

DAIRYING.

WINTER FEEDING AND, INCIDENTALLY, SOME REMARKS ON THE GENERAL TREATMENT OF THE DAIRY COW.

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THE feeding of the dairy cow is of the greatest importance, and it is essential that every dairy-farmer give the matter careful study in order to determine the system which is most suitable for the locality in which he is farming—a system which should be designed not merely with the object of producing the highest results regardless of cost, but one which will produce the maximum of result at a minimum of cost.

Before touching on the food question I would just like to say a little on one or two other points which in my opinion are of the utmost importance in the successful management of the dairy herd. I consider the first question every dairy-farmer should ask himself is, "Do my cows pay for all the food they consume and yield a little profit as well, or are some of them merely 'boarders'?" When we take into consideration the fact that in New Zealand the average butter-fat yield per cow per annum is only about 160 lb., it is easy to realize that a very large number of cows are being kept at an absolutely dead loss to the farmer, and that in many instances the profit realized from cows of high milking-capacity is completely wiped out by the loss incurred through keeping "boarders." It is also important to grasp the fact that no amount or kind of extra feeding will make the "boarder" pay—in fact, the more she is fed the greater will be the loss; while, on the other hand, the cow of great milking-capacity will give a good return for liberal treatment in the matter of feeding. Now, the only way which will enable the farmer to determine between the profitable and the unprofitable cow is by the use of the scales and the Babcock or other tester; and, depend upon it, the use of these will afford many a surprise, as it will be found that the cow or cows which previous to testing were considered to be the best may prove to be second-rate only—indeed, much inferior to others which may have been set down as being the least profitable of the herd. Speaking from my own experience, I am also quite certain that as soon as testing is commenced the interest in the herd increases; and the same applies to employees, if they are worth their salt. The farmer will then find himself more