

HOW TO GO INTO THE DAIRY BUSINESS.

A Correspondent's Plan and the One The Progressive Farmer Would Advise.

THE agricultural papers and far-seeing men of the South are trying to get farmers to raise more stock, but are not presenting any feasible plan that will enable them to do so profitably.

It is useless to tell a farmer to milk cows when he does not know how to manipulate the product or make it marketable, and it is also useless to try to introduce the Northern creamery system by trying to start full-fledged creameries, and climatic conditions prevent private dairying as an adjunct to general farming. The cheese factories and creameries of the North started from very primitive methods and it is only by adopting methods that are within our reach that will enable us to build up a dairy industry.

I submit the following plan of a creamery system, which if properly organized, will give all of the benefits of the Northern system:

Have the State or some far-seeing railway company put a competent dairyman as organizer and supervisor, one who can adapt himself to local conditions and institute plants wherever he can get even four or five farmers interested. If a farmer has building and water convenient an outfit can be put in for about \$100 to take care of the milk of 100 cows. Further expense is necessary if building and water have to be provided, but a mere shell of a building with proper floor will answer to start with.

The dairyman should instruct patrons in milking and care of milk and local manager in making butter, testing and creamery details. Different plants can be put in from the most primitive up to the complete creamery as locality demands. Each plant should have a distinguishing mark for packing, so that defects could be traced to point of production and corrected by the dairyman.

Banks have more public spirit than they are generally given credit for, and are willing to assist in building up local industries and will undoubtedly assist patrons to purchase the cows they may want. The first year the returns will only be from milk. The second year increased farm products will be added, and after that the yearly disposal of the increase.

The farmer has nothing invested that he cannot dispose of if the plant is not a success, except his share in the plant.

The cow is the basis of good farming everywhere and no section of the United States is better adapted to modern dairying than the South, and no section needs it more.

JOHN WALLACE.

Bay Minette, Ala.

Editorial Comment: We quite agree with Mr. Wallace that the South needs more dairies and creameries, but we do not agree with him as to how to get them. It is useless to say that "climatic conditions" prevent the making of good milk and butter on Southern farms. The one thing that prevents them is the Southern farmer's lack of knowledge as to how to handle the milk, to care for the cows, and to grow the feed for them.

This may not be flattering, but it is true, and it is high time for us to recognize it. The farmer who wishes to keep cows and to sell milk and butter does not need to wait for the State, the railroad company or the bank to make a way for him. What he needs to do is to get right down to the job of learning how to select a good cow, how to feed and care for her, and how to handle the milk

she gives. Then he can make money with milk cows. We say he can, because all over the South men are doing it. What Mrs. Gatlin has done in southern Alabama, other farmers can do in other sections. If Mr. Wallace will turn back to his issue of The Progressive Farmer for January 27, and read how she went into the dairy business, we believe that he will agree with us that her plan is more feasible than his.

As to co-operative creameries, they must come after the farmers of a neighborhood have the cows necessary to run the creameries and have learned the elementary lessons of milk production and care. We have the story of a successful creamery for publication next week, and there are others to be found in our territory, but the attempt to establish creameries before the cows were present has cost some Southern communities a lot of money.

Why Manure Is so Much Needed on Southern Soils.

IN comparing farm manures with commercial fertilizers, we realize that the nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash in the former may not be so valuable pound for pound, but when we take into account the vegetable matter present and its mechanical effect on the soil and also that it is applicable to all varieties of soil and crops, its superiority cannot be questioned. If the fertility and value of soils depended mainly on the amount of mineral matter in them, their fertility might remain unimpaired for centuries to come. The mineral matter can only be exhausted from a soil by cropping, if we except small quantities of soluble matters, which are sometimes leached out of certain soils. All cultivated soils lose more or less mineral matter through crops removed, but this loss is very slight when compared to the loss of nitrogen and organic matter, which are lost rapidly both by leaching and oxidation. The lack of organic matter is, in my judgment, the primary cause of the low productive power of our Southern soils. Organic matter is much easier retained in Northern than in Southern soils. This is mainly owing to heat and moisture of the South, which carries on the decomposition more rapidly in a warm than in a cold climate. And since cotton culture is such a humus-destroying process, it renders the husbanding of this valuable principle as perhaps the most important process in Southern agriculture.

A well kept manure heap may be safely taken as one of the surest indications of thrift and success in farming. Neglect of this resource causes losses which, though vast in extent, are little appreciated.—Prof. E. R. Lloyd.

In feeding hogs they should be fed regularly at stated intervals. For young pigs three times a day, and for older fattening hogs twice a day will do. They should be given all they will eat up promptly within a half hour after being fed. This will keep their appetites good and they will probably make better gains than when feed is kept before them all the time. The trouble with keeping feed before animals all the time is that it becomes soiled and sometimes sour and is not eaten with the same freedom and relish.

The great mistake made by too many who attempt to pasture swine on alfalfa is in over-stocking. There is a tendency or temptation to keep in a pasture more stock than it can comfortably support, with the result that the alfalfa plants are gnawed, trampled and rooted out, while the animals fail to prosper as they would under more rational treatment.—Swine in America.

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