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Questions and Answers. Miscellaneous

Ration for Cow.

In "The Farmer's Advocate" of October 15th, which comes to our house, the question is asked by A. I. S.: "What is a good mixture for five cows, to get plenty of milk, as I have hay, oats and bran, but no pasture?" That will be our case this winter, and I was much interested in the reply. You give the quantity of silage and roots each per day, and you give the proportions of oats and bran, but not the quantity each per day. We have a large Shorthorn, and would esteem it a great favor if you would say how much oats and bran per day she should get, and also about how much hay she should be fed per month?

A. S. P.

Ans.—As a rule, dairymen feed grain in the proportion of about a pound to every three or four pounds of milk given by the cow. A big Shorthorn cow, not a very good milker, would require possibly a heavier proportion of grain to milk than this. Try anywhere from six to ten pounds per day. It is rather difficult to state just how much hay the cow should get. If it is first-class hay, from ten to twelve pounds per day should be good feeding, provided she is getting roots and other feed. If silage and roots are fed in abundance, a smaller quantity of this would do.

Ration for Calves—Basement Barn.

1. Would you kindly tell me, through your valuable paper, the best ration for calves, and whether two quarts of oats a day is too much for a four-months-old calf?

2. Is a basement the best kind of a barn to build?

J. S.

Ans.—1. A good ration for last spring's calves is all the fresh, well-cured clover hay the calves will eat, this kept in a manger before them all the time; then give what pulped roots and silage they will clean up. They will do very well on the roots alone, or on the silage alone, but it is advisable to give both where they are available for young calves. If we had to do without one or the other, we would prefer the feeding of roots to silage. Two quarts of oats per day is not too much for a well-grown, four-months-old calf, but it would be too much for some calves not thrifty and fully grown for their age. Some good feeders prefer to give the oats to young calves whole, although most stick to the plan of having them rolled or crushed. There is no better grain than oats for the calves. If you are very anxious to push the calves to the limit, a little oil-cake meal, cotton-seed meal, or some proprietary calf meal might be used to fairly good advantage.

2. This question is rather difficult to answer. You do not state the class of barn you wish, whether it is to be a combination stock and grain barn, or just a grain barn. For a stock and grain barn in one, we certainly believe that a basement is preferable. A barn must be placed on a foundation, and it is far better when stabling is required, to put it under the barn and build what is commonly known as a bank barn, but be sure and have plenty of light in the stable. Old-fashioned basement stables were nearly all too dark, small windows, and few in number, not being sufficient to let in the required amount of light. There is more danger of getting too little light than too much. Besides this, make some arrangement in building a basement barn for a thorough system of ventilation. If these two factors are well looked after, there is little danger of the basement being damp. Light and ventilation will correct this evil, and then the basement is just as satisfactory for stock as any stable built entirely above ground.

A budding author sent a humorous paragraph to the editor of a daily paper. Not finding it printed within a reasonable time or hearing from the editorial department, he wrote to inquire about it. "I sent you a joke about ten days ago. I have heard nothing respecting its safe receipt, and should be glad to hear whether you have seen it." The editor's reply was as follows: "Your joke arrived safely, but up to the present we have not seen it!"

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