

common sense would continue to produce milk under such circumstances. Whether, however, the plan advocated is the best, is, I think, matter for question. No doubt, by delaying her second calf we may prolong her full milking period almost indefinitely, but under somewhat unnatural conditions, and it is very doubtful whether the fact of her having been milked for a lengthened period under such conditions would at all effect her under the altered conditions following her second calf. Besides, is it desirable to have a cow milking forty-eight or fifty weeks out the fifty-two? I think not. Cultivate the habit of milking by all means, but is it not better to have a cow giving her quantity in, say, ten months, and being done with it, than to have her stripping on for another month or five weeks, giving only a quart or two and counting as one to be milked all the same? Strange as it may seem, I am certain a cow will give more milk in a series of years, milking ten months and going dry two each year, than if milked on continuously, or nearly so. As a rule, I find that the cows giving the best records go a reasonable time dry—from six to nine weeks generally—and if I lived up to my belief should set every cow dry at least six to eight weeks before her reckoned time of calving. Again, as to the time of calving: Under ordinary treatment, a heifer will, I think, milk best calving on the flush of the grass, but very much depends on the quality of the grass or on the treatment and feeding given to her if she calves at another time of the year. As a matter of fact, a well-fed heifer calving in March has about the best chance to milk well, always provided she has been so fed as to set her udder thoroughly, because just when she is beginning to fall off in milk, a little fresh grass may be expected to spring her again, and prolong her full milking period.

Of course, the same thing holds good with a cow, although in both cases it is very largely a matter of feeding. Many of my best cows have been autumn calving heifers, and, as a matter of fact, I prefer autumn-calving heifers for making good milkers. Possibly it may be because my winter feeding for the milkers is somewhat liberal, and for the heifers (kept, as they must be at an off farm, mainly on hay) not calculated to set an udder as it should be, but nearly always the autumn calvers come in with far better shows than the spring or early summer ones. This only bears out the remark about the necessity of having

a heifer's udder well filled and hard before calving. It is, however, quite possible to overfeed a heifer before calving, and the winter feed required to set her udder is liable to unduly fatten her body: and while a fat heifer will often calve with a splendid show, she rarely milks as well as one with a good show, but only in good condition herself, and not fat. For this reason I rather fancy autumn calvers; the summer's grass has a tendency to fill the udder more than to fatten animal—at least the second-rate grass that most heifers have to be content with has this effect, I think. When the heifer is once calved, it is difficult to over-feed her, but she must be well milked, and every time, her milker must get every drop possible, and then, like *Oliver Twist*, unblushingly ask for more. Even a moderate heifer so treated will develop into a fair cow, while the best possible heifer, if badly milked, will turn out a poor cow. Such is my experience at least.

The Poultry-Yard.

FATTENING CHICKENS No. 2.

To the Editor of the JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE:

In my last notes on fattening chickens there were some few details I omitted. One is that young cocks make the most gain, pullets do not seem to fatten so well; (1) another idea is that the young pullets make good layers for the winter.

The gains per week for the 200 chicks were as follows: first week 173½ lbs, 2nd week 19 lbs, 3rd week 26½ lbs, 4th week, being the first week of stuffing 140½ lbs, 5th and 2nd week of stuffing (2) 103 lbs, the last 6 days they made a gain of 80½, a total of 547 lbs, an average gain of 2¾ lbs for each head. The reason why there was very little gain during the 2nd and 3rd weeks was that the ground feed was not ground fine enough, and the chicks took sick, some of them even died, the first week of ordinary feeding, and the last 3 weeks of stuffing they did very well.

At the experiment made at Carleton Place, Ont.,

(1) Curiously enough, our experience is just the reverse, and we have fattened many a score of both. If cockerels fattened more easily than pullets, why make capons? Ed.

(2) In England we use the word "cramming." Ed.