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Farm Dairying

VI.—The Heifer and the Udder.

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[Copyright, 1911, by A. C. McClurg & Co.] T pays in more ways than one to

on friendly terms with our animals. You must pet and talk to the young heifer so as to gain her confidence and affection. Place her early with the herd of milk

cows and watch that no harm befalls her. A sudden fright from a dog or an unusual sight may cause her to

Go through the process of milking her to accustom her to being handled. See that her calf is removed unknown to her twenty-four hours after birth. Go into the stall soon after the calf is taken away, groom and caress the young mother, and if she gets the idea that you are the baby so much the better for the milk pail.

The helfer's udder for a few days after calving is swollen and inflamed and often painful. She is nervous and excited. If you have been in the habit of handling her, she will allow you to gently rub her udder and draw a little milk. The relief thus given will further instal you in her affections and her last thought would be to lift a foot to kick you. The kicking cow is not born; she is made that way by the milker. It is a good plan to clip the long hair from the udder around the teats. When milking this hair is often caught with the teats and pulled, causing pain which makes the heifer

To get gentle cows there is nothing like raising them yourself. The cow seems to partake of the disposition of her keeper. No dairyman can afford to have a man in his stable who is rough

The First Calf. If the helfer is thrifty and strong she may have her first calf from two to two and a half years old. If delayed, longer she is apt to acquire the habit of putting her food into flesh. It is well to delay the coming of the second calf for a few months longer than is usual in the mature cow. This gives the young heifer a better chance to develop, as there is not the extra tax on her during the heaviest flow of milk. It ought not to be necessary to dwell upon the point of feeding a heifer generously. She is as yet immature and must have plenty of good food to build up her own body as well as nourish the unborn calf. Many farmers as soon as a cow becomes dry let her hunt her own living or half starve her, excusing their neglect by saying she is doing nothing for her board. Is she not preparing herself to work again every day for ten or eleven months, besides presenting her owner with a calf? If you wish to establish a long milking propensity you must be persistent in milking the heifer after her first calf. It is then that the habit of a long or short milking period is formed. Dry her up at seven or eight months and it is difficult ever after to get her to milk for ten months. For this reason keep on milking her for ten or eleven months, no matter how little milk you may get. It is better to have the heavy flow of milk in the winter, when prices are higher and help more plentiful. Cows coming in in November and December go on the grass just when there is a tendency to a falling off in the milk flow. The change to fresh pasture stimulates the secretion of milk, and it is like a second freshening. Fall calving is better both for the cow and the calf. They receive better care and are not so exposed to extremes of weather. It must be remembered that a cow must not be neglect-ed when dry. This is her building up period, and she should get plenty of good food and be in vigorous condition

Ussue and fat. When cut, it has soft, spongy, pale grayisb pink appear ance. There is a partition running lengthwise through the udder, divid ing it into two distinct and uncom nected parts. If a cow lose the use of one of her teats, the milk may be largely drawn from that quarter through the other teat on the same side, but if an accident happen both teats on the same side, half of her usefulness as a milker is gone.

The birth of the young is the pri mary incentive to the secretion of milk by all animals which suckle their young. In the wild animals and in the scrub cow the udder is small and imperfectly developed, and secretes only for a few months. Intelligent feeding. selection and breeding -have resulted in an enormous development of udde and an almost continuous milking peri od in the best cows. The Secretion of Milk.

milk.

There are two general theories ad vanced in regard to the secretion of The metamorphic (meaning change of form) claims that the milk is due to a breaking down of the celi

structure of the udder. We can hard-ly accept this, for it would be almost impossible for a cow to build up and break down the cells to the extent of as high as from 50 to 100 pounds of

milk per day. The transudation or filtering theory claims that the milk filters or oozes through the tissues from the blood as it courses through the udder. Neither can this explanation be wholly true. for constituents found in milk are almost lacking in blood-fat, for example.

A combination of these two theories appears reasonable. As the blood courses through the udder from it are taken substances to build up thousands and thousands of tiny cells stored with materials which afterward form the greater portion of the solid constituents of the milk. All day long these cells keep developing, and the udder grows larger and larger. The blood is charged with an extra supply of water.

The cow has now the materials in readiness to make the finished product. milk. We have provided her with food and water. With these she has carried on the manufacturing process to a certain point, but she needs some outward assistance to finish the work thoroughly. She gets this assistance from the calf when it presses the teat in its mouth or from us when we likewise squeeze it in our hands.

We place our hands on the tests thinking we do so in order merely, to draw the milk, but we do much more than that. We are coworkers with the cow in helping her to make the milk. and the better we understand our part of the business the larger will be the returns.

Action of the Nerves The materials for the milk are stored in the cells of the udder and in the blood. Its final sccretion is brought about by the action of the per hence the great importance of the nervous constitution. If a cow were giving ten quarts of milk at a milking and she were killed just before being the plot. The internal from the broken down cells and the water units to form milk, which finds its way through the minute channels to the milk cistern at the top of the teat, whence the milk is drawn by the down ward pressure of the hand on the teat ward pressure of the hand on the tent through the teat canal and escapes. It takes the fat globules longer to get to the outlet, hence the reason for the richness of the last milk drawn. Milk is a product which is subject to remarkable changes while in the body of the animal secreting it. Intense

pain, fright, anger, all leave their traces in the milk- In the human mother the first two of these have been to infuse the milk with poison and to cause convulsions, and sometimes the death of the nursing baby. It is reasonable to suppose that what is true of the human family applies more or fless to such a highly develop ed, sensitive animal as the dairy cow. Some cows leak their milk. This is due to the muscle at the teat opening being too lax, it may be remedied by a rather risky operation. Other cows are very hard to milk, the muscle being too tight. Remedies are given for this defect also; . . The flow of milk is usually greater

in the morning and the percentage of fat slightly lower than at the evening milking.

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