

On the Land

GENERAL.

The system of records has enabled the Friesland farmer to breed a cow which gives more milk than any other cow in the world. A cow seldom gives less than 700 gallons of milk per annum. The average is nearly 900, and a number of records run up to 1000.

The use of goats on farms in keeping down blackberry is being exemplified on a farm at Lepperton, where there is a flock of 50 (says the Waitara correspondent of the *Taranaki Herald*). Not only has the blackberry been eaten level with the ground, but the young fern shoots also are nipped off by the goats—thus serving a double purpose.

The Guernsey can be used with very great advantage for crossing purposes, and as an ideal type of crossbred dairy cow, wherein the dual advantages of quantity and quality of the milk yield are successfully combined, that produced by crossing a good type of Shorthorn cow with a pure-bred Guernsey bull of accredited strain or family, is indeed difficult to beat.

Several of the factories engaged in the manufacture of condensed milk are experiencing considerable difficulty (says the *West Coast Times*) in obtaining sufficient supplies of milk, with the result that there has been a marked shortage of the commodity for some weeks. The shortage is attributed to the continued drought in some parts of the Dominion, and also to the high prices being paid for butter fat at the various dairy factories.

The dairy cow is an animated machine, by whose agency food is turned into milk. She should never be pinched for fodder, which should combine quality with quantity. A badly fed cow cannot produce good milk. According to experts, the ration for a milking cow should contain five parts of heat-giving material to one part of nitrogenous or flesh-forming matter. Proper feeding is as necessary to her as suitable fuel is to run a specially constructed engine.

There were small yardings of cattle and sheep at Burnside last week, with the result that prices showed an advance on late rates. Fat Cattle.—117 head were yarded—a very small yarding—and as a result competition was very keen, and prices showed an advance on previous week's rates of fully 10s per head. Prime bullocks, £16 10s to £18; extra prime, to £21 17s 6d; medium to good, £14 to £15 10s; medium, £13 to £14; prime cows and heifers, £12 to £15; extra prime, to £17 5s; medium to good, £10 to £11 10s; inferior, £8 to £9 10s. Fat Sheep.—A small yarding of 1500 came forward, consisting of medium to good ewes and wethers, with a few pens of extra prime sheep. Competition was keen, and previous week's rates were more than maintained. Quotations: Prime wethers, 28s to 41s; extra prime, to 52s 6d; medium to good, 30s to 36s; inferior, 24s to 28s; prime ewes, 33s to 36s; extra, to 38s; medium to good, 28s to 31s; inferior, 22s to 25s 6d. Fat Lambs.—Twenty-two of this season's lambs came forward, and realised up to 26s. Pigs.—A fairly large yarding came forward, and prices were equal to late rates.

At Addington last week there were rather smaller yardings of stock. The attendance was good. Fat cattle were easier, and there was an advance in store sheep, due to the operations of a Wellington buyer and to a favorable change in the weather. Prime fat lambs sold better than the week before. Fat sheep sold without change in price. Fat Lambs.—Best lambs, 19s 6d to 24s; lighter, 12s 3d to 19s. Fat Sheep.—Extra prime wethers, to 49s; prime wethers, 27s to 36s 6d; others, 21s 6d to 26s 6d; merino wethers, 19s to 31s 3d; shorn wethers, 18s 3d to 26s 9d; extra prime ewes, to 32s 9d; prime ewes, 25s to 30s; medium ewes, 18s 3d to 24s 6d; hoggets, 16s 9d to 29s 6d. Fat Cattle.—Extra prime steers, to £20 15s; ordinary steers, £8 5s to £11 10s; extra prime heifers, to £16; ordinary heifers, £6 7s 6d to £8 5s; extra cows, to £18 5s;

ordinary cows, £5 to £8 (price of beef per 100lb, 32s to 50s). Pigs.—Choppers, 60s to 110s; extra heavy baconers, to 98s; heavy baconers, 70s to 80s; light baconers, 57s to 67s (price per lb, 6½d to 6¼d); heavy porkers, 44s to 48s; light porkers, 38s to 42s (price per lb, 6¼d to 7d); best stores, 32s to 38s; medium stores, 22s to 30s; small stores, 16s to 20s; weaners, 10s to 14s; sows in pig, to 60s.

THE KERRY COW.

The Kerry cow is the typical animal for the small man who only wants to keep two or three cows at the most, or where the grazing land is limited, as there is no breed of cow that puts its food to better use in proportion to its size. These cows are not expensive to purchase, and with ordinarily good treatment they will yield as much as 500 gallons of milk during the lactation period, which is an excellent return, considering the size of the animals and the food consumed. The milk, moreover, is of quite good butter-producing quality, containing, as it does, some 4 per cent. of butter-fat, and they will produce from six to seven pounds of butter per week. The true Kerry is light and active, while the other type of Irish cattle known as the Dexter-Kerry, probably produced by crossing the true Kerry with the Devon cattle, is shorter on the legs and stouter, and is also rather more fleshy. Nowadays, however, there is very little difference between the two breeds, although the true Kerry is still a little finer in bone and of more pleasing appearance than the Dexter.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FEEDING PIGS.

The Department of Agriculture for Ireland have issued a leaflet, publishing the recommendations given by the Irish Departmental Committee in Pig Breeding. It is as follows:—

1. The prospects of the industry are good. The numbers of pigs in countries which export bacon to Great Britain are falling off, and it may be anticipated that, in consequence, exports of bacon will shrink, and that Irish bacon will be in great demand. The number of pigs in Ireland should, therefore, be increased.

2. It is not necessary to cook meals for pigs. Steep the meals in cold water and feed raw; just as good results will be obtained and labor and fuel will be saved.

3. About 5cwt meal will produce 1cwt pork. Given in conjunction with other foods—
About 4lb potatoes equal 1lb meal in feeding value.

About 6lb separated milk equals 1lb meal in feeding value.

Separated milk given with meal and potatoes is now worth 2d per gallon.

4. Farmers should breed the pigs they fatten, and thus secure the profit of both breeder and feeder.

5. More home-grown foods should be produced for feeding to pigs. Barley, oats, and potatoes are most suitable.

The Department learns that in some cases farmers have used cod liver oil in the food for pigs. This is a most undesirable practice, as the oil imparts an objectionable fishy flavor to the pork, which is not removed even by the process of curing. Farmers, therefore, are most strongly urged not to feed cod liver oil to pigs under any circumstances.

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