

The Feeding of the Herd

THE best proof of the ability of a dairy farmer is found right on his own farm. Unless he has been able to make his cows give him a good living, improve his farm, and pay a reasonable dividend on the investment, he is in no position to advise his fellow-dairymen as to how they should conduct their own herds. Jas. Hotson, of Oxford Co., Ont., the development of whose splendid herd of pure-bred and grade Holsteins was described in a recent issue of Farm and Dairy, answers the test for dairy ability, and his feeding methods will, therefore, commend themselves to his fellow-dairymen.

"There is no time when a cow should be fed more carefully than just before and for a few days after freshening," remarked Mr. Hotson to an editor of Farm and Dairy. "More than half the udder troubles come at this time, and in almost all cases bad udders are due to bad feeding."

Six years or more ago I had a heifer with a badly swollen udder, but that is the only case with which I have had to contend in many years. Before the cow calves, I am careful not to feed heavily, and for the first week after calving I feed lightly and then increase gradually. I hold back particularly in grain feeding. I would rather be under feeding a cow at this time than over feeding. Another point in management I would mention is this: Do not milk the cow out dry for at least two or three days after freshening. The time-honored practice is to strip the cow out. It is much better for the cow to milk out only partially at first.

Corn a Great Standby

Practically all of the feed grown on Mr. Hotson's 156-acre farm is fed to the live stock on the farm, most of it going to the dairy cattle. Corn is one of the great standbys. The silo, built many years ago, is one of the old-fashioned rectangular kind, 12x15 feet and 30 feet high. This silo is built of concrete. The hay is a mixture of clover and timothy, the timothy being added more as an insurance of a crop than because of the esteem in which it is held as a cow feed. Mangels and turnips are also grown and are valued chiefly as conditioners. In addition to feeding all of the products of his own farm, Mr. Hotson buys concentrates.

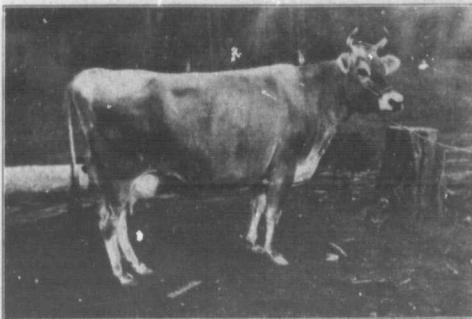
"If one is going to keep well-bred dairy cows, he might as well plan to feed them," is the way in which Mr. Hotson states the case. "Our older cows and heavier milkers get six to seven pounds of chop and two pounds of oil cake each day. The heifers and poor milkers are fed a little less grain."

Order of Feeding

"We first feed the ensilage and then feed the chop on the ensilage. Then comes milking. This is followed up with what hay the cows will eat and mangels. The milch cows get hay at noon and at night the feeding practice is the same as in the morning. If the oats run out, we buy bran. I like to have oil cake to feed, however, whether we have oats or not. I have been feed-

ing it for several years, and oil cake has always given good results.

"In feeding our calves we are up against a same problem as all other farmers who send milk to the cheese factory—lack of skim milk. In recent years, however, our factory has been making butter during the winter, thus being a market for our milk all the year. During part of the year, therefore, we now have skim milk, and for this reason I prefer to have the cows freshen in



Another British Columbia Cup Winner in the R.O.P. Test.

Buff's Lassie captured for her owner, A. H. Menzies, of Pender Island, the cup going to the highest place for a British Columbia Jersey in R.O.P. work. Her year's record was 10,777 lbs. of milk, and 573 lbs. of fat.

the fall or early winter. We are then able to give the calves a good start on skim milk. In any case, they are fed whole milk for six weeks, during a part of which time they are gradually changed over to skim milk or whey, as the case may be. As soon as the calves are old enough, they are fed grain, but we do not ask them to depend much on grain feed until a few months old."

Calf Rearing Without Milk

By "Herdsman"

STRICTLY speaking, I have raised only one calf without milk. More strictly speaking, I did not raise it; the poor little creature died when a few months old. In this article, however, I am using the phrase in its generally accepted meaning; that is, from the standpoint of the farmer who sells whole milk and does not wish to feed milk at all after the first few weeks. I prefer to raise calves on skim milk until they are five or six months old, but in several cases I have had to do without skim milk, and although at a disadvantage, have succeeded in raising good calves. Such feeding, however, calls for exceptional care and good judgment. It must be regarded altogether as an artificial method and much more difficult of success than when Nature's own food—milk—is available.

The plan that I have always followed is to wean almost immediate-

ly and start the calf drinking its mother's milk from a pail. At two weeks old, or three weeks if the calf is not perfectly strong and healthy, I would withdraw one to two pints of its mother's milk and substitute gruel, which I made from the patent calf feeds and carefully followed the directions sent out by the manufacturer. These manufacturers have made a special study of this method of feeding calves, and as they wish their meals to give good results, their instructions are worth following. At six to seven weeks old, the new milk is dispensed with altogether. The change from new milk to gruel must be made very gradually or the calf will be upset. At seven weeks old, in addition to its supply of gruel, the calf should have been taught to eat a little mixture of oil cake and ground oats, but mostly oil cake. From this age it should have good hay available. Let me emphasize again the value of the cake. The unnatural food that the calf is getting puts a great strain on its digestion, and nothing will alleviate it so well as oil cake. At the end of four to six months, the gruel may be omitted, depending on the strength of the calf. In the meantime the supply of grain has been increased, oats and bran occupying an increasingly important place, the quantity of oil cake practically remaining stationary. At six months the calf will be eating a good quantity of hay, also of silage and roots.

Avoid Digestion

"While all along the calf must be given almost an unrestricted diet (I mean unrestricted in quantity), the attendant must take care not to overdo him, so that his digestion becomes impaired, as nothing is more unsightly to a trained eye than a calf suffering from indigestion, easily diagnosed by the blown-out appearance, thin back and pinched expression in the face. The gruel should be continued until the calf is at least four or five months old, and longer if possible. Besides care being taken in feeding, there are a few other points to be attended to.

"For one, the pens must be kept thoroughly clean and an ample bed of wheat straw gives the calves. Also the calves should be allowed a little exercise daily, either in a yard or meadow, and if it is autumn or winter they should be let out when the sun is strongest, while in the heat of the summer the late afternoon or early morning is the best time to choose.

"Perhaps the most important thing of all is to keep the pails and utensils with which the calves are fed scrupulously clean. They should be scalded daily. A lump of rock salt in the milk.

(Concluded on page 6.)



A British Columbia Cup Winner in Record of Performance Work.

Beauty of Willow 2nd, produced under R.O.P. supervision, 9,885 lbs. of milk and 46 lbs. of fat in the year. This entitled her owner, W. M. Beardon, of Chilliwack, to the silver cup offered by the B. C. Dairymen's Association for the best Guernsey in the province completing her record last year.—Data courtesy B. C. Dairymen's Association.

Most of us waste enough time for self-education. By the use of our spare moments we can shape our destiny.—Selinger

KNOWLEDGE

human energy

who have a brood of the work in as a thorough. Did you ever bear upon it, bearing upon it, the fund of information in order to propose other great business of mander of an army must be! Not a might spell disaster, and of men unable to awake to take even ready to meet an each case knowing to do it. Other while another is resourcefulness of

The same is true leaders in agriculture and are making rural pursuits arduous men bring power most who carry out prohibitions are those and progressive Saskatchewan the Wheeler, who has the world's champion Wheeler leaves thorough knowledge cultivation of the nation and scientific leading throughout the production and the production.

Our leading live examples of the agricultural branch of Elora, who carried Toronto exhibition before by one because of his Jimmy Watt a Kure field and he will be in the show samples could be given to the men who are the lines of agriculture have always been students of those most excellent.

The Position

The normal farmer keen desire to take are taking a leading. In the past his him away from wonders he has line of urban education. In legislative directorates of the institutions, at the every position of find men who have frosty autumn month. The success the city has dazzled until recently it still thought to be