

## Proper Husbandry Controls Mastitis

The following six rules should be strictly adhered to prevent losses by eradicating and controlling Mastitis:

1. Sanitation-Clean habits of milking and management.
  - (a) The udder must be washed with an appropriate disinfectant before each milking. A separate cloth should be used for each cow and the disinfectant should be changed about every four cows.
  - (b) Wet milking should not be practiced.
  - (c) The person stripping should wash hands after each cow is finished.
  - (d) All milking equipment must be kept clean.
  - (e) Teat cups should be disinfected after each cow is milked and between milkings.
  - (f) The cows should be kept on clean, dry bedding.
2. Bacteriological examination of the milk from each quarter of each cow should be done regularly (once a month). Suspicious cows should always be tested. All new replacements should be tested.
3. Segregation — Infected cows should be placed at the end of the milking line and milked last. Incurable chronic cases should be slaughtered.
4. All cases of Mastitis must be treated early and until the infection clears up. Injuries to the teat or udder should be treated.
5. Milking practices and management.
  - (a) Milk as soon as possible after the udder is washed.
  - (b) The machine should never be left on too long.
  - (c) Wet milking should not be practiced.
  - (d) Good bedding should be provided to keep udders clean and protect them from injuries, and cold.
  - (e) Quarantine and Isolation.
    - (a) Replacements must be isolated until certified free from infection. Cows showing abnormal discharge from the teats or udder should be isolated.
6. Mastitis can be controlled. One of the most important parts of the Mastitis Control Programme is the treatment of infected animals. In the majority of cases early diagnosis of infection, followed by prompt treatment, relieves the condition and prevents twitching of nose and neck muscles, circling or running, and eventually unconsciousness. The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association says salt poisoning was easiest to produce in experiments when water was severely restricted. The condition did not occur at all when fresh water was available continuously.

## Some Seaweed Makes Good As Fertilizer

Seaweed has been used in soil fertility experiments at the Charlottetown Experimental Farm, P. E. I., for the past four years and the results compare favourably with fertility studies involving cow manure. The seaweed as applied in these tests consisted of a variety of species including rockweed, kelp, Irish moss and eel grass.

G. B. Whiteside and K. E. Lecheur of the Charlottetown Experimental Farm, report that these seaweed studies involved a four year rotation consisting of potatoes, barley, clover hay and timothy hay, and were designed chiefly for the potato crop. Seaweed was applied at the rate of twenty tons per acre in the autumn of the year preceding the potato crop, and plowed under.

The kind of seaweed seems to have considerable influence on its value as a manure. For instance, when the seaweed applied was predominantly eel grass, crop yields were poorer than

## Grass Silage In Bunker Silo

The feeding of grass silage to cattle and sheep, during the late winter months, is particularly helpful in ensuring an adequate intake of Vitamin A, according to the Animal Husbandry and Nutrition Departments of the Ontario Agricultural College.

Grass silage can be made from any green crops which ordinarily might be made into hay although other green crops, such as oats, wheat, soybeans and peas can be used.

It can be fed to all classes of livestock, but is especially desirable for dairy and beef cattle. A working plan is to provide three tons of silage for each mature cow in the herd. The requirements of young stock will be met by provision of about one-half this amount. This is on the basis

of about 200 days of silage feeding per year.

For growing stock and breeding cows, the liberal use of grass silage, fed at the rate of about three pounds of silage per 100 pounds of live weight, will prove satisfactory for winter feeding. Some dry roughage such as hay or straw should always be supplied when animals are fed heavily on silage.

Grass silage, particularly if the mixture contains some legumes, is higher in protein than corn silage. Good quality grass silage is rich in carotene, the yellow pigment from which Vitamin A is formed in the body, but has very little Vitamin D compared to field-cured hay.

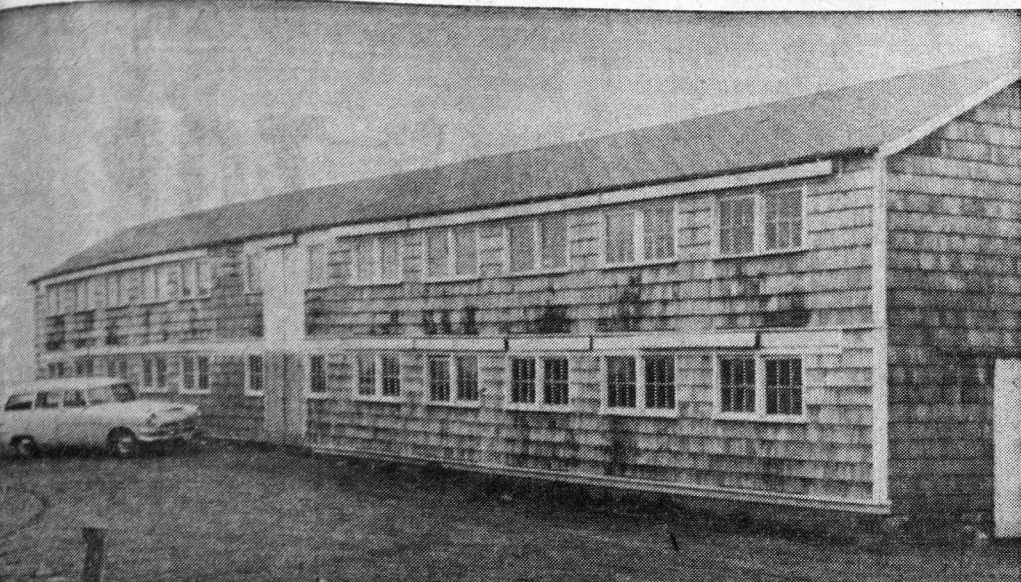
Since the crop for silage is usually cut at a reasonably early stage of maturity, and is not exposed to the weather, there is usually less variation in the composition of grass silage, than there is in hay, aside from the variations due to the mixture.

Additional information on the subject of grass silage is contained in Circular 222, "Feeding Grass Silage" obtainable from the

## Crop Rotations Give Benefits

The noted Ontario seed crop authority John A. Stewart points out there are several distinct benefits from a rotation of crops including legumes and grasses including:

1. They help improve the physical condition by improving drainage, aeration and indirectly the water-holding capacity of soils.
2. Clovers and grasses help maintain humus and nitrogen.
3. These crops keep the soil covered over winter and, hence, decrease losses from erosion.
4. They change the feeding location of roots—some crops have shallow roots, some intermediate and others deep roots.
5. Yields and quality of other crops are improved when legume and grasses are grown in rotation.



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## Stabling Of Breeding Cows Recommended

Many dairymen feel they cannot keep cows tied in the stables during the entire day the cows are to be inseminated. However, there are three economic reasons why this practice should be followed.

It has been proven by several top research men in various Universities in the United States that a cow which is unduly excited at the time of insemination has a far less chance of conceiving than one inseminated while she is quiet.

Having to chase a cow to the barn from pasture is a very good example of this. The cow is usually reluctant to be separated from the herd as well as being tied up in the middle of the day. Another example is to catch a

## Frozen Semen Has Wide Use

Techniques have been developed during the past few years whereby bull semen can be maintained for periods at very low temperatures (120 to 125 degrees below zero F). The development of these procedures have brought about marked changes in the cattle breeding industry.

It is now possible to use sires that are located in any part of the country. It is also feasible to store large banks of semen on sires shortly before they are done away with. It can materially assist in the proving of sires.

In some Artificial Breeding Centres young bulls are selected on their pedigree both the dam and sire side being considered as well as type. Then a number of cattle are bred to this young bull then a large bank of his semen is frozen and stored for a period. The bull is generally done away

## Need Caution In Milking Machine Use

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association says that experiments with machine milking point to two practices which can play a part in causing mastitis. Both involve management of the milking operation.

One of these practices is the forcible removal of the teat cups while suction is still being applied. The other is leaving the milking machine in operation on the cow for too long a time. Veterinary authorities say that if the teat cups are removed while suction is still active — or not entirely suppressed — there is a tendency for the lining of the teat to be drawn outward. If that is repeated often enough it may cause irritation which will invite infection.

Also when the machine was active too long, it crept up onto the base of the teats causing internal irritation. Tests have shown the average time of milking machine should be left active averages slightly more than three and a half minutes — this varies with the rate at which the cow lets down her milk.

## Wild Oats Bring Sorrow

That Biblical injunction "As ye sow, so shall ye reap" may well be termed an authoritative admonition specifically directed to Ontario farmers, says the Crops Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture. Officials of the Branch warn that the farmer who carelessly sows wild oats (Avena fatua) will surely reap a harvest of sorrow.

"In the place of plump nutritious grain the farmer who sows wild oats will garner hairy chaffy kernels, long awned and twisted," says C. H. Kingsbury, Fieldman. "When gazing mournfully at kernels of wild oats he will realize a sucker mouth scar at its base. It is a reminder that only suckers sow such seed."

The Crops Branch points out that the best control measure is to sow Registered or Certified seed. Use of such seed guarantees freedom from such weeds. It is emphasized that once present wild oat seed can remain in the soil for many years.

Once land is infested the farmer must play against time to pre-

## New Hazards Face Livestock

Expansion of modern technology actually is posing additional hazards to the nation's livestock today. That is the finding of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association which points out that most cases of livestock poisoning are caused by such things as poisonous plants or carelessly discarded paint cans — but, now the list is much longer.

It includes insecticides, fungicides, herbicides or preservatives especially when such items are not used with proper care. And industrial fumes, oil pipe line operations and other non-farm activities which have moved into rural areas may be other potential poisoning hazards for live stock.

Unfortunately the poisonous qualities of many of the chemical compounds and industrial waste products are not apparent until actual losses occur, a veterinary medical spokesman says.

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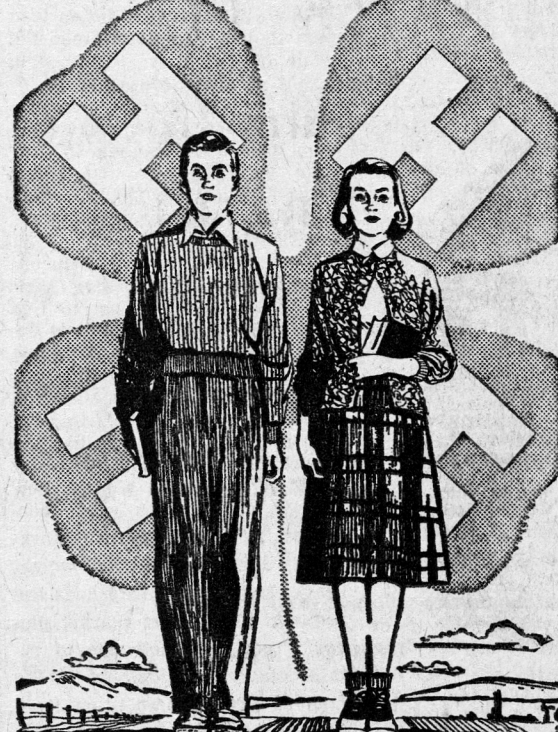
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