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## Classification of the Aliments to be Considered in the Production of Milk.

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Every agriculturist knows that the milk of these animals is liable to remarkable phenomena which occur frequently during different periods of the year. Thus it is not uncommon to see the milk on a farm increase or diminish, according to the seasons, and without any apparent cause, always affecting the "traction" (milking) in a similar number of cows. After a while, the milk is by and by of good quality, but a little later it has a mixed taste, and is liable to spoil, or liable to morbid changes. In some farms this substance is bitter, vitiated, and liable to coagulating; in a neighboring farm it is sweet, soft, rich in buttery substances, in some, and agreeable to the taste. Here it is of a dull tint, grey or whitish; there it is strongly colored with blue, with red, or even with a tinge of lead color; elsewhere quite the contrary is observed, and the milky secretion is liable to increase, diminish, or cease entirely. What is the cause of these changes? What are the various peculiarities which we have just noticed.

It is well known that the quantity and the nature of the food given to the cattle have great influence on the qualities of the milk. If reason be given the force of law to this observation

the facts that can every day be collected in the districts of Herve, Dixmude, Neufchateau, every where, in short, where animals of the bovine species receive abundant nourishment—would soon establish the justice of the principle. Starting from this line of consideration, several German, English, and French writers have pretended that it is possible to classify the food given to the cows, and afterwards to determine their value, according to the quantity of milk which they cause to be produced. They have thus admitted, in a general manner, that 100 lbs. of good meadow hay (well harvested) are worth

200 lbs.	Potatoes.
460 "	Beetroot, with the leaves
350 "	Siberian Cabbage.
250 "	Beetroot, without the leaves.
250 "	Carrots.
80 "	Hay, Clover, Spanish Trefoil or Vetches.
50 "	Oil-cake, or Colza.
250 "	Pea Straw and Vetches.
300 "	Barley or Oat straw.
400 "	Rye or Wheat straw.
25 "	Peas, Beans, or Vetch-seed.
50 "	Oats.
500 "	Green Trefoil, Spanish Trefoil, or Vetches.

If these proportions are just and well established, which we will readily admit to a certain point, it is also right to say that there are certain inaccuracies, which it will not be useless to mention. Thus, is it not plain that the straw and hay grown on a rich and loamy soil are much more nourishing than that grown on exhausted