

## The Feeders' Corner

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

### A Great Combination Cow Feed

J. H. Grisdale, Dominion Agriculturist

We supplement our corn with clover hay. We grow about 50 acres of hay every year and we expect it to give us 200 tons. Last year we had 225 tons. But we expect to get four tons to the acre and we almost always get it. We supplement that mixture of corn ensilage and clover with bran, gluten and oil cake meal and a little oats and I do not know anything that will beat that combination: bran as a basis, 600 pounds, oats about 100 pounds, gluten meal about 200 pounds and oil meal, 100 pounds.

If you cannot conveniently get both gluten and oil cake meal, one will take the place of the other. I would not advise your trying to put quite as much oil cake as you would gluten and if you cannot get the gluten, put in a couple hundred weight of oil cake with the bran and oats and if you cannot afford the oil cake, put in ground oats. The latter is a rather expensive feed and the only excuse for feeding oats with bran or shorts is that it is the most palatable food you can give.

There is no meal food that will be so acceptable under all conditions as the cow as a little ground oats. I have seen what might be considered a very poor ration, giving good results provided it contained a fair supply of oats and if you want to make it exceptionally palatable, put a little water in it just before feeding. We do not recommend farmers to wet the food for the cows, but if you want to make a cow eat a lot more meal than she otherwise would, there is no more sure way of doing it than adding ground oats to the ration and putting water on it. She will eat 25 per cent. more than if you gave it to her dry. Extract from an address at Perth.

### Ration for Fattening Steer

I have a large bin of Swede turnips, red clover, ground oats, barley and buckwheat and can use corn meal and oil of coarse straw. What combination of these feeds would make a well balanced ration? In what quantities should they be given to steers and at what time to get the most gain from now until spring?

With the feeds mentioned, I would suggest the following ration as likely to give the best results: Swede turnips (pulp) 40 to 70 lbs., according to size of steers; wheat chaff, sprinkled on roots, 5 lbs.; clover hay (according to size of steers) 6 to 10 lbs. Meal mixture: corn, 100 lbs.; oil cake meal, 100 lbs.; oats or crushed, 200 lbs.; barley, 200 lbs.; buckwheat, 200 lbs.

The amount of meal to feed will depend upon the amount being fed when the change is made. It is not wise to make any very striking change in the meal ration nor in the roughage either for that matter. Supposing the steers to have been getting three or four lbs. of meal a day, then I would suggest giving them four or five lbs. of the new meal ration. Increase from half lb. to one lb. a day each at the end of a week or 10 days. Watch every steer carefully, for any signs of going off feed and slack up at once on the whole lot if more than one shows signs of losing appetite. In about two weeks change the proportions of the meal by doubling the corn meal and a fortnight later change again by doubling the quantity of oil cake meal.

Feed half the roots in the morning.

Scatter half the amount of chaff fed on the roots. Scatter half the amount of the meal mixture on chaff and roots. Water after feeding. Give a small amount of salt apart from feed. Keep the steers comfortably by giving lots of bedding. Treat them kindly and curry if possible. Currying should be done at evening time. Allow steers to lie all they will.

If in habit of feeding very early or very late in the day then a light feed of clover hay and a pound or so of meal at noon might be advisable but generally speaking two meals a day is the best plan.—J.H.G.

### Suggestion on Calf Feeding

Can I improve on the following ration for calves. I am feeding first in the morning of skim milk from the separator with one and a half lbs. of oil cake meal. Then one and a half pints of ground barley, 2 quarts of pulped turnips and at noon straw. At night the feeding is the same as in morning. My calves are very different feeders.—A. Kings Co., P.E.I.

The ration described seems to me about as good as could be devised with the following possible improvements: Some of the grain might be fed whole, say the oats, part of the meal ration and roots might be increased. The oil cake meal might be replaced to the extent of about half the quantity fed with corn meal. Straw is too expensive a feed for calves. It takes too much out of them to digest it.

Shorthorn calves may be expected to do well on a ration that suits an Ayrshire. It is probable however that a Shorthorn would eat slightly more than an Ayrshire of the same age.—J.H.G.

## Our Veterinary Adviser

**ABORTION**—Cow aborted two weeks ago and gives little milk. She would with best due to calve in March, would it pay to breed her again? If I breed her I can buy a fresh cow for the price I will get for her.—J.W.S., Huron Co., Ont.

She may gradually increase in milk if well fed and regularly milked. It is probable she would carry her calf to full term next time; but there is, of course, a danger of her again aborting. As the conditions are, as you state, it would certainly be safe to sell her for beef and buy a fresh cow.

**CRIPPLED PIGS**—What causes pigs to get stiff? I had pigs found and a half cured some of them. They became stiff. I butchered some of them and found them full of worms. Would worms cause the trouble?—J.W.S., Huron Co., Ont.

Crippling is usually caused by high feeding and want of exercise. Treatment consists in purging with two to four ops. Epsom salts, feeding lightly on milk, bran and roots, and allowing plenty of exercise. In your case it is probable that worms are causing the trouble. Treatment consists in starving for 12 hours and then giving castor oil about four drams of oil of turpentine and eight ops. sweet milk. Repeat treatment in ten days.

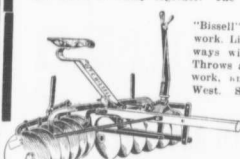
**STRING HAIT**—I have a mare four years old, that is very high from the hind feet very high from the hind feet. The trouble is in the tendons of the hind feet. I have tried the trouble.—N. K. L., Ontario.

Your mare has stringhalt, a very sore. It is supposed to be caused by a nervous affection. Local applications or the administration of medicines do no good. An operation which consists in severing the peroneus tendon in many cases effects a cure. It requires a veterinarian to operate.

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