

In Pastures Green--Plus How Much Grain

YOUNG man, I consider it a sin and a shame! Five cents a quart for milk, and this the summer time with the Almighty feeding the cows in His own green pastures!" The old lady was shaking with indignation and her eyes fairly blazed as she looked at her milkman. "There are a lot of things in this world I can't understand," she added, "and one of them is why milk should cost anything in summer. The Almighty grows the feed, doesn't He? It doesn't cost you a cent, does it? And yet I have to pay you five cents a quart!"

The milkman might have mentioned a long item of expenses that the old lady had forgotten. For instance, he might have mentioned that he was paid \$28 a month and board to deliver the milk, that one horse was required all the time for the work, that a \$150 wagon did not last very long on a milk route. Had he wished to be especially bitter he might have mentioned the fact that he was well aware that this particular old lady had always contrived to have her milkman supply her with preserving bottles. Milk bottles do very well for preserving you know. He might have mentioned such items as interest charges and labor of milking. But that he did mention was the fact that although the cattle were then in "pastures green" that they were fed grain twice a day in addition, and that grain costs good money. This is a little chapter from the experience of a close friend of an editor of Farm and Dairy when he peddled milk for a living.

This practice of feeding grain to cows on pasture is now a general one among farmers who run retail milk routes and must have a uniform supply of milk the year round. Some dairymen feed their cows grain every day in the year. Others, and these are some of the best of them, claim that heavy grain feed the year round is detrimental to the cow's system and that a rest when the cows are on good pasture in June is decidedly advisable. Probably this view is a sane one. There is nothing sane, however, in compelling good cows to pick a scanty living from bare pastures later in the summer and grain feeding is bound to become more general as its advantages are more appreciated. For the benefit of Farm and Dairy readers we have asked several practical dairymen to write us their experience with feeding grain in summer. First, we will have the experience of Wm. E. Mason, of Norfolk Co., Ont., who has produced a few Canadian and world's records in his Holstein herd:

MR. MASON'S EXPERIENCE

"Feeding grain to cows when they are being pastured on grass is quite necessary to keep the average cow in a thrifty condition," writes Mr. Mason in a recent letter to Farm and Dairy. "Many a cow has been turned to the butcher in the autumn or winter, when a few bushels of grain fed during the earlier part of summer, might have acted as a preventive in keeping and sustaining health."

"The age of cows makes some difference in the amount of grain fed as well as individuality and size. Young heifers will hardly eat any grain when on good pasture. Cows milked and fed three times daily will eat more than cows fed

A Synopsis of the Experience of Leading Dairy Farmers in the Feeding of Grain to Dairy Cows on Pasture--What to Feed and How Much

and milked twice daily. I have had cows eat nine pounds a day on grass and I believe was profitable to me. I believe the natural freshening of an animal would be a guide in amount of feed required. If she begins to get fat we would be feeding unprofitably, unless we had some other purpose in view."

AS MR. HUME DOES IT

Mr. Alex. Hume, well known breeder and exhibitor of Ayrshire cattle, writes as follows: "At one time we thought it was feed wasted, feeding a grain ration with good pasture grass,

tion. I find cows well fed in stable or pasture give from 20 to 45 pounds of milk a day two months from freshening, when if not, they give from five to 10 lbs. a day.

"Many cows do not readily take meal on pasture," adds Mr. Holtby, "and I find that bran mixed with other grain (or preferably a preparation of brewers' grain and molasses) helps to make the feed palatable. Last summer we fed from two to five gallons a day of brewers' grain and molasses, according to time from freshening, with satisfactory results."

Mr. R. W. Walker, of Ontario Co., Ont., is well known as a breeder of producing Holsteins. He tells his ideas on grain feeding as follows:

"The amount of grain to be fed to milk cows on pasture will depend very much on the quality of the pasture. We find that cows on a rich lush pasture will not take a large amount of grain feed; some cows will take a considerable amount while others will scarcely take any. We find a mixture of ground oats and bran with plenty of salt fed to them in the stable morning and night give good results. We feed each cow just what she will eat clean. It is well to start them with a small feed and then gradually increase the quantity, and you will soon find what each cow will take.

"Dried brewers' grains and molasses mixed makes a good feed for milk cows on pasture, and it pays to feed it if you can buy it at the right price. When the pasture begins to dry up in the hot weather it is the time it pays to feed grain. The cows seem to relish it better then than when the pasture is fresh."

Notice the similarity of these opinions and practices. All feed grain and all agree that the practice is a money maker. And yet lots of dairy farmers with good grade or even pure bred cows never think of feeding grain in the summer months. Is not the practice worthy of a trial when it is so heartily endorsed by leading dairy farmers?

Why the Son Stayed

By E. L. McCaskey

I recently had a short conversation with a dairy farmer who struck me as having about the right idea of how to keep the boy on the farm. He told me that the oldest son, a sharp young chap of 21, once got the city fever. This farmer immediately began to make improvements around the farm. The broken down teams that he knew his son had always objected to, were replaced by some good brood mares of the Clydesdale breed. He gave his son full scope to go ahead and modernize the dairy stable. In short he took his son into partnership, and to-day the boy is his father's right hand man on their Hastings county farm, and both are exceedingly well satisfied.

After all, isn't this merely an application of the Golden Rule? The farmer who expects his son to be simply a superior sort of hired man, even if he gives him a hired man's wages, will never reconcile the boy to country life. All that the boy wants is a square deal. He wants a chance to develop the best there is in him, to feel that he is doing things, growing all the time. The boy who doesn't want to develop had better leave the farm anyway. He won't make good there.



A Case for Supplementary Feeding

Here we have good cows and lots of shade but practically no pasture. Supplementary feeding is necessary. What shall we feed? In the adjoining article a few good dairymen give their experience with feeding grain to cows on pasture--8-one in the Fox River Dist. of Illinois.

but after several years experience we have come to the conclusion that it is profitable to feed a grain ration composed of a mixture of two-thirds oat chow to one of bran in bulk all the summer through, even when there is good grass. It helps to keep the flesh on the cows and is a reserve force when the grass begins to dry up, thus keeping up a regular flow of milk, also preventing them getting too loose in the bowels. Barley chow as part of the mixture is all right, especially if it is grown on the farm."

R. W. HOLTHBY TESTIFIES

"In answer to Farm and Dairy's question, how much grain to feed on grass," writes R. W. Holthby, Durham Co., Ont., "I would say enough to keep the cow from falling in weight. I find that a cow will milk when fresh apparently without feeding grain, but soon falls in flesh, and then in milk, and your pay for feeding grain mainly comes from keeping her to her produc-

I believe his father by growing on it, more even, could live on the farm in the most of the crops and hence I believe I might of the same smart and hired help have been right and is to give it is possible child. As paying inventory credit and neighbors us to try to that we need ment of our that will be the minds i and also fu of profitabl one who is few hours c steady work thus keep o the willing our section for our prod ployment in for the head for the boys might be te cities, where to keep life starved and young man might have hope of ever mere drudge tent for the can furnish, visit to the n

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Remember, who own or trying to do life and starve for their told that the