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buildings. Price £19 per acre. De-
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THE FARM.

NOVEL PIG FOOD.

A lesson in economy is provided by a
system in vogue at a farm at Bendigo,
Vic., where about 400 pigs are kept. The
farm also runs a jam factory, and it is
the utilisation of the waste apricot seeds
which provide the novelty. The land
consists of about twenty acres; it was
originally a waste area. Water being
available, there was soon a change as
by magic. The pigs are grazed on the
crops grown on the farm with a sup-
plemental ration from the factory, which
consists mostly of waste apricot seeds.
It is quite interesting to watch the pigs
cracking the stones and sorting out the
kernels. Previously this food was
wasted. That the kernels are an excel-
lent fattening food is demonstrated by
the splendid condition of the herd. Re-
cently one of these apricot stone-fat-
tened animals turned the scale at 563lb.
This is claimed to be a record. The hog
was a Tamworth-Berkshire cross. Dam-
aged sugar from the factory, bag sprink-
lings, and other refuse, are
converted into a syrup and given to the
fatteners. The healthy condition of the
animals is one of the features of the
farm.

THE DAIRY COW AND SOME OF
HER HABITS AND VICES.

HARD MILKERS.

Chief amongst the troublesome ones
are the hard milkers. A heifer will
often be hard to milk just at first, but
improves as time goes on, and as she
becomes more used to the operation.
But there are cows which are consis-
tently hard milkers, even after the third
and fourth calf. Some animals are hard
to milk because of their extreme ner-
vousness. When this is the case it will
be found that they will yield to gentle
treatment. Rough handling or shouting
at them is quite useless, and only makes
matters worse. Indeed, rough treatment is
bad for all milking cows. They become
upset and irritated very easily, some being
much more sensitive than others just in
the same way as some human beings
are more sensitive than others.

CAUSE OF HARD MILKING.

Hard milking may be caused by dis-
ease or small ailments of the udder.
Cracks and sores on the teats give a cow
a considerable amount of pain when
pressed during the operation of milking,
and it is only natural that she should
hold back the milk in her effort to
escape the pain.

Warts on the end of the teat may be
the cause of the trouble. As these in-
crease in size there is a tendency for
them to close up the orifice through
which the milk is drawn. The sphincter
muscle, which closes the milk duct, is
very much stronger in some cows than
in others, and this fact is responsible
for a great deal of the difference in the
effort required to extract the milk. The
worst kind of hard milking to deal with
is when the cow deliberately holds back
the milk, as she has the power to do.
Try as you will, you cannot get a flow
of milk from an animal that is deter-
mined that you shall not do so. As a
rule the cows reserve this piece of awk-
wardness for the times when the person
who usually milks them is away, and a
stranger is taking his place. The exer-
cise of patience and gentleness is the
only way to induce them to be more
reasonable. Any show of irritation on
the milker's part will only have the
effect of making them more determined.

KICKING COWS.

Kicking is a vice which is not indi-
cated by the general appearance. It may
be that the animal kicks out when only
one goes near her, or she may only give
a kick now and then when being milked
or when a calf is put to her to suckle.
A regular kicker can safely be said to
do it from sheer vice and a desire to be
as disagreeable as possible.

When the kicking is only occasional
there will probably be some reason for
it, and it is well to look around and
see if the reason can be found and re-
medied. Sore teats may be the cause.
One has only to reflect how sore a small
crack on the finger can be to appreciate
the pain a cow must suffer when a sore
teat is being pressed and squeezed during
milking. In a case like this the kicking
is only in self-defence, and if means are
taken to get the cracks healed up the
kicking will cease when the pain is gone.

THE IRRITABLE SUBJECT.

Nervous, irritable cows sometimes kick
just to relieve their feelings. Such ani-
mals require kind and gentle treatment,

or they will become habitual kickers. It
is a good plan to give a little food that
they are particularly fond of at milk-
ing time in order to distract their at-
tention. If they still refuse to stand
quietly there is nothing left for it but to
hobble them in some way. Most milkers
have their own method of dealing with
a kicking cow, but no harsh treatment
must be allowed at any time, for it will
only make matters worse. It is some-
times a great temptation to give a tire-
some animal a blow with some handy
implement, but it is far better to resist
the temptation and use gentler methods.

FATTEN THEM OFF.

Cows which cannot be induced to give
up their kicking habits are best fattened
up and sent to the butcher, for they are
not worth the time which must be spent
on them every day during milking. Any
cows with persistently bad habits are best
got rid of, for they can never be valuable
members of a milking herd with such un-
desirable characteristics.

Some cows are continually struggling
in the bail to get free. They seem to
have a great objection to being fastened
up, and may injure themselves and
others in their efforts to get away. Young
cows are particularly restless, but
gentleness overcomes this after the
animal has been a short time with the
milking herd. Cows which suck them-
selves or each other are always a nuis-
ance. This is a vice not easy to cure,
and it is wisest to get rid of cows ad-
dicted to it, as it may spread the other
members of the herd. Spiked muzzles or
neck ruffs can be used when the cow is
out at grass.

Eating wood, gnawing at various
things, and licking the walls are habits
which may arise as the result of the food
containing a deficiency of mineral matter.
A piece of rock salt put into trough or
boxes in the paddock will often cure these
habits.

DAIRYING RATIONS.

As concrete illustrations of rations that
may be recommended for dairy cows of
different productive capacity under pre-
sent conditions, the following are sug-
gested:—For cows producing less than a
pound of butter-fat a day (less than three
gallons of milk per head): 1. Thirty
pounds of lucerne hay (or all they will
eat). 2. Eighteen pounds of lucerne hay,
thirty pounds of silage (from Indian corn,
milo or sweet sorghum, small grains, Su-
dan grass, etc.). For cows producing
over a pound of butter-fat a day: 1. Twenty-five pounds lucerne hay, one
pound of concentrates for every four or
five pounds of milk produced. Concen-
trates suggested: Barley (or wheat bran),
dried beet pulp, coconut meal, mixed
in proportion 2:1:1, by weight. 2. Fif-
teen pounds lucerne hay, twenty-five
pounds silage, the same grain mixture as
above in a somewhat smaller proportion,
say one pound to every six pounds of
milk. If lucerne costs more than 40 per
cent. of the average price of the grain
feeds, it is relatively expensive, and less
hay and more grain feeds will make both
a more economical and efficient ration
than those suggested. When grain hay
is fed and not lucerne, either of the above
rations will be improved by adding about
a pound of cottonseed or linseed meal per
head, since it is necessary in this case
to supplement roughage with a grain mix-
ture containing some high protein concen-
trates. Linseed meal is too expensive
to be fed to dairy cows in any but small
amounts, but cottonseed meal furnishes
more protein for the money, and, with
either of the mixtures given, makes a
palatable and effective grain feed. If
it cannot be obtained, wheat bran and
coconut meal mixed in the proportion of
2 or 3:1, by weight, will make a good
supplement when grain hay is fed.

WOOL IN FRANCE.

A member of the French wool trade,
writing from Roubaix to the "Wool Re-
cord," says:—"As you know, our wool
trade here has recovered much quicker
than any of us foresaw. Nevertheless,
owing to the German requisitions and
destruction of machinery, I do not think
we are running more than 50 per cent.
compared with pre-war consumption. Strikes (which take place in spite of the
high wages that work people are now
getting), and lack of coal, are making
it impossible to turn out as much as we
could do. On the other hand, the
market is very good. The industry has
sold at exceedingly good prices, and
cannot take any more big orders for the
first six months of next year. Without
doubt prices are high, but still not dan-
gerous, because the speculative element
is excluded; wool is only bought against
orders taken some time before, and
margins are very safe. There is, there-
fore, very little chance of any panic.

Combs are turning out a little more
than spinners can consume, but we have
plenty of inquiry and orders for tops
from England, Switzerland, Holland, and
Belgium. It takes a man with a big
lot of capital to buy any wool or tops
for stock to-day, and with these orders
in our own country there is no stock in
France."



HORTICULTURE.

Some hardy plants—Acanthus is a fine
bold foliage perennial for large borders or
odd corners, doing well both in sun and
shade, and can be grown from seeds, cut-
tings, or roots. The leaves are long and
the flowers although not conspicuous in
colour are effective on their tall spikes.
There are several varieties, "Mollis," be-
ing most commonly grown.

Hollyhock (Althaea) is well known and
one of the showiest and most stately of
border plants, it is a native of China, and
strictly perennial although commonly
grown as a biennial. There are single
and double varieties of many shades of
colour, from pure white to dark crimson.
easily raised from seed, also from side
growths, the seedlings generally giving by
much the strongest growth, but cuttings
or side shoots being necessary in the case
of fine varieties that it is desired to per-
petuate, as seedlings vary and produce a
proportion of singles. Give them a rich
deep soil in a sunny sheltered position,
and to get the best results liquid manure
and water when in bloom. Cut off the
stems as soon as they finish blooming,
unless it is desired to save seed, and in
that case cut back the stem leaving only
such seed pods as required. Alyssum
(Madrivort), is a pretty rockery or border
perennial, there are a number of varieties,
but the yellow (sexatilis), and the sweet
scented white are the most useful, being
comparatively covered with flowers in
spring or early summer. Anchusa (alk-
anet), is a splendid hardy biennial, the
Frogmore variety of "Italica," growing
to about four feet and giving quantities of
bright blue flowers for several months. It
"self-sows," and plenty of seedlings can
be got about the old plants in autumn
which will give blooms from spring to
autumn. Deep damp soil suits it best.
Columbines (Aquilegia) are well known.
They bloom in late spring, and the long
spurred varieties are so decorative and
have such a range of beautiful art colours
that they should be in every garden where
they can be given a spot that is fairly
well sheltered and even somewhat shaded.
They are perennial and can be easily
grown from seed. White, blue, yellow,
reds and pinks, of various shades with
different coloured centres, some of the
blues and pinks with white and pale yellow
centres being delightfully pretty and con-
tinuing for a long period in bloom. Quite
different from the old "Grannie's bon-
nets." Anemone—the showy little pur-
ple rock cress is well worth growing. It
is a dwarf evergreen especially suitable
for rockeries and border patches. The
perennial Campanulas in blue and white,
are well worth growing, some of the larger
growing varieties being extremely useful
for cutting especially when white flowers
are wanted.

Cerastium (mouse-eared chickweed) with
its silvery woolly foliage is delightful for
edgings, the foliage giving a pretty effect,
especially through the winter, and the
white blooms being like patches of snow
in the summer.

Doronicum is a hardy herbaceous peren-
nial with flowers like yellow Marguerites
which come out just after the daffodils
are over. The foliage is dwarf, only
reaching a few inches from the ground,
and thus creates no crowding, although
the stems are two to three feet long, or
even more in rich soil and shelter, good
for cutting and grows everywhere. Geum
is a perennial, but is best grown as a bi-
ennial as it self-sows readily, and young
plants pricked out in the summer will
bloom in early spring and continue till
winter. Mrs Bradshaw is the best variety
giving large bright crimson flowers. It
should be in every garden. Gypsophila
Paniculata—everyone who grows sweet
peas and carnations must have this. Grow
it in good rich soil in an open place not
overshaded by trees and shrubs.

"Isn't that an unusual sign, 'Cigars
for smoking?'" asked the man in the
tobacconist's shop. "Oh, I don't know!"
answered the proprietor. "I have cigars
for smoking, and then I have cigars for
present."

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