possible, permitting the frost to come out of the ground quickly. If the ditches are not in condition to drain the macadam promptly, heavy loads will cut through the macadam into the wet and soft sub-soil, forming holes that are costly to re-

(8) The ends of culverts should be watched to see that they are not obstructed by leaves, grass or other material. Snow and ice should be removed from culverts whenever there is an accumulation likely to cause obstruction in case of a thaw. Special care should be taken in this respect prior to the time of spring freshets.

(9) Water should never be allowed to flow in the wheel tracks, especially on steep grades, care being taken to preserve the crown so that the water will flow to the side

(10) Waste material from adjoining farms should not be allowed on the road. Any per son using the roadside as a dumping ground for stone or other rubbish should be prosecuted. Noxious weeds and brush should be cut and removed.

(11) For the surface of a stone road never use stones larger than will go through a twoinch gauge; finer is preferable.

(I2) Use chips or screenings as a binding material on stone roads. Earth, sod, dust and similar soft material will ruin the best

(13) Do not allow dust and mud to lie on the surface of a gravel or stone road. Dust becomes mud in wet weather; and mud keeps a road in a wet condition for weeks, where it would dry in a few hours if the blanket of mud were removed.

(14) The rake is the most useful tool for making repairs, and should be frequently used on gravel and stone roads to keep 2 year old Race Record, 2.25 wheel tracks filled with the metal forced out of them. This is especially true during the first year after construction.

(15) On earth roads, establish a system of regular treatment with the "split-log" or a similar implement.

(16) Smooth roads wear longest. They shed water quickly.

(17) Roads should receive constant attention. This is the most economical and satisfactory system of making repairs. Repairs should be made, not once a year, nor twice, but as soon as signs of wear appear. Special attention is needed in early spring and early fall, as at these two periods much can be done to prepare the roads for the ensuing seasons of particularly severe conditions.

Beware of Ointments for Catarrh that Contain Mercury,

as mercury will surely destroy the sense of smell and completly derange the whole system when entering it through the mucous surfaces. Such articles should never be used except on prescriptions from reputable physicians, as the damage they will do is ten fold to the good you can possibly derive from them. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, O., contains no mercury, and is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. In buying Hall's Catarrh Cure be sure you get the genuine. It is taken internally and made in Toledo, Ohio, by F. J. Chency & Co. Testimonials free.

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A Vanished Type.

On Mr. Hazelton's return from a week' visit in his native village he told his wife that everything there was changed, and not for the better. "They have dinner at night now," he said sadly, "luncheon at one, and the Continental breakfast of rolls and coffee -or no breakfast at all-is the rule in every

"I told Louisa that I'd like to see some of the fried pies that mother and Aunt Anne used to make for breakfast, but my hint fell on stony ground. Louisa said fried pies were horribly indigestible; besides, nobody knew how to make them.

"'Cook would leave if I asked her to try," Louisa said, so fearsomely that I said no

Rules for Repairing Roads,

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"I don't see why you cried for fried pies in Elmdale; you don't have them for breakfast at home," said Mrs. Hazelton, pointedly.

"It was absurd," Mr. Hazelton admitted, "but my mouth watered for them all the same. And for sausage cakes, and a salt-fish dinner, and apple turnovers, and sugar gingerbread, to mention a few of the dainties of my boyhood. But it was clear soup and sweetbreads and salads everywhere, just as it is

"And the worst is not yet," said Mr. Hazelton, tragically. "The manner of living was just as elegant as it is here. More simple, of course, two servants instead o six, and so on; china instead of gold plate, and only one engagement for the evening instead of three, but merely a difference in degree, not in kind."

"What did you expect?" inquired Mrs. Hazelton, ironically. "The customs of your

"Just that," said Mr. Hazelton, stoutly "I told Louisa I didn't wish to be unappreciative, of course, but I'd willingly swap all the dinners I'd had for one of Aunt Anne's suppers of fried ham and eggs, hot soda-biscuits, quince preserve, cupcake and custard pie; and to see her take the table-cloth to the door afterward and shake it!

"But there are no such suppers in Elmdale nowadays," concluded Mr. Hazelton, feelingly. "And the old-fashioned woman who took the table-cloth to the door after a meal and shook it has departed for good and all.'

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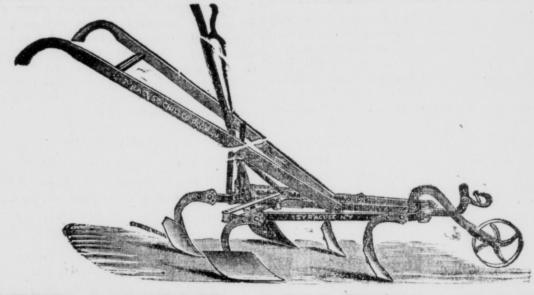
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