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CAN I MAKE DAIRYING PAY?

President R. H. Gower, of the North Carolina Dairymen's Association, Answers the Question and Illustrates His Argument—Profits in Increased Soil Fertility and Sales of Imved Stock.

Can dairying be made profitable on an average farm? This question is being asked by hundreds of farmers in North Carolina to-day. I speak from fifteen years experience and say yes, it can be done. If you like the business and will go at it properly, stick to it long enough, you will some day have a fine herd of valuable cows, fertile farm, a comfortable home and a healthy bank account.

But like everything else worth having it will cost something and it is well enough to count the cost before you begin, and begin right. In the first place, the farm should be located not more than six miles, I should say, from the place of delivery of butter or shipping point. It should have something like five acres per cow of natural pasture land, including bermuda grass and Japan clover on the upland and the different varieties of meadow grass on the lowland. The part of the land you are to cultivate should have a clay subsoil so as to admit a high state of cultivation. For just here is the biggest profit we will ever get out of the business.

Big Profits in Increased Soil Fertility.

A herd of twenty-five cows in milk (which will mean forty including the whole herd) will double the value of a 150-acre farm in less than ten years. I have in mind now a ten acre piece of highly improved land that pays a yearly profit of fifty dollars per acre in cotton. Less than a mile away is an unimproved farm that does not make more than half enough to pay expenses. The improved land at \$100 per acre will pay for itself in two years. The unimproved cultivated, at a loss of five dollars per acre, would eat up its value of ten dollars per acre in two years. If you stick a pin right here you will get something worth having. So much for the farm.

Now about the cow. If you are going into business and mean business, by all means start right. If you can't do any better, why start with grades and non-descripts, but if possible start right. Get some registered stock if you have to strain your credit to do so. It will be like bread cast upon the water and will return sevenfold.

It Pays to Use Good Breeds.

Let me explain. Suppose the registered stock does not pay any more profit in butter than the grades: in five or six years from the time you start you will begin to have your annual sale. Fine registered heifers and males will easily sell for fifty per cent more than grades. So if you get cost for grades you get fifty per cent on the registered.

I do not mean that all the beginner's herd should be registered, but

enough for a foundation. With these two items alone, namely, the improvement in the land and the increase in the stock clear profit, you are doing good business.

But it is possible to do more than this, if you are the man for the place. My observation is that in this business there is not only more in the man than in the land, but also more in the man than in the cow. After you have thoroughly learned the business yourself—and there are a thousand things to learn—by actual experience, you perhaps can turn the work over to the boys or the hired men and take life more easy, but not until then. There are a hundred and one details about the business to which somebody who knows must give his personal and intelligent attention every day. But this makes the true dairy farmer love the business all the more.

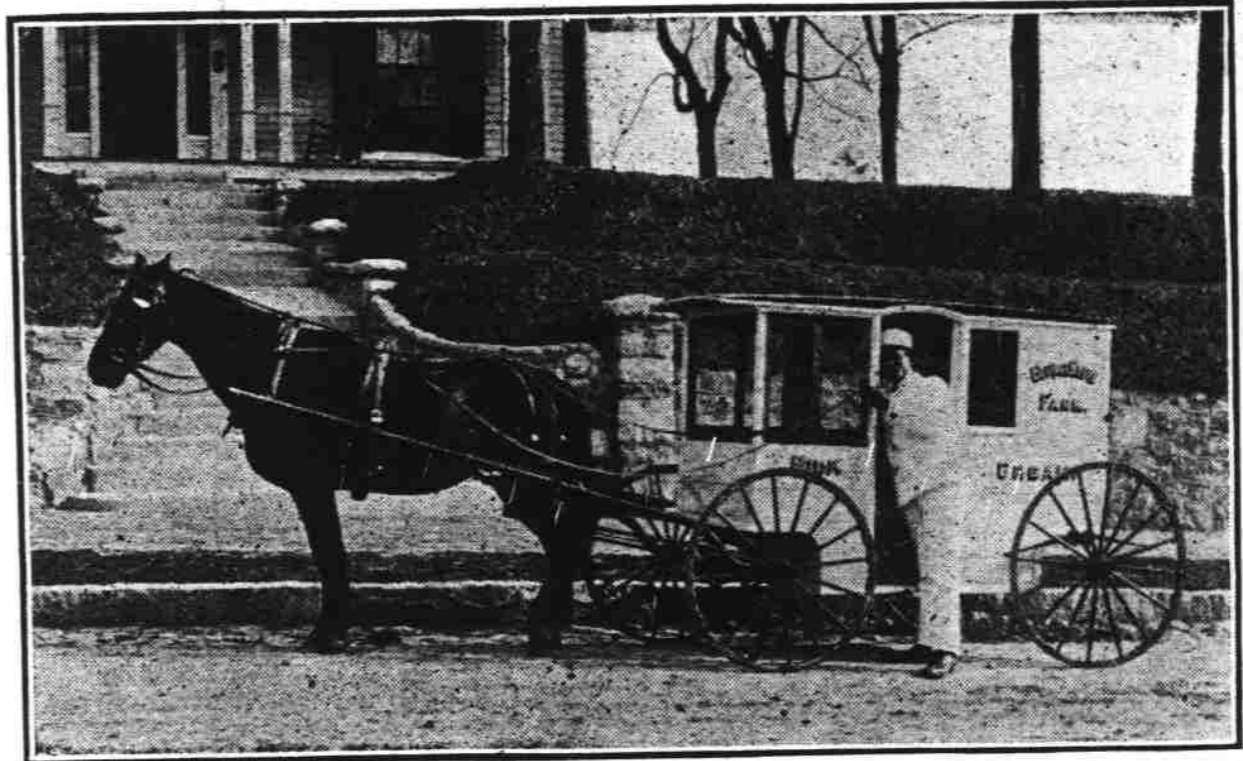
Just here I wish to draw a comparison and lay down a business proposition. Let us suppose two men, A and B, of equal capacity, each buy a farm of one hundred and fifty acres, going in debt for the same for ten dollars per acre. Each farm has fifty acres in cultivation.

The Case of Mr. All Cotton.

A farms all cotton, keeping on the place two mules and perhaps one cow. At the end of ten years has A paid for the place? No, he still owes nearly one-half of it including the accumulated interest and the farm is still worth only ten dollars per acre.

How a Dairy Farmer Gets His Profits.

B, notwithstanding he owes fifteen hundred dollars for the farm, gets somebody to back him, and goes into debt five hundred more. Of this five hundred he spends fifty to wire fence a hundred acre pasture; fifty to build a temporary barn, \$150 to build a dairy house and put in separator and proper equipments. He then has two hundred and fifty dollars to invest in cows. Fifty of this should go for the best registered male to be had. Two hundred ought to get two registered cows and three good grades. B is pretty badly in debt now, but while A has to wait for a bale of cotton for his first money, B's butter check comes in at the end of the first week. And then fifty-two times a year ever afterwards. I will admit that B will have a close time for a few years, but this is all well enough. He begins to improve the fertility of his soil. Part of the land is planted in cotton or some money crop, but the bulk of it in food crops. By the end of ten years this farm will have more than doubled in value. The farm mortgage will have been paid off and for-



"COTTAGE GROVE FARM" DAIRY WAGON, GREENSBORO.

Neat, attractive wagons and clean, white-clad drivers will do much to help along the increasing interest in dairying now reported in North Carolina.

gotten, the herd of cows that cost two hundred and fifty dollars to begin with is now worth as much as they and the farm both cost in the beginning. Please note the difference now between A and B.

Humoring the Land.

This is no overdrawn contract. The all cotton man will have the easiest time, I will admit. He will have more time to loaf in his young days, but more cause to complain later on. I believe more and more in old mother. She is the bank of all banks.

Every man's ambition should be to own for himself and his a spot somewhere to call their own.

I once asked the best farmer in my county how he managed to grow such big crops. "Why," he said, "I just humour the land," and here lies the great secret. We have first and last to go to her for everything. Better keep her in a good humor. "All cotton" makes her sick. It gives her the blues. Why? Simply because you take everything away from her except a few dry stalks and leaves, and these are soon washed away by the winter rain. But I have never known her to fail to smile upon the dairy farmer, and add to him her richest blessings.

R. H. GOWER.

Johnston Co., N. C.

Sweet Curdling: What to do When Milk "Turns" Sweet.

Messrs. Editors: For several weeks I have had trouble with my milk, and am not able to find the cause. My milk "turns" sweet; that is, it has the taste of sweet milk after ripening. I get about half as much butter as usual when my milk gets in this condition.

After churning my butter milk divides itself into hard grains of curd

and whey. I have only one cow which I keep in a pasture.

What is the cause of this milk malady? What is the remedy? If somebody will answer The Progressive Farmer he will greatly oblige, A READER.

Franklin Co., N. C.

(Answer by Prof. J. C. Kendall, North Carolina A. & M. College.)

The trouble which your reader has had with milk "turning" or "souring" and still remaining sweet and known to dairymen as "sweet curdling," is a very common trouble, especially during warm weather.

The appearance of the curd is very much the same as when the milk sours normally, except that it is softer and tends to be somewhat slimy, and has a sweet taste. The casim or curd soon begins to disappear, leaving a watery portion, or whey. This disease of the milk is very troublesome in the manufacture of cheese, resulting in a considerable loss in the yield.

This is a germ disease and gains an entrance to the milk after it is drawn. There are quite a number of species of bacteria capable of bringing about these changes of milk, one of the most common of which is the hay bacilli.

Treatment.—All dairy utensils must be thoroughly cleaned by scalding or straining and the milk placed where it will be free from dust. If butter is to be made by adding a little sour milk which is free from this trouble to the milk or cream which is to be churned in order to bring about a vigorous souring of the cream, it will hold these undesirable fermentations in check.

There is a but in every man's fortunes, because there is a but in every man's character.—Maclaren.