

RECORDS FOR FAIRVUE FARM

'Thrifty' Ayrshires Flourish

The hardy nature and thriftiness of the Ayrshire cow has seen this breed flourish in Prince Edward Island for many years. Ayrshire breeders claim they have an animal which will outlive most of the other breeds thus making her productive for a greater number of years.

Among the prominent Ayrshire breeders of the province is the farm of A. MacRae and Sons now operated by Major MacRae and his son Arthur. The farm

was originally stocked in 1908 by Major's father, the late Andrew MacRae who operated with his two sons, Major and Fred T. The original farm, known as "Fairvue Farm" is now operated by Major MacRae. Fred T. MacRae's farm is known as Raddale Farm and is located on the Union Road.

During their 50 or more years of breeding Ayrshire cattle the MacRaes have shown their herd at all the major exhibitions of the Maritimes and on many oc-

casions have taken the herd to the Royal Winter show at Toronto.

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT
Probably their greatest achievement was realized in 1916 when one of their two-year-olds "Milkmaid VII" made a world's record in milk production.

The present herd sire, "Woodlands Royal Burton II" has been Junior champion at the Royal Winter fair for the past two years and this year was selected as all-Canadian.

The Fairvue Farm also had the highest producing herd in Canada in the 25-40 head class during 1958. Out of a total herd of about 70 cattle they milk an average of 30.

Situated three miles from Charlottetown Fairvue farm is in the shadow of the Municipal airport. Major MacRae recalls that during the last war they were constantly aware of droning planes as they took off or landed just above the roof of their barns and dwelling.

On one occasion the homestead had a close call when an Anson training plane had one of its motors die on takeoff. Skimming by a few feet over the tops of the buildings, it crashed in a grove of trees just a few hundred yards from the house and burst into flames. Five of the six man crew escaped but the pilot perished with his aircraft.

Major MacRae and his son, Arthur, are what might be termed, strictly dairy farmers, but last year they tried eight acres of peas for the frosted food plant. Their success in this field of endeavour was not everything they would wish for but they are giving this phase of agriculture another try this year.

Running a dairy farm requires early rising. Up at 5 a.m. they try to get their milk to a pasteurization plant by seven o'clock. The MacRaes have one hired man the year round. The sale of fluid milk does not provide all the income for the MacRae farm. Their outstanding success as premier breeders has created a demand for breeder stock which they ship to different parts of Canada and USA.

The present standing of the Fairvue herd includes six "excellent" cows; 18 "very good" and eight "good plus".

Major MacRae believes that dairy farming provides the steadiest and surest source of income for the Island producer. He points out that it is not a "get rich quick" proposition. But consistent effort and careful planning will provide a comfortable living.

PURERED AYRESHIRE ARE FAVORED AT FAIRVUE FARM

Maturity Level Key Factor In Determining Hay Quality

BY K.E. LeLACHEUR (Research Officer)

The quality of the hay made in Prince Edward Island depends upon the weather more than any other single factor. There are, however, a number of factors which play a very important part in hay quality that can be controlled by the farmer. Stage of maturity for harvesting is one of these, and probably the most important one. Cutting hay at the best stage of maturity is important on any grass or legume species, and this factor should be considered carefully. For example, red clover just before the blooms appear has a protein content of 18.3 per cent. At the full bloom stage the protein reading has dropped to 12.5 per cent. Timothy, our most common hay species has 9.7 per cent protein just as the heads appear, but by the time full bloom is reached the protein in the plants has dropped

to 6.4 per cent. Alfalfa protein, but has dropped to 14.1 per cent at the full bloom stage. These losses of protein should be considered by the farmer when he plans his hay harvest, for protein lost in the hay field will have to be replaced by expensive milled feeds later in the year. These figures point to early hay harvesting. It would seem desirable to sacrifice some tonnage per acre to insure good quality grasses and legumes used for hay are more digestible in these earlier growth stages, and can be made with a greater proportion of leaf to stem than more mature plants.

The species present in a hay mixture also make considerable difference in the final protein analysis. The figures on protein above show that legumes particularly alfalfa, are much higher than grasses. Legumes in the

sward will raise the protein content of well-cured hay to a point where it plays an important part in the overall protein requirements of livestock. The hay mixture in common use in Prince Edward Island includes timothy as the main grass and red and alsike clovers as the legumes. This mixture is usually satisfactory in the first year with a good proportion of legumes in it. By the second crop year, the two species of clover have largely disappeared, and timothy is the chief source of hay. The disappearance of the clovers automatically lowers the protein content in the second year, and a legume that will persist for more than one year should be of definite value. We have two legumes, Alfalfa and Birdsfoot Trefoil, that the more or less suited to Prince Edward Island conditions, and will do well under proper care. They are more inclined to remain in the sward, although they are both more exacting in fertility demands, and more difficult to establish than the clovers.

Growing these legumes should be a profitable undertaking for any farmer depending on hay for his main livestock feed.



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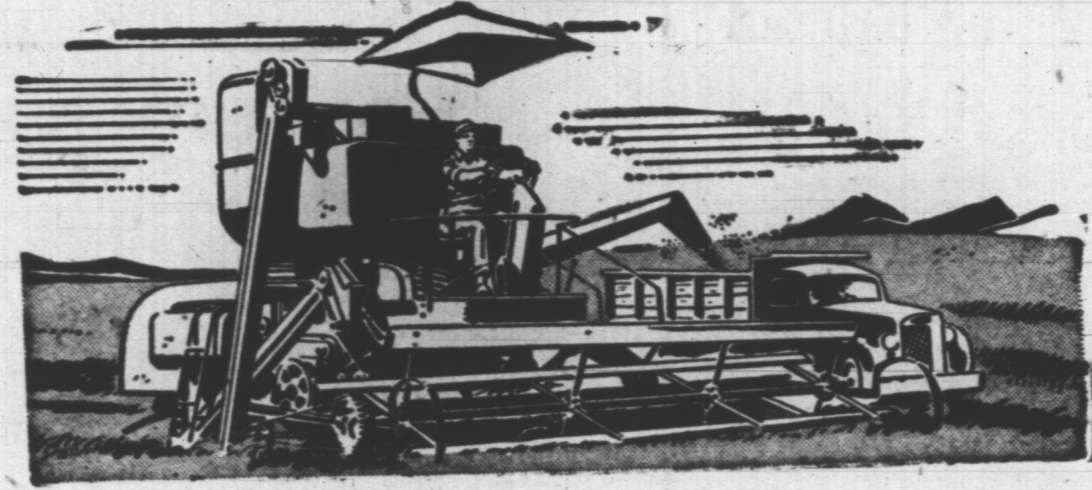
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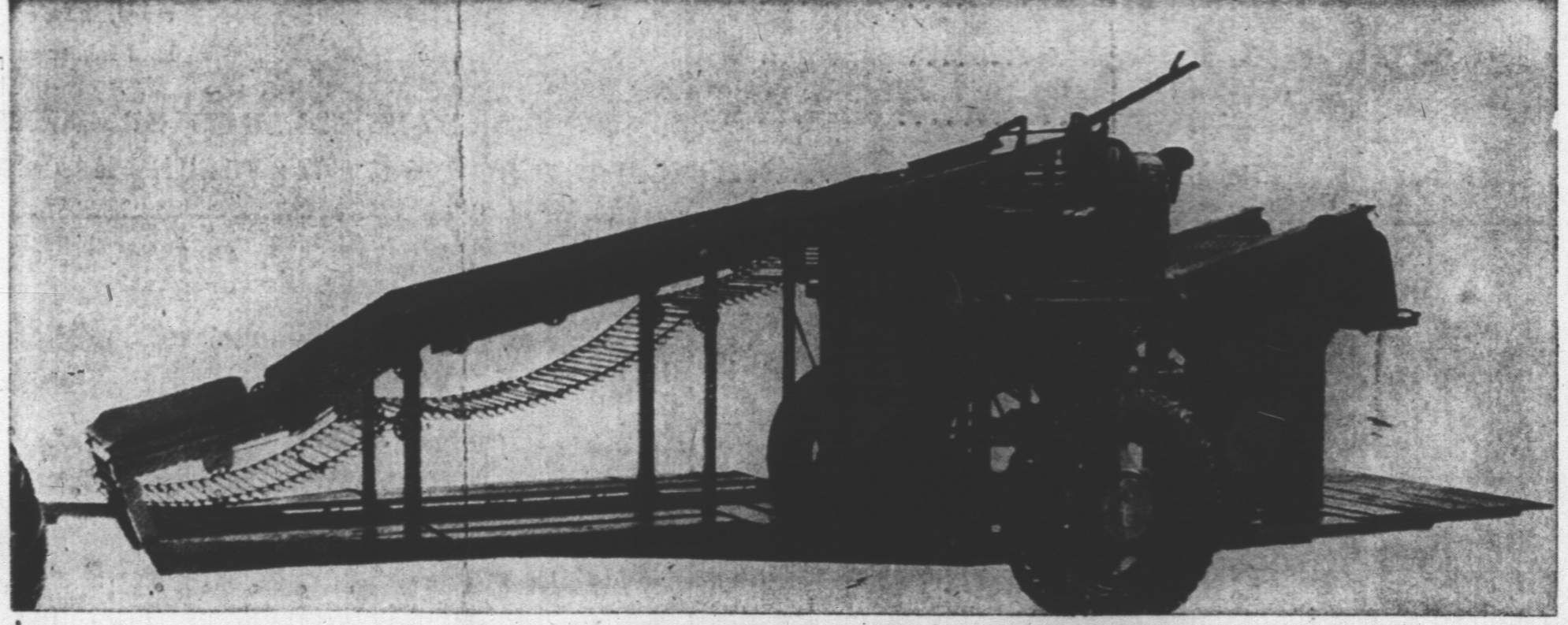
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