

Raising Calves.

The easiest way to raise a good calf would be to follow the method practiced by breeders of pure-bred beef cattle—let the calf run with its mother for a time, and afterwards let it have access to her morning and night. That saves the trouble of milking, and ensures a fine, thrifty young animal. But, unfortunately for us and for the calf too, we cannot afford in ordinary practice to lose the butter-fat, and therefore we must do the best we can with skim milk. Breeders of pure-bred dairy stock make a practice of bringing calves up on skim milk, not alone because like other people they prefer not to lose the butter, but because they believe, no doubt with good reason, that if a calf is allowed to get very fat, its value as a dairy animal is thereby lessened.

For the first day at least—some say for three days—it is better for both cow and calf to be together. Let kind nature have her way for a little while; the calf will get a better start, and milk fever—that awful peril—will more likely be averted. Feed new milk only for one or two weeks, and when the change to skim milk is made let it be done gradually, occupying a week. Feeding should be done at regular intervals, three times a day, and two quarts and no more each time. At the end of three weeks the calf may be fed twice a day only, but with no increase in the amount given daily, until it is about six weeks old, when the quantity may be gradually increased, until at the age of four months it is getting ten quarts daily in two feeds. The most common mistake made in feeding skim milk to calves is in giving too much, and giving the milk cold. The feeling seems to be that, as the poor creatures have been defrauded of the cream, the lack should be made up by an extra quantity of what is left. Indigestion and diarrhoea follow. The condition of the bowels should be closely watched, and if any sign of scours appears, lessen at once the amount of milk given. Great care should be taken to have milk at proper temperature. Some recommend the use of a thermometer to make sure it is heated to exactly 98 degrees.

Almost from the start it is well that a calf should have a chance to chew at some nice hay. This ought to be fed in a small rack to hinder its being befouled, and at first given only in handfuls, the amount being increased according to the needs. But something more should be given, and here is where difference of opinion comes in. Some feed oil cake boiled and put in milk; others ground flaxseed, treated similarly; some give oatmeal porridge, and others ground oats dry with hulls sifted out, and good results are obtained by all; but on the whole, we think the most satisfactory food with which to supplement the milk ration is whole oats. At the age of two weeks or over, if a little handful is put in the calf's mouth after it has had its milk, it will begin to chew, and soon find the box where more can be got. Keep the box clean, and give only what will be eaten up.

For spring calves, it is better not to turn them onto grass until the heat of summer is past. While young and getting a sufficiency of milk, they thrive better on hay than on juicy grass, and being indoors are free from the plague of flies. They ought to be kept in roomy box-stalls or pens, and not allowed to suffer from lack of bedding. Calves treated in this way will be in fine condition to be turned out in September, and to continue thriving on what milk may be spared and pasturage, or on pasturage alone. They will look like but distant relatives of the stunted, weak, pot-bellied creatures which disgrace too many farms, and which, by their wretched expression, seem continually to be wondering why they were ever born.

In Favor of Dehorning.

The Live-stock Report, published by one of the largest live-stock commission dealers in the U. S. markets has the following on dehorning:

The appearance of occasional large bunches of horned cattle at the various markets justifies a reiteration of the facts concerning the comparative value of horned and dehorned steers. The feeder will tell you that he leaves the horns on because he believes it cruelly to remove them; another thinks his cattle look better with horns. If a person once sees a few loads of horned cattle arrive at the market, some with their sides gouged, and the hide materially injured, and others with the horns broken off by contact with the car, he will cease to believe in the cruelty of removing horns in the proper manner. On the other hand there are very few men who can afford in this day of close competition to lose twenty cents per hundred pounds on their cattle simply to have them more pleasing to the eye. At the present time, the shipping and export trade furnishes the outlet for the greater part of the choice steers that reach this market, and buyers for that trade seldom, if ever, purchase a horned steer. With them this discrimination is not a matter of sentiment, but one of dollars and cents, as more dehorned cattle can be shipped in a car, and this without so much danger of injury. The removal of this competition invariably causes

horned steers to sell fifteen cents to twenty-five cents lower than dehorned steers of the same quality. Add to this the increased docility and lessened injury to dehorned cattle in the feed-lot, and you have the practical reasons why horns are objectionable to the beef producer.

The process of dehorning is simple, and if properly attended to can be performed without injury to the cattle. Where possible, the dehorning of the calves is always the safest method, but on older cattle dehorning in the fall seldom produces any noticeable bad effect. This article is not intended to give any new ideas on the subject in hand, but simply to keep before the minds of cattlemen a point which often means the loss of dollars if neglected.

Lonk Sheep.

The Lonk sheep is a native of Lancashire, Yorkshire and Derbyshire hills. They are horned in both sexes, with mottled faces and legs; some of them are white-faced. Towards the south of the Riding of Yorkshire, the breed has been crossed with the Cheviot and Leicester, and has been improved by both. Towards the north, it



Lonk Ram Lamb.

has oftener been crossed with the Heath sheep, and then the legs and faces are black or gray, or spotted. They carry a superior fleece of fine, moderately long wool, which is closer in texture and more springy and elastic than the wool of the Scotch Blackfaced. The Lonk is larger, thicker made and better woolled than the latter, and was well represented at the Royal Show at London last year by a half dozen exhibitors.

Maple Shade Barn Plan.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

We are sending you, as requested, a copy of the basement plan of the barn we built in 1903 on our Maple Shade Farm. In drawing the plan a slight mistake was made. In the rows where we tie the cattle the second row from the west shows 13 stalls—there should only be ten, as in the one next. These stalls are for single beasts, and are 4 ft. center to center in

width. At the other end of the plan the second row to the left shows 12 stalls, which should be 11. These stalls are intended for young cattle, and are 3 ft. 4 in. in width.

We are very well satisfied with the general plan of the stable, and if we were to build again this plan would suit us in every way. It is roomy, light, and well ventilated. Above all, it is convenient and handy. Two things we would probably change in the detail would be the doors. There are two doors leading out from the feed passages, which are of no use and should be solid wall, and the doors going out from behind the cattle are too wide—6 ft. by 4 ft. is plenty.

When we put the wide doors in we intended to use a boat and horse to clean out the stables, but on consideration we decided to put in a litter-carrier, and have found that we are much better pleased.

There are some other smaller details that we might change, but on the whole we are perfectly satisfied, and have failed yet to see a stable anywhere that we liked so well.

In the stable as we have it there is no allowance made for horses, and of course this would be required on an ordinary farm, unless one has another building for the purpose. We use the main stable entirely for cattle, and from the east end, running south, we have a wing which we use as a sheep pen, and from the west end, running south, we have a wing, containing all box stalls, where we keep our older bulls.

I have noticed a short note in your issue of Feb. 2nd, in relation to plank frame barns. I should like to ask the writer if he ever saw plank used in the frame of a barn? The barn above described is 114 ft. long by 24 ft. wide, and does not contain one solid stick of timber. The side posts are 18 ft., supporting a round roof, which is 54 feet at the peak from the ground. The strength of a plank frame depends entirely upon the way in which it is braced.

Ontario Co., Ont.

W. A. DRYDEN.

A Plea for Non-breeders.

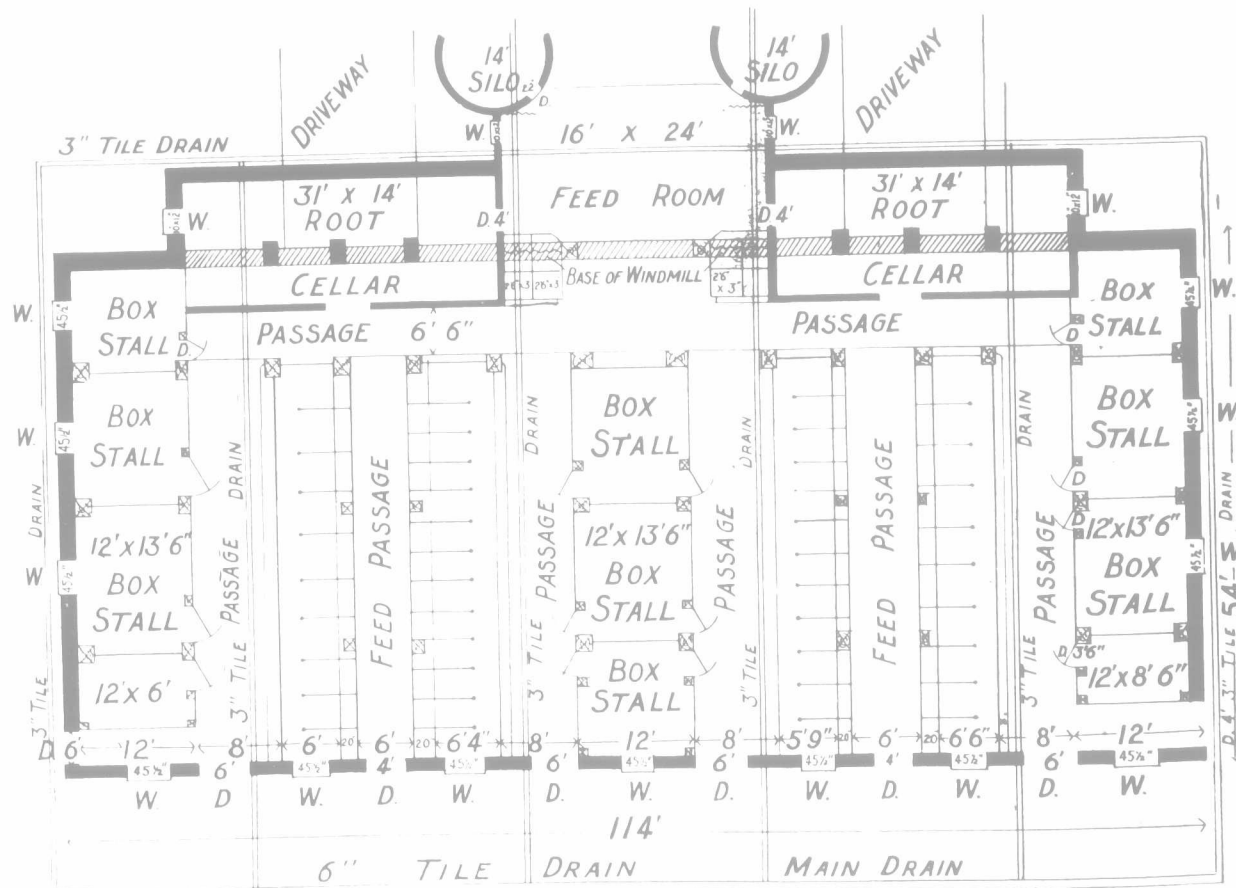
It is the belief that many valuable cows are needlessly sacrificed on the shambles, that prompts me to a few lines on their behalf.

Some of the breeders of the beef breeds have the fashion of breeding some of their cows at a certain time, that the calves may be of good age for the fall shows. For this reason, sometimes months elapse before certain cows are bred. Other breeders are possessed of an extremely kind disposition, and determine to let a little-too-thin cow have a few months' rest to recuperate after calving.

The man who tries to play the show game often gets disappointed, and at last arrives at the conclusion that a calf at any period of the year would be very acceptable. To him I would say take the youngsters as often as and when you can get them. If some are of good age for showing, well and good; if others are not, value them just as highly.

To the man who feels like giving his cow a rest because she does not carry quite enough flesh to suit him, I would say don't; but let her go on with her earnest endeavors to more than pay you for her board and care, not forgetting, however, to be good to her at all times.

It is this running on for a few months that causes many cows to become non-breeders. The mouth of the womb becomes closed, and they



Basement Plan of New Barn on Farm of Hon. John Dryden & Son, Ontario Co., Ont.