

The Feeders' Corner

The Feeders' Corner is for the use of our subscribers. Any interested are invited to ask questions or send items of interest. All questions will receive prompt attention.

Rations Including Corn Ensilage

J. H. Grisdale, Dominion Agriculturalist, Ottawa

Ensilage may be fed direct to cattle just as it comes from the silo, but a better plan is to add to the ensilage a considerable amount, say 10 or 15 lbs. of cut hay or chaffed straw to 100 lbs. ensilage. If floor space is available for the purpose, mixing sufficient cut hay or chaff and ensilage to last several days (3 or 4) will prove to be a very satisfactory method of preparing feed for cattle and a method that they would seem to approve. Any meal to be fed should be thrown on the mixture of straw and ensilage after it is in the manger. Stir the whole mass after sprinkling meal. An average cow will consume about 40 lbs. of such a mixture of ensilage and straw or hay a day.

Corn silage and straw or chaff, while together making up a most excellent foundation or base, do not alone constitute a well-balanced or suitable ration for any class of live stock. For feeding heifers or young stock some corn and clover hay should be added. A suitable ration would be as follows:

FOR YEARLING HEIFERS

Corn silage 25 to 35 lbs.
Straw or chaff 4 to 6 lbs.
Clover hay 4 lbs.
Bran 2 lbs.

FOR BAY COWS

Corn silage 50 to 60 lbs.
Straw 8 to 10 lbs.
Clover hay 4 lbs.
Bran 1 to 2 lbs.

FOR COWS IN MILK

Corn silage 45 lbs.
Straw 6 lbs.
Clover hay 4 to 6 lbs.

Meal mixture; bran, oats, gluten or oil-cake meal or cottonseed meal, equal parts. One pound meal to three or four pounds milk produced per diem.

STERS RUNNING OVER WINTER

1,000 LBS. WEIGHT

Corn silage 60 to 75 lbs.
Straw 8 to 12 lbs.
Clover hay 2 to 4 lbs.

FATTENING STEERS (1,000 POUNDS)

Corn silage 50 to 60 lbs.
Straw 6 to 10 lbs.
Hay 3 to 6 lbs.
Meal—Starting at one pound go up to 10 lbs. a day.

A good meal mixture would be corn, bran, barley and oil cake meal, gluten meal or cottonseed meal. Take bran and corn, bran and barley, equal parts or bran, corn and barley, equal parts, to which add an amount of any one of the last three equal to one-quarter of the total weight of the meal mixture when ready to feed.

Feed For a Freshened Heifer

I have a heifer that freshened in good condition. How should I feed her for the first few weeks to keep her up in flesh as well as sustain her milk flow? N.H.K., Oxford Co., Ont.

In feeding your heifer we would suggest a ration consisting of 30 to 40 pounds corn ensilage, 16 lbs. of clover hay. From a meal ration, consisting of the following: 300 lbs. bran, 300 lbs. ground oats, 200 lbs. corn meal, and 200 lbs. of oil cake, feed about one pound of the mixture to each four pounds of milk produced. As you do not state what feed you have on hand we take it for granted that you can obtain any of these feeds.

During her first period of lactation, the heifer should be fed well and milked for nine or 10 months at

least, so that she will get the habit of prolonged lactation. If heifers are poorly fed and dried off quickly in their first lactation period they will have a tendency to do this all their working life.

We should remember that at no time during the period of lactation does a cow give such large returns in milk or butter fat for feed given as when she is fresh. The same amount of feed will produce twice as much milk with a fresh cow as when the period of lactation is considerably advanced. It is here that many dairymen make the mistake in feeding their cows. They start to feed as when starting in from the very first to feed the cow what she will profitably consume.—E.

Silage or Roots For Dairy Cows

Which is the better crop to grow for dairy cows, corn or roots? I am planning to have 10 or 12 acres of his crop this year. Would it be advisable to erect a silo for 10 acres of corn? F.L.K., Peterboro Co., Ont.

The larger proportion of the hoo crop should consist of corn for ensilage. Corn is the cheapest roughage that can be grown on the farm. Many experiments have shown that the average crop of corn produces twice as much dry matter as would a crop of roots from the same area and that this dry matter is of equal value for feed, pound for pound, as the dry matter of roots. In addition corn is much the cheaper crop to raise, as practically all of the work can be done by horse power, while roots require thinning, which must be done by hand. Some practical farmers have estimated that it costs three times as much to produce a pound of dry matter in the form of roots as in the form of corn.

Roots, however, have a value for milk cows, that is not indicated by their chemical analysis. Roots possess a succulence not equaled by corn ensilage, and a few pounds added to the daily ration gives the cows better appetites and keeps them in a more healthy condition than where corn alone is fed. We would suggest that 10 acres of hoo crop two acres should be devoted to mangels. These are preferable to turnips in that they do not cause bad flavors in the milk and are easier to keep through the winter, turnips rotting badly towards spring.

Anyone growing 10 acres of corn should have a silo. It will add from 10 to 20 per cent. to the value of the corn for feed as well as lessen the labor of feeding in the winter. A good crop of corn from 10 acres would require a silo 12 feet in diameter and 30 or 35 feet in depth to store it.

It Pays to be Clean

It pays the agricultural journal to keep its advertising columns clean. This may not be true if present financial returns are the sole object of the paper's existence. But it is true of every paper that is worthy of a welcome in the farmer's home.

It pays the dairyman to be clean. Clean cows, clean stables, clean milking utensils, clean milkers and clean milk—this is the keynote of success in dairying.

It pays the grower to sell only seed that is clean and that is free from weeds and other impurities.

It pays the farmer to keep his orchards clean, uninfested and free from destructive fungus and insects that injure the trees and cause the fruit to be small, uneven and wormy.

The agricultural paper which fills its advertising columns with questionable advertising, the dairyman who sells milk that is teeming with filthy and disease-breeding germs, the seedman who sells impure seed, and the fruit grower who markets wormy,

imperfect fruit in packages labeled "No. 1," are in the same class—a dishonor to their occupation and an abomination that has no rightful place in our civilization.

I greatly appreciate Farm and

Dairy and notice marked improvement each year. Each number seems to be more interesting than the last. I give each number to my neighbors and they greatly appreciate the articles.—J. D. McLennon, Kings Co., P.E.I.



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