

OF INTEREST TO FARMERS

SWEET CLOVER POISONING

The disease known as sweet clover poisoning in cattle, although not yet prevalent in all parts of the country, is a disease that must be reckoned with by feeders of cattle in localities where sweet clover is raised extensively. It is a disease peculiar to cattle, in most cases affecting young animals under 3 years old. Older animals are frequently affected. So far as is known, horses and sheep are not affected with this disease. In most cases the first symptoms are those of isolation. The animal appears slow and groggy and often shows signs of stiffness. The animal may die in a very few hours or may live for several days developing voluminous tumor swellings before death. The disease is characterized principally by swelling on any part of the body due to hemorrhages underneath the skin. There also may be internal hemorrhage. Many cases of fatal bleeding have been reported following castrating, dehorning and calving in cows. Although little is known of the action that takes place in the animal's body, it has been definitely determined by experimental feeding that a certain species of mold in the sweet clover hay has such an effect on the animal's blood that prevents it from clotting. This mold is usually found on the inside of the stalk, even in hay that looks bright. It is more often found in large stalks, however, in which the curing has not been proper. The curing of hay is a big factor and, although weather conditions may be good for curing, yet the sap in the large stalks may cause the mold. The loss of cattle from this disease depends naturally upon the extensiveness of mold in the hay, the quantity of the hay fed, and the length of time of continuous feeding. If there is an extensive mold and it has been fed regularly in good quantities, a heavy loss can be expected. However, if the mold is slight and the hay has been fed with a good portion of other feeds the loss will be slight and possibly no loss at all. Some authorities are of the opinion that if moldy sweet clover is fed alternately two weeks with other feed, there is little danger of the disease. However, that method of feeding is very dangerous. It has been clearly demonstrated by experimental feeding that this mold will cause death after 30 days feeding. Once the disease is recognized, the owner should realize he has a very serious problem. The herd should be taken off this feed promptly and given some other kind of roughage. Drugs are of little or no value used alone to treat these sick animals. The most reliable treatment is blood transfusion. This is done by taking a portion of a healthy cow's blood and, after proper preparation, inject it directly into the jugular vein of the affected animal. Very good results are to be expected from this treatment if the animal is treated in time. As yet no practical measures have been discovered for the prevention of this disease. However, in experimental feeding of tame rabbits the disease has been produced causing death in from one to two weeks. Therefore, if you have moldy sweet clover hay, start feeding it to four or five rabbits at the same time feeding it to cattle, being sure that the rabbits get a portion of the same hay that the cattle get daily. Since rabbits will die from this disease from a week to two weeks before it will kill cattle, it is a valuable test to be made. It is necessary that tame rabbits be used as test animals, as wild species sometimes die as a result of being confined to a small pen. If any of the rabbits die during the feeding period, have them examined by a qualified veterinarian or the veterinary division of your experiment station. As soon as the rabbits begin dying, stop feeding the hay to the cattle until you get a report on the rabbits examined. (1) Be as sure as possible that the sweet clover hay does not have the mold by making the rabbit test. (2) If you must feed the hay and cannot make the rabbit test, feed it sparingly well mixed with other roughage. (3) If you feed it and do have trouble, stop feeding the hay at once and get authoritative advice as soon as possible.

DOUBLING MILK YIELD

As the population of the United States increases from 120,000,000 to twice that number of people, we must double the milk and butterfat yield of our dairy herds if home production is to supply home demand. In saying this, we assume that the per capita consumption of dairy products is to remain the same; yet some of our best authorities recommend an increase of 50 per cent in the per capita consumption of dairy products in this country. When population is doubled and per capita consumption is increased 50 per cent, we shall need three times the quantity of dairy products we are using now. In general, there are two ways by which the total yield of dairy products may be doubled: First, by doubling the number of dairy cows; second, by doubling the average production per cow. The easy way is to double the number of cows. The best way is to double the average production per cow. Ten years ago, the average yearling milk yield per dairy cow in this country was 3,600 pounds. It now is 4,600 pounds. This is a gain of 1,000 average yield per cow increases from 4,600 pounds to twice that amount, each production gain of 1,000 pounds will be more difficult to attain than the one before it. Tens of thousands of yearly herd averages, however, and hundreds of thousands of yearly individual cow records from dairy herd improvement associations have shown that it is well within the range of possibility to double the

CLEAN PLACE FOR CALVING

Now that we are about to witness the birth of several hundred thousand dairy calves, it is timely to say a word or two about the care of their female parents on the occasion of this important event. Calving infection both to cow and calf. Cleanliness, therefore, is important. A clean place from which the calf first sees the light of day is a proper safeguard. If weather conditions permit, a pasture is a good place for calving provided the owner knows what is going on. If weather makes it advisable to put the cow under shelter, a box stall that has been cleaned, thoroughly disinfected, and freshly bedded is good. If

present average yield of milk and butterfat per cow. In fact, among 100,000 yearly milk records, 22,000 were above 9,000 pounds a year. This shows that eventually we may provide an abundance of dairy products for more than 200,000,000 people in this country without increasing the present number of our dairy cows. It will, however, require more feed per cow because high producing dairy cows are normally big eaters. They can not make something out of nothing. A careful study of the tens of thousands of herd averages and of the hundreds of thousands of yearly individual cow records already mentioned, has shown that present production can be doubled by keeping better cows and by feeding them 50 per cent more feed. Through soil improvement, through the use of better seed, and through the more general production of corn silage and alfalfa hay as feed for our dairy cows we may, when the need arises, be able to double the production of milk and butterfat with the same number of acres and with the same number of cows. To accomplish this these cows must be bred and selected for high production. But some one may ask, "what about overproduction?" Let's ask you this question. If ever there is general overproduction of dairy products in this country, which cows in our herds will be guilty of producing that surplus? Will it be the high producers or the low producers? Shall we blame the cows that produce 500 pounds of butterfat a year or the cows that produce 100 pounds of butterfat a year? A tabulation of more than 100,000 yearling individual cow records shows that the farmer gets the same total income over cost of feed from one cow that produces 500 pounds of butterfat a year as he gets from 13 cows that average 100 pounds a year. The income over cost of feed is the same, but the market gets 500 pounds of butterfat from the one cow and 1,300 pounds from the 13 cows. Therefore, the 13 low producing cows are the guilty ones. The danger of overproduction of dairy products does not lie in increasing the average production per cow. If there is any danger it lies in unduly increasing the number of cows, and I do not believe our dairymen are going to do that. When a dairymen thinks of improving his dairy herd he should think of three things: Better breeding, better feeding, closer culling. He cannot get 100 per cent more milk from 50 per cent more feed by overfeeding the herd he now has. No dairymen has ever yet increased his net income by overfeeding scrubs and low producing grades. One member of a dairy herd improvement association was engaged in business that kept him away from home most of the time. He left his dairy herd in the hands of an incompetent feeder who dished up the feed with a scoop shovel and fed all the cows alike, regardless of production. Such feeding did not result in greater profits. In fact, that herd that year was carried at a loss. The wise dairymen strives to build up a high producing dairy herd that will naturally bring an increased yield and increased net profits per cow when each cow is fed according to production. From such cows and from such herds only can the dairymen hope to get 100 per cent more milk from 50 per cent more feed.

THE REASON OF THINGS

If a person were to inquire as to why certain men become students of their business, he would find that they lay great stress on the importance of knowing the reason of things. The difference between the successful and unsuccessful dairy farmer is generally that one knows the reason of things he is trying to do and the other does not. If we take so simple an example as supplying the cow with all the pure water she needs, reason tells us that about seventh-eighths of all milk is water; that the more a cow yields the more water she must drink; that if she is not furnished this water in a way that she can get it without too much exertion, she will go without it to our most evident injury; that if in winter the water is too cold, the cow will not drink the amount of water she really needs for our profit. All these things or conditions belong to the reason of things, or the absolute nature of the cow in her relation to water. But if we note how many dairy farmers violate this established reason of things we can see how little some of them know and understand the nature of the cow or the nature of the very profit they are seeking. A humorous old Scotchman once said that the reason why there were so many poor dairy farmers was because they had a sort of lazy faith in the Lord. "They think or hope," he said, "that He will somehow make up for whatever they fail to do." "Oh," he added, "we are a trusting lot." Come to think of it, there is a great deal in the kind of faith we have in Providence, but we must look into the reason of things if we are to be great students of our business and secure the success that we all desire.

PATRONIZE FAIR

Showing live stock at fairs brings out qualities of men as well as conformation of animals. We barely missed seeing an exhibitor strike a judge with his fist at a state fair a few years ago because the judge paid no attention to who owned the animals in placing them. The offending exhibitor was promptly ejected from the ring and later barred from showing. We have seen high-class herdsmen show low-class sportsmanship when a worthy competitor got a little the best of the breaks. With all the courtesy of the ringside and of the exhibitors at our live stock shows is above reproach. True, there are a good many decisions with which all do not agree, but at the same time the disagreement does not lead men to attempt breaking the judge's nose with a pop bottle as sometimes happens at a game of organized baseball assistance is necessary, give it quietly and without abuse. The feeding of grain should be reduced to a minimum within a week previous to calving and the mixture changed to one of light, bulky, laxative character. Water and good hay should be available.

WHAT SAY YOU?

There may be small pieces of land, here and there, that it will pay to underdrain, but to build a vast network of drains under the average farm may answer for one who has plenty of money and few brains, but will not do for a level headed farmer who conducts his own business without the aid of the sheriff.

Risen From the Ranks



Ethan Allan Chapman, top, and James R., his brother, below, of Alexandria, La., had earned minor promotions in the regular army before taking their exams for West Point appointments. They both passed with high marks and will fill two of the vacancies allotted to soldiers of the regular army.

Thrills Congregation



Dr. John Haynes Holmes, pastor of fashionable Park Ave. church in New York, electrified his listeners by his remarks on the church's attitude regarding sex. Dr. Holmes asserted that "the church is guilty of monstrous sin in having cultivated asceticism."

Empire State's Choice



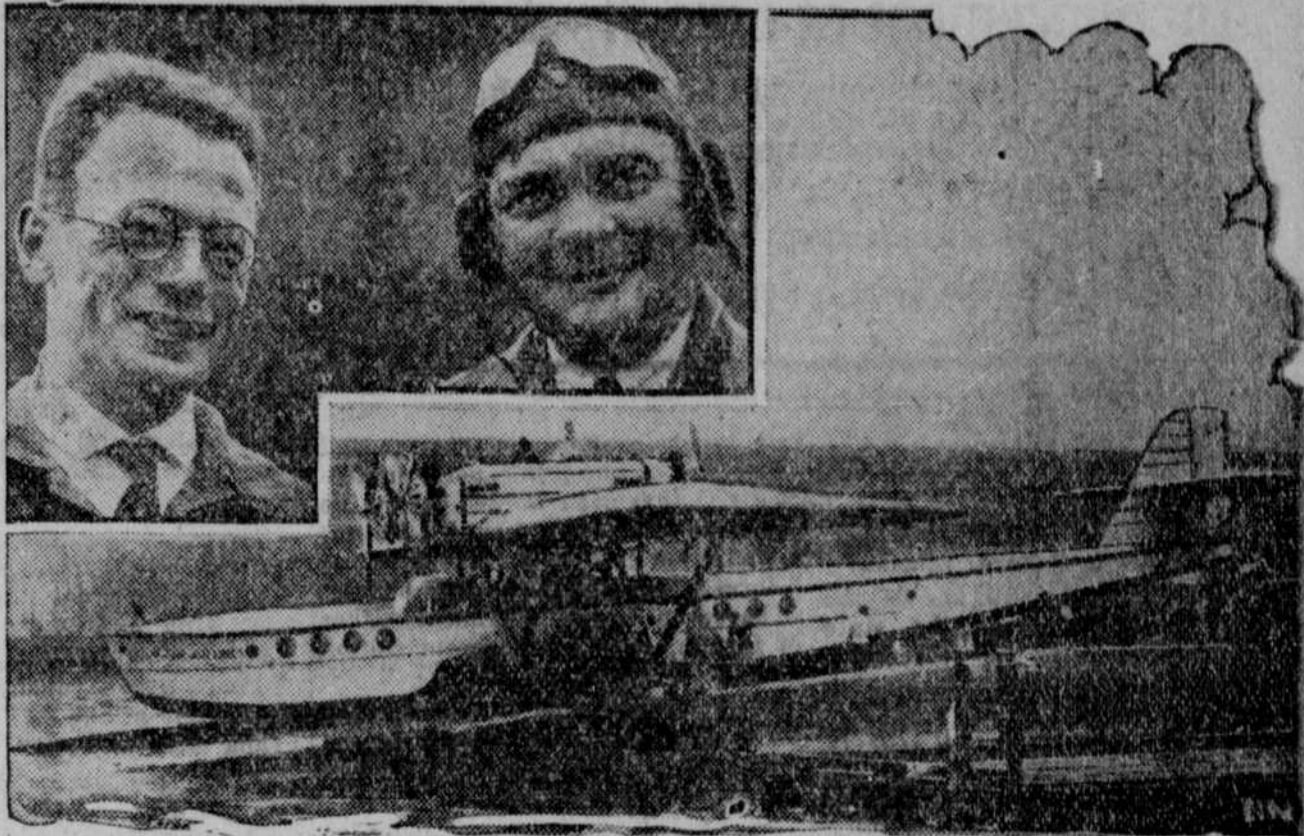
Selected from 128 high and preparatory schools in New York State, Louis La Fleur, aged 17, of Utica, N. Y., will represent his State in the national examinations for the scholarship ordered by Thomas A. Edison.

Noted Australians Come To Study Trade



Left to right, Sir Esme Howard, British Ambassador to the United States; Secretary Stimson, Herbert Brookes, Trade Commissioner of Australia, and D. M. Dow, official secretary for Australia in the United States. Mr. Brookes is representing his credentials to the Secretary of State.

Thirty Passenger Plane Passes Tests



The new thirty-passenger Dornier Amphibian plane, which was assembled in Philadelphia by German mechanics and aero engineers. The huge airbird passed all tests and will soon be in service on the Great Lakes. Hans Deydts and Miguel Koyguin, mechanic and pilot of the new plane, are shown in the inset.

Heads Bank Merger



Former Governor of North Carolina, A. W. McLean, has been selected to head the financial group who will control a new chain of North Carolina banks with an aggregate capital of \$67,000,000.

Arabs Meet Stimson



Secretary of State Henry L. Stimson was approached by a delegation of American citizens of Arab birth who are endeavoring to have the United States use its good offices to bring peace to Palestine.

Wants Lower Taxes



Now Ward Melville, shoe magnate, has plenty of money with which to pay his income tax, but he is a staunch supporter of the belief that the working man finds the levy burdensome. He favors a drastic reduction of such abolition.

Gastonia Strikers Face Jurors



The entire jury impaneled to try the strikers accused of killing Chief of Police Aderholdt, of Gastonia, N. C., during recent strike disorders in that city, was discharged and a mistrial declared when one of the jurors went insane. (Inset) Shows Arthur J. Roach, former deputy sheriff of Gastonia, who was the first officer to testify during the trial.