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FARM AND DAIRY

RURAL HOME

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FOR WEEK ENDING JANUARY 5, 1911.

No. 1

Satisfactory Disposal of Manure*

J. H. Caldwell, Carleton Co., Ont.

I can do in speaking of the value and conservation of manure is to give our own method of handling it. Our method is the one followed by the best farmers and dairymen in the East. As soon as the cattle are housed the manure is drawn out daily and spread at once. We continue to do this until the snow becomes too deep, say six inches. We spread it on fall plowing and as the surface is uneven there is comparatively little waste of manure.

When snow becomes too deep we put it in small heaps, about four heaps to a load. We continue this all winter if the snow is not too deep. If the snow becomes too deep for hauling we put it in large piles where it remains till the following spring when it is spread on the land.

APPLY IT EVENLY

If the manure is not too coarse it can be worked into the soil in preparation for corn and roots without being plowed under. We get much better results when we get the manure incorporated into the soil as early as possible.

We have gotten excellent results from top-dressing meadows in the early fall or as soon as possibly after the hay is removed. If a manure spreader is used the manure can be applied very evenly and it also has ample time and opportunity to have the fertilizing ingredients leached into the soil and for the manure to settle closely to the soil before winter. This applies to manure accumulated during the summer.

I consider it a poor practice to plow down manure deeply. The tendency is then to leach down below the roots of ordinary crops which are largely surface feeders. The practice of leaving the manure outside the walls of the building during summer cannot be too strongly condemned as the waste is enormous and causes unsanitary conditions around the buildings as well.

Pointers on Shoeing Horses

Mr. L. E. Milton, Colchester Co., N.S.

Fit the shoe to the foot, not the foot to the shoe.

In this slippery weather a horse with sharp shoes is worth about twice as much as one with smooth shoes.

Do not ask the horse to carry around heavy shoes. It is a waste of energy. Light shoes are just as good.

If the blacksmith does not cut and rasp the horse's hoof as much as you are used to seeing it done, do not think that he is not earning his money. There is altogether too much cutting and rasping done. The blacksmith knows it, but he must give his customers what they demand.

Many of our best horsemen are coming to believe that the nails should not be clinched. A wrench that is sufficient to pull the shoe off might injure the leg if the shoe did not come quite readily.

*An essay written by Mr. Caldwell on his practical experience, as required of him by the rules of the Dairy Farm Competition, in which he was a successful competitor.

Always be patient and gentle when shoeing the colt for the first time. Get the blacksmith to come and shoe it in its own stall is necessary. Most of the "hard shoers" learned their bad habits in their first visit to the blacksmith.

Ask your blacksmith to use a small nail. Large nails wear out the hoof and do not hold the shoe any firmer.

If your driving horse starts to interfere perhaps you had better change your blacksmith.

A Great Asset to Exploit

C. C. James, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Ontario.

Waken up the indifferent farmer and you develop one of the greatest assets of the country. It is not like taking gold or silver out of the ground never to be replaced; it is not like cutting down trees with the hope that others will grow up in the next 50 years; it is not like hauling fish out of the water that someone may be fed; no, it is better than all these, for you

The Best Invested Dollar

Please find enclosed \$1.00 for the renewal of my subscription to Farm and Dairy for 1911. I might say this is one of the best invested dollars that goes from our house.—Albert Pickard, Parry Sound District, Ont.

are bringing into productivity a living asset."

I know no work that any country on this continent can engage in that promises bigger returns for everyone than the rational stimulating and helping of the indifferent farmer to better ways and better living. The banker wishes the farmer to produce more, because it is upon the accumulation of his earnings that our banks depend; the railways want more stuff to haul to and fro; the manufacturer wishes the demands of the farmers to be increased; the storekeeper is looking for the increase of purchasing power in the farmer; and the country school teacher is hoping for better pay—all classes want more money in circulation.

Then why, as a people, do we not get down to the consideration of this question in a manner comporting with its importance? Let us devise things not from the narrow standpoint of the needy farmer, but, having in view the national importance of the question, put into it some of the energy and the brains and the money that we have put into transportation questions and city expansion. If we could get our legislators and our city millionaires to turn their eyes towards the rural parts and take hold of the question in earnest, there would be a national development in this country that was never dreamed of by the most ardent enthusiast. Let us keep in mind and compel others to pay attention to the regeneration of the indifferent farmer, for he is the greatest undeveloped asset of either Canada or the United States.—Extract from an address, "The Problem of the Indifferent Farmer," delivered at Washington, D.C.

Practical Pointers on Calf Raising

M. H. Gardiner, Deleegan, Wis.

During the gestation period, if strong, healthy calves are expected, the cows must be well fed and cared for. If a cow be so scantily fed, either on pasture or in the stable, that in her generosity to you she has to turn her own needed fat and flesh into milk, growing so thin that her hips and ribs are the most prominent features in her make-up, how can you expect her to give you a strong calf? Remember that the calf well born is half reared. Try to be always with your cows during parturition, ready if necessary to assist at the proper time; as you will find this extra care the cheapest sort of insurance against loss. Give the cow a well-bedded stall, and see that all is dry and clean.

Some breeders remove the calf to its pen as soon as born. I consider it better for both cow and calf to leave the calf with the cow for 36 to 48 hours, as the cow will be contented at the time when she needs to be quiet, and the calf will suck little and often and so get its digestive organs properly working. These organs of the new-born calf are very delicate, and subject to disorders if the milk fed be not right in quality, quantity, and temperature, or if harmful germs are introduced into the stomach and intestines by feeding from unclean pails.

The calf pens should be well lighted and ventilated, be reasonably warm, and be kept clean and dry. For the first two or three weeks, the calf should receive only its dam's milk; and it should be fed not less than three times a day with milk warm from the cow. A good cow or heifer will need milking at 5 a.m., 1 p.m., and 8:30 p.m.; and if the baby calf be fed two quarts at each milking, it is likely to be enough.

FROM THREE WEEKS ON

By the time the calf is three weeks old, it will be able to dispose of five pints at each of the three feeds. After it reaches four weeks, it may be fed but twice a day, the new milk gradually being replaced with skim milk, till at six weeks the calf is taking four to five quarts of skim milk twice a day. From the time one begins to use skim milk, till the calf is two months old, the thermometer should be used so as to be sure the milk is above 90 degrees, but after that age, the hand is a sufficient guide.

At about four weeks, the calf will begin to chew bits of hay. If a little wheat middlings is placed in its mouth after feeding, it will quickly learn to eat ground feed. Up to about 12 weeks old, the calf should have ground oats or wheat middlings, as well as bright clover hay, before it at all times, all being kept sweet and fresh. After three months it should have its grain feed as regularly as the cows. While it is better to feed skim milk if one can till a calf is 20 weeks old, warmed water should be offered every day after the tenth week; but one should be careful that at first the calf does not take it for a new kind of milk, and load up too heavily with it. If any strong, healthy calf gets out of condition, nine times out of 10 it is the fault of the person in charge; and he has only himself to blame.