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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

OFFICE OF THE DAIRY AND COLD STORAGE COMMISSIONER,
OTTAWA, September, 1912.

(Extracts from the Report of the Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner, 1911.)

GOOD REASONS FOR COW TESTING.

From correspondence with members of cow testing associations the following good reasons why every dairy farmer should commence and continue the system have been classified.

Individual Cows.

1. Cow testing enables one to find out the poorest cows, those not paying for their feed, so that they may be got rid of.

In many cases one-quarter of the cows in the herd have been discovered to be not worth keeping, in some cases half the herd and even as high as three-quarters have been turned out.

This means certainty in dairying, no more guess work as to individual performance.

2. Cow testing shows that many cows considered only average are really the best in the herd.
3. Cow testing points out definitely which cows are the best producers, both in milk and butter fat.
4. Cow testing proves that many cows considered the highest in test are really the lowest.
5. Cow testing saves good cows from being beefed, they are found to be profitable when actual yield and cost of feed are considered.
6. Cow testing shows that many fine looking cows do not bring in much cash from the factory.
7. Cow testing helps to discover the great difference in persistency of flow.
8. Cow testing brings to notice the slightest variation in flow and urges one to seek for the cause of the shrinkage.

Herds as a Whole.

9. Cow testing helps to increase the total yield of milk and fat from the same number of cows.
10. Cow testing brings in larger returns from fewer cows.
11. Cow testing helps to build up a profitable herd quickly because heifers can be selected from the best cows.

Feed.

12. Cow testing allows more discrimination in feeding, apportioning the grain according to the yield of fat.
13. Cow testing emphasizes the benefit of liberality in feeding succulent, digestible food stuffs.
14. Cow testing abundantly proves that it pays handsomely to give dairy cows the best of care and kind treatment; this includes regularity as to milking, early stabling in the fall, protection from cold rains, spraying to protect from flies; and above all, particular attention to cleanliness, light and ventilation in the stable.
15. Cow testing demonstrates that many good cows can be kept at a smaller cost of feed. This is not stinginess, but economy.

The Dairyman Himself.

16. Keeping records makes one more observant of all those little details that go to make up success.
17. Because cow testing develops this faculty of observation and induces reading and study, members of associations are becoming far better dairymen.
18. There is a great stimulus received from comparing notes and results with other members.
19. The hired men take more interest in the cows, consequently they give them better attention and get more milk.
20. Neighbouring farmers who originally scoffed at the idea of cow testing have become impressed with the results obtained by members.
21. A great measure of personal satisfaction results from studying each cow as an individual performer, not as a mere machine.
22. Cow testing increases one's love for good cows, and creates infinitely more pleasure in the work of the farm.
23. The definite knowledge obtained from the regular monthly testing is much more satisfactory in every way than getting an occasional result only once or twice a year.
24. Financially, cow testing is of very great benefit; young bulls sell for higher prices. Cows sell for double the old prices when buyers see records.
25. Cow testing not only interests the boys and girls more and more in farm life, but materially assists in providing additional home comforts for the women and children.

INCREASES IN YIELDS.

A few of the positive gains in milk yields and cash receipts are given below as samples of what is being accomplished by men who take up cow testing systematically.

ONTARIO.

Dr. D. Robertson, Milton, writes, 'Our herd of cows averaging 4,000 pounds of milk six years ago, now average over 8,000 pounds.' The yield of this herd is thus seen to be *more than double* what it was.

W. R. Bigham, Culloden, writes, 'We have increased the average yield per cow about 2,000 pounds, our herd averaged about 7,300 pounds for 1910.'

Wm. Stock, Cassel, writes, 'My herd has increased from 5,000 to 8,000 pounds for each cow in two years.' This is a *60 per cent increase*.

E. Mollen, Cambray, writes, 'I have achieved an increase of at least twenty-five per cent.'

W. C. Shearer, Bright, writes, 'Our average has raised from 6,000 to 6,666 pounds in three years.'

J. W. Jewson, Stone Quarry, writes, 'We have a marked increase in pounds of milk produced, in some cases equal to 1,000 pounds per cow.'

E. O. Finch, Mapleton, writes, 'All the herd show a large increase, one four-year-old gave 12,000 pounds of milk.'

Jonathan Austin, Lynn Valley, writes, 'My herd now averages over 6,000 pounds per cow.'

George Bishop, Norwich, writes, 'Two years ago before keeping records our herd of 12 cows averaged less than 6,000 pounds; this year, 13 cows average over 8,000 pounds.' This is an increase of *over 33 per cent*.

W. E. Thomson, Woodstock, writes, 'I have raised the average of my herd from 5,500 to 10,400 pounds per cow.' This is a case where the yield has been *almost doubled*.

William Kaufman, Cassel, writes, 'My cows gave me about 1,000 pounds more milk in 1910 than in 1909.'

Thos. F. Ritchie, Allan's Mills, writes, 'My five best cows gave over 1,100 pounds more milk in June this year than in June last year.'

Walter Paterson, Ingersoll, writes, 'In 1907 the average of 11 cows was 5,852 pounds, and in 1910 the average of 9, including heifers, was up to 7,446 pounds.' This is an increase of 1,594 pounds, or *27 per cent*.

Wm. Beddie, Prescott, writes, 'In 1907 the average yield was 3,794 pounds, in 1910 it was 6,000 pounds.' This is an increase of 2,206 pounds per cow, or *fifty per cent*, in three years.

J. K. Moore & Son, Peterborough, with a herd of twenty, increased the yield 2,269 pounds of milk per cow in two years, or *33 per cent*.

H. German, St. George, writes, 'Our increase is from 7,000 to 9,000 pounds of milk per cow.'

QUEBEC.

Chas. Wilkins, East Farnham, writes, 'In 1908 our cows gave a revenue of \$20 each, but in 1910 it was \$41.43,' or *more than twice as much*.

S. W. Talmadge, Sweetsburg, writes, 'My cows are doing about one-half better.'

Geo. H. Montgomery, Philipsburg, writes, 'The revenue was increased \$604 in four years.' This is equivalent to a gain of *32 per cent*.

H. F. Green, Clarenceville, writes, 'Our cows have increased the flow of milk one-third.'

H. D. Snow, Coaticook, writes, 'Our average yield has increased at least twenty-five per cent.'

D. F. Hawley, Nutt's Corner, writes, 'We have made a twenty-five per cent gain.'

S. A. Cleland, Hemmingford, writes, 'Previous to weighing and keeping records, our average returns per cow were only about \$40, last year it was \$60.' This is an increase of *72 per cent*.

W. P. Dimick, South Stukeley, writes, 'It would be hard to estimate the value of cow testing in dollars and cents as yet, but I would not take a good deal for the knowledge I now have.'

F. E. Miller, Clarenceville, writes, 'The returns from my eleven cows this year exceeded those of last year by \$150.'

W. F. Kay, Philipsburg, has increased the yield from 5,218 pounds of milk from 13 cows in 1906, to 6,482 pounds from 17 cows in 1910. This is *24 per cent*.

Geo. Bradley, St. Armand, has increased in three years from 3,986 pounds per cow to 5,061 pounds. This is *27 per cent*.

W. Auger, Ste. Emelie de Lotbinière, has increased in three years from 3,275 pounds per cow to 4,303 pounds. This is *31 per cent*.

Theo. Trudel, St. Prosper, with 15 cows has raised the average from 5,534 pounds per cow to 6,725 pounds in three years.

R. H. Reynolds, Aird, in 1908 had an average of 3,792 pounds of milk from 10 cows, but in 1910 his 12 cows averaged 7,269 pounds of milk and 230 pounds of fat. This is an increase of *eighty-one per cent* in the yield of fat, and *ninety-one per cent* in the yield of milk.

M. T. Macfie, Aird, also in two years has increased *sixty-one per cent*, from 2,801 pounds of milk up to 4,602 pounds per cow.

T. B. Stark, Kelvingrove, with 13 cows in 1908 averaged 4,199 pounds of milk, but in 1910 the average yield of 15 cows was 5,760 pounds of milk, or an increase of *37 per cent*.

Trefflé Morin, Notre Dame de Stanbridge, writes, 'Our cows have increased 1,000 pounds of milk on the average over last year.'

Cyrille Laurin, fils, Côté St. Herman, writes, 'We have made over \$15 per cow more this year.'

MARITIME PROVINCES.

Robert Murray, Marshville, N.S., writes, 'From 4 cows in 1908 I sold 587 pounds of butter; from 6 cows in 1910 I sold 1,400 pounds.' This is an increase of *68 per cent.*

Hugh J. McLeod, Heathbell, N.S., writes, 'We are getting about 50 per cent more milk.'

Byron McLeod, Penobsquis, N.B., writes, 'The average of butter fat increased twenty pounds per cow in 1910 over 1909.'

J. L. Blakeney, Victoria Mills, N.B., writes, 'We are getting at least one-quarter more milk.'

Ora C. Hicks, Petitcodiac, N.B., writes, 'We have greatly increased in total of milk from the same number of cows.'

S. J. Goodliffe, Sussex, N.B., writes, 'In seven years the average was brought up from 4,590 to 7,835 pounds of milk per cow.' This is an increase of *70 per cent.*

M. A. Smith, Hoyt Station, N.B., writes, 'I have *just about doubled* the average yield of milk.'

T. W. Bentley, Kensington, P.E.I., writes, 'My increase is about \$15 per cow in three years.'

P. S. McIntyre, Kensington, P.E.I., writes, 'Our six cows increased 4,800 pounds over last year.'

W. D. McCormack, Launching, P.E.I., writes, 'Our cows have increased 2,000 pounds of milk.'

M. C. Quigley, North Tyron, P.E.I., writes, 'I am getting about \$20 per cow more.'

A. McRae & Sons, East Royalty, P.E.I., writes, 'We are averaging at least *one-third more* per cow.'

J. Seaman, Breadalbane, P.E.I., writes, 'My herd now gives me *three times as much milk* per cow.'

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Halliday Bros., Sandwick, write, 'We have *more than doubled* our output.'

G. S. Harris, Moresby Island, writes 'I have raised my average yield of fat *nearly 40 pounds* per cow.'

G. G. Baiss, Maple Bay, writes, 'In $3\frac{1}{2}$ years the average per cow has increased from \$7 per month to \$12 per month.' This is over *71 per cent.*

A. W. Haine, Dewdney, writes, 'In 5 years we have raised the average more than 2,000 pounds of milk per cow.'

Horatio Webb, Sardis, writes, 'The average of my herd has increased *one-third* in the amount of butter fat per cow.'

The increases detailed above, coupled with those published in the report of last year, furnish the strongest possible incentive for every dairy farmer to test each cow in his herd systematically. Such results mean definite saving of time, energy, feed and thought at present bestowed on cows not worth keeping; and mean, besides the very satisfactory increases in cash receipts, a decided raising of the whole tone of dairy farming.

Milk records forms will be supplied free on application.

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