

FEEDERS CORNER

Feeding A Family Cow

KEEP a cow, a very good cow, and would like a little information regarding what is best to feed a milk cow in the winter to keep her milk up to a fair standard. I am feeding about two parts straw and one part clover hay, also a few feed carrots twice a day. Would you advise me adding a little oil meal and what quantity of this would you recommend for the morning and evening feed?—J. A. Kline Co., Ont.

Our reader has given so little information that it is almost impossible to give him an intelligent answer. We do not know how much milk the cow is capable of giving, the local price of foodstuffs, or the character of the roughage on hand. All of these factors would vary the amount of grain and the kind of grain to be given. We will assume therefore that J. S. has a fair quality of mixed hay and that he must purchase all the grain feeds given. We will also assume that the cow is practically fresh and will give 35 lbs. or 14 quarts of milk a day.

For such a cow, we would suggest a ration for the day's feeding of 16 lbs. of mixed hay and 10 lbs. of grain, mixed in the proportion of two parts bran, two parts oat chop and one part of oil cake; this in the proportion of one pound of grain to three and one-half pounds of milk produced. If the hay is largely timothy, the proportion of grain would need to be increased. We would suggest two feedings a day, the grain and carrots being fed first thing in the morning, followed by what hay the cow will eat up clean and the same at night. If there is any straw available for feeding, it might be put into the manger last thing at night. The oil cake meal in the ration will be particularly advantageous as a regulator in this case, as there is so little succulence available, only a few carrots being mentioned.

Pure Bred vs. Grade

A FEW weeks ago we visited a very successful dairy farmer who has built up a splendid herd of Holsteins. Daily milk records, the Babcock test and the consistent use of a pure bred Holstein sire, all contributed to the high quality of that grade herd. A few years ago some pure bred females were purchased. They too, were subjected to the milk pail and fat test. On the average they did not prove as good producers as their grade mates. Their owner is disappointed in them and is considering the advisability of going back into grades exclusively. The only merit that he can see in a pedigree stretching right back to Holland is that the stock will sell for a higher price.

The test to which our friend has subjected his pure bred cattle is hardly a fair one. He had been selecting and breeding his grade herd for almost a generation. The pure bred females he purchased were out of untested stock. Had the herd from which he purchased been as carefully wooded as his own the comparison would be a fairer one. In the long run, however, there is no good reason why a well bred grade should not produce as heavily as a well bred registered animal. The real value of the pedigreed animal is not in production, but in reproduction. Pure bred animals have been bred in one line for so long, without the introduction of outside blood, that their characteristics have become fixed and are much more liable to be reproduced in their offspring than in the case of a grade animal in which the traits of the ancestors are strong and reversion may take place. It is for

this reason that a pure bred sire is more desirable than a grade sire, no matter how good a producer his dam may have been. At the same time we freely admit that there are poor pure bred animals, even as there are poor grades, and the day when an animal will sell merely because it has a pedigree is rapidly passing. Our friend, we know, will breed his new stock as intelligently as he bred up his grade herd, so, reproductive capacity being taken into consideration, we advised him to stay with pure bred cattle. They will do more for him, and with them he will do more for the upbuilding of the dairy cattle of the country.

Oil Cake for Heifers

TWO heifers are equally well bred for milk. One is fed oil cake coming only from the calfhood and the other eats no oil cake whatever. If both of these heifers were fed cake after the first year, which would make the best milk cow?—E. F. Bruce Co., Ont.

If the heifer receiving oil cake were otherwise intelligently fed and the lack of oil cake meal in the ration of the second heifer also indicated lack of general good feeding, the first would be the better animal for milk production. Dairy farmers have not yet realized the full importance of development of calves and heifers in determining their production of milk as cows. If, however, the second heifer were well fed on other grains besides oil cake, there would be little difference, if any, in their production as milk cows, providing both were fed the same and their inherited milk producing ability was similar. It should be remembered, however, that oil cake is one of the best feeds for both heifers and cows. It is a regulator, and when fed properly induces strong, healthy growth. Other feeds, however, can be used in developing good heifers.

Is Borrowing A Sin?

"Young Farmer," Lennox Co., Ont.

IS borrowing a sin? I am fully convinced that at least some kinds of borrowing are wrong. We started farming in this section 3 years ago. We have a good equipment of implements. We had figured the matter all out and decided that there is a better return on money invested in implements than in land. We took out a heavy mortgage on the farm and invested what capital we had in implementing the farm. We thought it was good business policy. We are not so sure of it now.

The neighbors soon found that we had implements that they did not. Borrowing implements between farms had been the habit of the locality ever since people could remember but there was very little of it done. All the farms had the simplest kind of implements, and as each man had the same implements as his neighbors, there was little occasion for borrowing. In my case it was different. I had implements that none of them had and they all seemed to think that they should have the use of them whenever they asked for them.

What can I do? If I were to refuse to lend my implements, I would get the cold shoulder from my neighbors. They are nice people and we enjoy their society, but by constantly borrowing, they are putting us in the position of paying them to be pleasant and agreeable to us. Last season many of our implements were used more on neighboring farms than they were on our own. What can I do?

YESTERDAY I got my copy of Farm and Dairy for the week from the post office, but on the way home it was caught by the force wind that was blowing and carried away. Now I hate to lose even one copy of your valuable paper, so if you have any copies left, kindly send me one.—R. D. Lyons, Kings Co., N.S.

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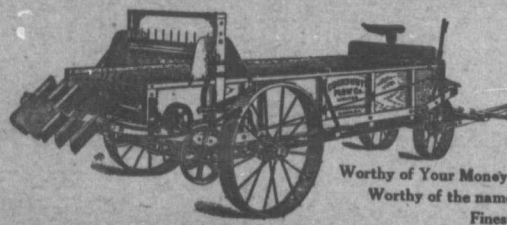
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