

Care of the Fall Calf

C. P. Ingram, Elgin Co., Ont.

WE like to have our cows fresh in the fall. The condensory pays us more for milk in the winter months, we get more milk from each cow in the course of the whole lactation period, and last, but by no means least, we can raise better calves. No spring calf is big enough or strong enough to thrive on grass the first summer. The best place for it by all means is in the stable. And we know by experience that it is precious little attention the calves generally get when there is a rush on with other work. In the winter, however, we have lots of time for chores, and the fall calves get the best of care.

At one time we raised a great many calves, and our greatest trouble was always with scours, and these in turn we attributed to the difficulty in keeping the milk pails sweet and fresh. If neglected in the last they get sour, and scours in the calf pen is the result. It is easier to keep a calf from having scours than it is to cure it once it is scoured. The easiest way to avoid scours during the milk feeding days is to have fall calves, as we all know that keeping pails sweet in cold weather is an easy matter.

Milk Feeding Rules

We make a practice of feeding whole milk for the first 10 days. Then we gradually begin feeding skim milk, and at three weeks the whole milk has been entirely displaced. The amount of milk fed ranges from three quarts to six quarts a day for the first two weeks, and the amount is increased according to the demands of the animal. At first we feed the milk three times a day, and so important do we consider it that the temperature be uniform at all feedings, that we use a thermometer, always heating the midday feeding exactly up to blood heat. Nothing will upset a calf more quickly than to feed it warm milk morning and night and cold milk in the middle of the day. The milk feeding is continued right up to six months of age, but of course before that time the calf is strong enough to take cold milk. My plan, however, is to feed the milk warm directly from the separator right to the end.

The great trouble where milk is shipped to the condensory, as in our case, is the temptation to sterve the calves for the benefit of the condensory. We are getting into pure bred Holsteins, however, and are looking forward to the day when our calves will be more important financially than even the milk. Accordingly, we skim enough milk, making the cream into butter, to feed the calves liberally for the first six months. We substitute to some extent with Blatchford's calf meal, and find it good.

Teaching to Eat Grain

When the calves are a couple of weeks old, we begin to drop a little grain into the bottom of the milk pails and we soon have them eating grain. The grain feeding consists of a little oil meal and a good large proportion of crushed oats. In fact, oats are our standby for all growing stock.

An objection that we have frequently heard to fall calves is that warm enough quarters cannot be provided for them on the average farm. Our belief is that the calves do not require as warm quarters as do the men who wait on them. Our calf barn is not as warm as the cow barn but the calves never experience any discomfort

and grow more vigorously than any spring calves of ours ever did. The calf barn has lots of light, lots of clean straw, and wire partitions. With quarters such as these, we are not afraid of the fall calf proposition.

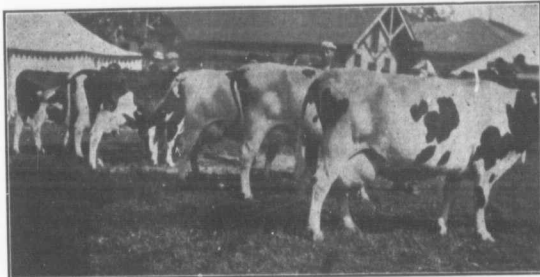
Live Stock vs. Grain Farming

Sidney Johnson, Renfrew Co., Ont.

TWO of the best farms in this county are located only a couple of miles apart on the same road. Both soils are a heavy clay in about the same state of fertility. The farms are the same size. In the handling of their crops both farmers are equally expert. So far as I can see, there is nothing to choose between either the farms or the farmers.

One of these farmers last year, so he tells me, made enough money on his farm to live well and make a good payment on the mortgage—several hundred dollars. The other says that he is making a good living, paying the interest on his mortgage, but that is all. The homestead of the first farmer is assuming a prosperous appearance. All the neighbors agree that he is going ahead of farmer No. 2.

The one farmer is a live stock farmer. He sells a little grain, not much. He sells largely dairy



"Stars in the Milky Way." The Mature Cow Class at London

standing in front (unfortunately minus her head) is Lipoti's Molly of Bayham. Next in order come the entries of Kelly, Wood, Treblecock, Wood and Row. Who would not go into dairying could he secure a herd such as this!

—Photo by an editor of Farm and Dairy.

produce, feeds a few steers, and always has a bunch of hogs ready for market. The second farmer practices what we hear called "straight farming," that is, he sells grain. Our grain farming friend, with all of his income coming in a lump, frequently finds himself forced to sell his new crop at a sacrifice on a slow market. He needs the money. The farmer with live stock has an income throughout the whole year, and he markets the little grain he has at a better price than his neighbor because he can hold it until the market is up, and his live stock brings in a bigger return on the grain and roughage fed to them than he can get for it on the market.

The live stock farmer employs help to better advantage. He can keep part of his men the year round. During the summer months he requires no more help to look after live stock and run his farm than his neighbor requires to get in his crops and harvest them. He is enabled to make better use of his rough land for pasture. He has a market for rough feed which in the case of the grain farmer must go to waste. When he gets well established with pure bred stock, into which he is now starting, he will be doing better still. The case of these two farmers is to me conclusive proof that in Ontario at least the farmer must keep live stock if he would make progress. I believe that similar examples of live stock efficiency could be found in almost every rural section of Canada.

Is Alfalfa Good for Horses?

HERE is much diversity of opinion as to the feeding value of alfalfa hay and alfalfa pasture for horses, particularly brood mares. In an effort to arrive at a sane, safe conclusion as to the value of alfalfa for horses, the Nebraska Experiment Station recently corresponded with several of the largest horse breeders in Nebraska as to the place of alfalfa in the horse's ration. The replies are interesting in view of the rapid spread of alfalfa in Canada, and we reproduce a few opinions:

"I am a great friend of alfalfa for all stock," writes H. J. McLaughlin, of Hall county. "For horses I want it fed with good oats and plenty of common sense. Feed to brood mares before and after foaling, but with moderation, say one good feed a day. Overfeeding may cause abortion.

"One good feed a day to work horses will save grain and keep them in better condition. I feed it to my stallions once a day with the best of results. Alfalfa fed to brood mares, work horses and stallions should be cut after the bloom has faded and the seed pod is forming. And it should be carefully cured and be free from dust.

For growing colts, I like the softer hay and plenty of it, but well cured and free from dust. I also feed all my horses cut alfalfa mixed with oats and a little bran. I feed no corn to any of my horses except when at hard work, and then it is mixed with oats, bran, and cut alfalfa hay.

"I have used alfalfa pasture for growing horses for the past five years with the best of results. Do not like it for brood mares and work horses until late in the summer when it is a little harder."

A Proper Food for All Horses

W. R. Watt, of Kearney county, is equally divided in his opinions: "I am a firm believer that alfalfa is the proper feed for horses of all ages—for growing colts, for work horses, and for fattening horses," he writes. "I have never had any bad results from overfeeding, but am careful not to feed wet alfalfa hay. For growing colts, I think it best to feed some straw or cornstalks with the alfalfa. For developing horse and mule colts from one to three years old, I find 10 pounds of alfalfa hay a head per day in dry lots with a little corn fodder or wheat straw makes a splendid feed. They will grow well and actually get fat. They even do better than when fed prairie hay and 10 pounds of corn or oats. Five pounds of alfalfa a head per day to the same class of stock when running in the field or cornstalks will make a better growth than as many pounds of grain.

"I fed 50 head of three and four year old colts one winter in a dry lot on alfalfa and wheat straw, at an average cost of 12 cents a head per day. They did fine—were fat and ready to break in the spring. They were sold to farmers who realized a good summer's work, as the colts were in splendid condition. I have fed the same class of colts on alfalfa alone and find that they eat too much, get paunchy, their legs swell, their hair becomes rough, they become lazy, and will not exercise enough. Furthermore, the cost of alfalfa fed alone is too great.

"For the work horses, I feed a liberal amount of alfalfa, but do not allow them to stand in a manger full all the time. I work my horse hard (using hired help) and they keep up well.



The Cow

Stephen Spotty 4th, Toronto and Ottawa, at the latter fair, held in Grain 9th in 1913. It is frequently that she remains champion, and is owned by —Photo

They also stand the But I am always of themselves on alfalfa they are not at weeks.

"For fattening h dry alfalfa hay the ground alfalfa means corn—using a soft alfalfa hay, first or alfalfa rather ripe. Horses do not care should be taken out of the cattle, a what the horse does horse will eat the cattle have left the eating but good results alfalfa to horses, and thousands of them."

Toronto's

"Critic TORONTO'S publication. This ship has its its country. Its failure control of the meat desired by either city of Toronto I Dairy, to call attention new abattoir.

The tendency of I ate itself in the h I can remember who used in the city of private slaughterhouse butchers. Such is abattoir, by killing great numbers, is cheaply than would house. The butcher ally cheaper for the than to attempt to is that a few large ally all of the tra corporations I how, they do not com if they do not comb a working agreement The public abattoir the small butcher c killed as efficiently as that which is killed by the big pack that adjust. Toronto dower can take the the retail butcher. I the city abattoir his death of the total tr