

winter tares at Ruakura sown on the 10th May which are over 8 ft. in height; and we have one plot of 3 acres sown on the 18th October which has made phenomenal growth and is now almost ready for cutting for green feed. I am quite aware that the New Zealand dairyman is looking for a crop suitable for turning his cows on to without the trouble of cutting and leading off, but on small areas intensively cultivated this system can find no place; and the time is fast approaching when the soiling system will take the place of the present more wasteful one.

Hay made from millet is highly spoken of, and, if cut just when coming into flower, makes a nice soft hay which is relished by all stock. It also grows a very great weight per acre.

The great objection to all annual fodder crops is the labour year after year of ploughing, sowing, and reaping. On the other hand, lucerne, once well established, lasts for years; and when all other fodder crops are a failure through drought the lucerne paddock will be green and flourishing, and the farmer can "cut and come again" as often as he chooses. For winter use hay made from this plant has no equal; in fact, it is the greatest gift ever bestowed on the dairyman. It may not be possible to grow lucerne on all soils, but the experience at Ruakura points to it succeeding over a great area of New Zealand. I would advise the dairy-farmer to make every effort to establish this plant almost regardless of cost, for in it he will find a stock-food that will satisfy nearly all his requirements.

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The dairy herd at Ruakura Farm of Instruction is now receiving chamois as a supplementary fodder to the rather dried-up pastures.

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The work of the four main experimental farms of the Department was investigated by 712 farmers and others last month. The visitors to the different farms were as follows: Ruakura, 497; Weraroa, 95; Waerenga, 60; Moumahaki, 50.

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"At the cattle show in Guernsey," writes F. G. McKay, "the dam of any bull exhibited—if on the island—has to be shown at the same time. The dam of a bull having been tested for milk and butter-fat production, a certificate of such test is taken into consideration in awarding prizes."

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The last London Dairy Show brought out a very fine type of the non-pedigree milking Shorthorn—Model Maid. She gave, under the show-yard conditions, 16½ gallons of milk in two days. The percentage of butter-fat ranged from 2.93 to 4.51.