Minimum Milk for Calves

WE have a good grade Holstein herd with several cows freshening in the next two months. All the heifer calves are going to be raised. We are shipping milk to Montreal, and we want to feed a minimum amount of it to the calves. At the same time we want the calves to develop nicely, and are willing to feed them some milk. What is the minimum amount of milk that should be fed, and how long should the feeding be continued? We have no skim-milk. —"Milkman," Argenteuil Co., Que.

Where no skim-milk is available in calf feeding, it would appear advisable to feed calves on whole milk at least for four weeks, unless the weather is comparatively mild and the feeder is expert in the use of milk substitutes, such as some of the best prepared calf meals. All calves worth rearing are worth giving a good start in life. In order to do this they should be given the mother's milk for the first three days, and whole milk for at least three weeks following. The quantity of milk given depends largely on the size and vigor of the calf, also on the number of feeds per day. The writer considers it advisable to feed young calves three times daily, and they may be given from 3 to 5 pounds of milk per feed, the quantity left altogether to the discretion of the feeders. If fed only twice per day 6 pounds per feed is ample, during the first two months, after which the quantity may be increased to 8 or 9 pounds per feed. The use of a good meal substitute, such as Royal Purple calf meal, Gold Dollar calf meal, Caldwell's calf meal, Bibby's cream equivalent, etc., etc., may be used to advantage to replace the whole milk when the calf is four weeks of age. It is very advisable to make all changes in feeds gradually, and feed according to the needs of the individual calf.—E. S. A.

Re-packing of Ensilage

OUR corn crop was short and we now have an opportunity of buying a silo full of corn on a farm one mile distant. We don't want to take the time to go after our supply each day. How long would ensilage keep if hauled in considerable quantities and piled in the feeding room? Would it be advisable to ramp a few feet of ensilage in the bottom of our silo every two weeks or so? The ensilage I may say went into the silo in good condition, with lots of moisture.—W. J., Oxford Co., Ont.

Having had little experience as to the keeping of ensilage after being taken from the silo, I am not in a position to give definite advice in this regard. However, we have moved ensilage from one silo to another and packed it as thoroughly as when first put in the silo, and the ensilage taken therefrom was nearly as good as though it had not been moved. We would think that it would be possible to move several feet of ensilage to the home silo, providing it was carefully trampled so as to exclude the air as quickly as possible, and that no ill results should follow during the winter months. However, it would not be possible to follow this practice if the weather was mild, for fermentation and moulding would start almost instantly with the exposure to air.—E. S. A.

Green Feed for Hogs

WE are planning to fall in line with the Food Controller's suggestions and make more pork this farm next year. We understand that hogs can be reared most cheaply on pasture. We have no hog proof fences, but we will have lots of clover and other green feed. What are the relative merits of pasturing and feeding the green feed in the pen? How much grain should hogs get along with the green feed?—"Enquirer," Dundas Co., Ont.

Undoubtedly hogs can be reared most cheaply on pasture. It would appear to the writer that it would probably be more profitable to purchase fencing in order to allow the hogs a free run of pasture rather than keep the hogs in confined yards, and haul green feed twice per day. Supplying green feed to hogs has two great disadvantages, namely, that it must be supplied fresh, for if in a wilted and partly fermented condition it will not be consumed, and, secondly, that there is a very large amount of waste in feeding to hogs unless special racks are provided. Considering present labor shortage, undoubtedly the pasture together with liberal grain feeding such as in a self-feeder will be found most profitable, for not only will the animals make greater gains per day, and thus be ready for the market at an earlier age, but they will make fully as great gains for meal consumed. The quantity of grain which hogs will consume daily, when on pasture or consuming green feed, will depend very largely on the age of the hogs and the character of the meal. However, it should be the aim of every hog feeder to make at least one pound gain per hog per day, and to do so there will be required from 3 to 5 pounds of grain, depending on the quantity and quality of other feeds consumed.—E. S. A.

Poultry Feeding

THE problem of economical production, with feed at the present prices, is a question that has been worrying producers during the past few months. Feed is high, therefore, the flock should be culled closely, and nothing but the most vigorous birds retained. They should not only be fed heavily, but should be fed such feeds as will give results. For this purpose it is necessary to supply cereal, animal, vegetable and mineral feeds.

Cereal or grain feeds should form the principal part of the ration, and for the best results a certain proportion should be ground. During ordinary times, a mixture of corn, wheat and oats is popular, but under present conditions milling wheat should be conserved for human food, and only the lower grades used for stock feed. Lower grade wheat, oats and corn, buckwheat and barley are all feeds that may be used to advantage. The extent to which each is used will depend on prices.

For ground feed, "buckwheat screenings" may be used to advantage, also mixtures containing bran, cornmeal, ground oats or other similar grains.

Vegetable or green feed is absolutely necessary to keep the flock in thrifty condition. For this purpose, sprouted oats is one of the very best. It not only supplies succulence, but grain feed as well. Mangels, turnips, cabbage, small potatoes or other similar waste products may all be used to advantage.

Animal or meat feed is a form of food that poultry keepers frequently neglect supplying. It is not possible for a hen to produce egg profitably on an all-grain ration. Sour milk is usually available on farms, and no animal feed will give better results, as it not only supplies the necessary feed, but it also keeps the birds in good tone. If milk is not available, beef scrap, blood flour, green cut bone or similar feeds must be supplied to take the place of the grubs and insects which the birds get on range.

Mineral feed, time to the egg shells and mineral salts for the growth of bone, must be supplied. Small quantities may be obtained from such feeds as clovers, but it is necessary to feed oyster shells or something similar to supply lime in sufficient quantities for a heavy egg production.

Planning a Poultry House

By C. S. Anderson.

COMFORT should be the prime essential in constructing any poultry house. Protect the birds from dampness, drafts, wind, filth, and vermin. Locate the poultry house on a well drained soil, preferably a sandy loam. Clay soils are cold and retain moisture. A south slope and a south front are best. Spring conditions arrive earlier and stay longer on the south exposure.

Do not build the poultry house too close to the other farm buildings. Poultry proves a nuisance near granaries and barns.

Provide plenty of shade and windbreak. Under wild conditions, the jungle fowl sought the shade of the thicket.

In constructing the house, remember that ventilation is a first essential. One square foot of window or open front to every sixteen square feet of floor space is a good rule to follow.

Under free range conditions, 100 to 150 laying hens can be successfully housed in a building 20 x 20 feet. When closely confined, always figure on four square feet of floor space per bird.

One nest, 14 inches square and six inches deep, should be provided for every five hens. Nests should be dark.

Provide six to eight inches of perch room per bird, and always build perches on the level. This prevents birds from crowding on the upper perches.

Remember that there is no hen that can pay interest on a great overhead building investment, and yield a profit besides. The initial cost of house should not exceed one dollar an economically constructed poultry per bird capacity, including labor.

Quality in Eggs

By A. P. Marshall.

THE farm is the principal source of the commercial egg product; therefore the need of better means of quality preservation than now exists when this product goes on the market. The egg is very susceptible to influences that injure its food values for general consumption. There is no form of food product produced and put on the market that is capable of such widespread misrepresentation in matter of food quality as the egg.

The farm egg product should be managed by the women of the farm in order that it be under a system of accuracy and preservation until shipped to the consuming trade. The careless lack of system in handling eggs on the farm is responsible for millions of dollars loss to the general trade and general public each year. The first evidence of fault and dishonesty is with the egg producer, the manager of the hens that turn this source of product over to be gathered and shipped. We refer principally to the farmer because the confined poultry business demands every day egg-gathering from the nests, while with the fowls kept on the farm they too frequently are handled without system; the eggs are gathered just as it happens; once a week or once a day all eggs go into the market basket, clean or soiled, good and bad alike.

This lack of system will never be corrected until the majority of farmers learn how to conduct the poultry industry on the farm for profit, and the importance of system is impressed on careless egg producers who now supply the trade with damaged and worthless eggs. This very best system of cold storage on the farm, with the greatest accuracy and attention to preservation of quality must be preferred.