

THE DAIRY.

KEEPING UP THE FLOW OF MILK.

If drying off cows within one month after parturition, and causing them to go dry eleven months in the year, will, in ten generations, reduce the flow of milk so much that the dams will not give enough to sustain their young, going dry four months of the year must have a proportionate effect in the same direction. It must be apparent to the dullest apprehension that going dry three or four, or more months in the year, must produce an effect very different from giving milk the year round.

No farmer should be so ignorant of physiological law as not to appreciate the inevitable effect upon the milking capacity of cows, between going dry a very long time or a very short one. The difference is greater with heifers than with cows of established habits. It is important that heifers should be milked continuously, if possible, and it is better for older animals that their season for milking should run well nigh to the next birth.

It is thought by many that a good long season of rest, in which to recruit in flesh and strength, is the best means for fitting cows for successful future work, and, no doubt, it is better than to let them get reduced to poverty and great feebleness, but it is better still to supply them with feed enough to sustain them, and let the flow of milk continue as long as it will, than to feed so scantily as to cause them to run so low as to require stopping to rest. There is no more need of a cow's stopping milk to rest than there is of a musician's stopping practice several months to give his fingers increased strength. The longer he abstains from practice, the more his fingers lose their skill, and his will the power to control them, and it is about the same with a cow's udder. The longer it is idle the more is its aptitude for secreting milk enfeebled.

We say, let the milk continue to flow. Ample feed and good care are better than a rest. They will make a cow give more milk at less cost, and make her endure longer.

SYSTEM IN THE DAIRY.

We want to say a strong word for system in the dairy, and by system we do not mean those general customs that have the cows come in in the spring, milk twice a day and skim and churn at regular periods. What we mean is a close, economic, money-making system, that looks closely after the tidbits and minor points of the business. It is the sum of these that go to make up the balance of profit in the dairy, while their neglect just as surely will mark a loss, no matter how good the general plan may be. There should be regular hours in the dairy not only for feeding, skimming, and churning, but for doing each important act, such as cleaning out the stable or scrubbing the dairy room, as well as days set apart for all the extra work of cleaning so that it will not be forgotten. The most important items of system in any business are those of account keeping. In any business the man who has it in charge should be able, from his books and the adoption of a regular system, to compare the work and results of one year with another, so that he may be able to tell at a glance whether he is going forward, backward, or standing still. To do this intelligently, the system must include keeping weights of milk produced, of individual animals if you can, but of the gross yield sure. Then the amount of butter made and the separate amount sold. By such a system of accounts you will see what months you made the most butter and what months it sold at best

prices, and thus you can shape things to bring these two points more nearly together in future. System in small things is the main feature of successful management, and the man who will take the most trouble in this respect is sure to make the most money in dairying.—U. S. Dairyman.

HOLSTEINS VS. JERSEYS.

The *Irish Farmers' Gazette* reports an experiment in comparing the dairy value of the Holsteins and Jerseys, in which two cows were selected from the best shown at Amsterdam, imported to England, and there compared with two ordinary, well-bred Jerseys, the two pairs having the same treatment so far as stabling and kinds of feed were concerned. In the first test of fourteen days, the Dutch pair consumed a total of 1,295 pounds of feed, consisting of hay, grass, cabbage, bean meal and barley meal; and the Jersey pair consumed 906½ pounds of the same food in the same proportions. The Dutch cows averaged through the period twenty-seven and one-half quarts of milk per day, and the Jerseys fifteen and one-half, but the Dutch milk made but twenty-three pounds thirteen ounces of butter, while the Jersey milk made twenty-eight pounds three ounces. In a subsequent test made from November 24 to 30, the cattle were fed wholly in the stables, and with similar food to that given above, except that that they had some mangolds. In this test the Dutch cows consumed 1,140 pounds of food, and gave 365 pints of milk, which yielded ten pounds one ounce of butter, while the Jersey cows consumed 755 pounds of food, and gave 194 pints of milk, which yielded thirteen pounds three ounces of butter.

DIFFERENCE IN MILKING.

It is a fact, says the *Minneapolis Tribune*, that a poor milker will spoil almost any cow, and there are but few people who are aware of the fact that in the mere process of milking a great difference is made in the yield of a dairy cow. The ability to bring a cow to her largest yield of milk varies with different milkers. Some are in reality very poor ones. Owing to the fact that a large proportion of what a cow gives at a milking is secreted during the process of milking, it must naturally follow that unless the cow is in a quiet, contented state of mind, and satisfied with the milker, that the usual secretion of new supplies during milking will not take place. It is generally owing to this cause that cows oftentimes "hold up their milk," as it is termed, and this cannot be obviated so long as the cow is in a restless state of mind and dissatisfied with her milker.

Does your wife, daughter, or hired girl do the milking? If so, we say keep the barn-yard well littered and clean. Have a good gate at the yard, and a nice, clean walk to it.

When a cow's teat becomes obstructed with thick, stringy matter, and when this is forced out, thin, watery stuff is drawn out instead of milk, it indicates garget. This trouble may be caused in various ways. Lying in a cold, wet spot out in a field at night, a sudden change from hot weather to cold, squeezing the full udder as she lies down, chasing about with a full udder, indigestion from any cause—all these will cause it, and so will bad milking, such as leaving bad milk in the teats. When it happens the cause should be discovered and the proper remedy applied. Usually a dose of linseed oil or a pound of Epsom salt with a teaspoonful of ground ginger, and rub the udder with camphorated ointment, will remove the trouble in twenty-four hours. The udder must be completely cleared of the matter and milk in it.

The *Dairyman* warns farmers to mix kerosene with lard when applying it for lice. When kerosene is used alone it is apt to leave blisters.

An exchange thinks heifers intended for the dairy should not be fed on fattening food. Plenty of coarse provender is better. It enlarges and strengthens the digestive organs, and when they come in profit, the tendency will be to milk and not to fat.

A GREAT deal of butter is injured in quality before the milk is brought from the barn or stable. If poor butter is the result, the housewife or dairy-maid is not the one to hold responsible. If cows are well bedded, and the milker uses due care there will be much fewer complaints of ill-flavoured butter.

In skimming the cream off from milk, there should always be milk enough skimmed with the cream to give the butter, when churned, a bright, clean look. Butter churned from clear cream, with little or no milk in it, will usually have an oily or shiny look. This shows that the grain of the butter is injured, which affects the keeping qualities of the butter.

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When a new milch cow has her calf taken from her, she will often hold up the milk apparently for the purpose of saving it for her offspring. It will require kindness and patience to overcome this habit. The operation of milking is pleasant for the animal, and if she is given a mess of warm slops while being milked her attention will be so diverted that she will yield without remembering her calf. It is important to milk clean from the first, as retention of milk in the udder injures it and tends to decrease the yields.—*American Cultivator*.

Mrs. E. M. Jones, Brockville, Ont., owns the Jersey cow, Maggie Rex, 28623. In twenty-one days in March last, this young cow gave 872 quarts of milk, making forty-seven pounds eight and one-half ounces of butter. For seven days the butter yield was seventeen and one-half pounds. Mrs. Jones writes the *Country Gentleman* that the cow's feed averaged eighteen quarts daily of bran, oats, barley, corn and peas ground together, a small portion of it being oil meal, not exceeding two quarts daily, and a few carrots and good hay.

Feed decides the amount and quality of the milk and butter. It does not pay to keep a cow on half rations and have her go dry three or four months, and hardly pay for milking for three months more. This manner of treating the cows is decidedly unprofitable; but that many farmers so manage theirs is only a matter of common observation. The cows should be so bedded and treated as to keep them in full milk, as long as possible. This should be the aim in their keeping, and not to see on how little feed life can be kept within their bodies.

According to an exchange, two remarkable experiments affecting the production of milk have lately been made in France. In one case two cows were taken, each giving the same yield of milk, and were fed upon exactly the same kind of food except that the water given to one was warmed to a temperature of sixty-six degrees Fahrenheit. The latter animal's return in milk was shown to be one-third greater than that of the other. A similar experiment was made at the Agricultural College at St. Remy, the results being precisely the same.