

Soils and Crops

Address communications to Agronomist, 73 Adelaide St. West, Toronto

The Calf and Its Mother.

Every heifer calf that is to be raised for the dairy should have a good mother. Maybe I am putting the cart before the horse by mentioning the mother afterwards, but it is the calf that I want to say the most about. With the market for all kinds of dairy products rapidly advancing, and so few farmers devoting any special attention to the raising of better producing cows, it is clearly to our advantage to take greater pains in developing cows that have the capacity to produce greater quantities of milk and butterfat at a lower cost.

On the dairy farm it is the cows that are the money makers, and the way we feed and care for our calves is the cornerstone upon which we build up our dairy business. If we are interested in getting good calves we must begin by feeding the mother a proper ration of good nutritious food, blood and muscle-building foods. If these foods are withheld she cannot produce calves that are large and vigorous and possess strong constitutions. We make a serious mistake when we think of the cow as a milk-producing machine rather than a mother. It does not pay to leave her out in the cold, to exercise in a chilling wind and confine her to a ration of straw, inferior hay and fodder and expect her to bring us a robust calf and give a profitable flow of milk during the year. The unborn calf suffers in the same proportion as the cow that is carrying it when such conditions prevail.

Many cases of abortion, milk fever, garget, or a calf born weak and feeble, is developed in some way the direct result of mismanagement on the part of the owner of the cow. We must come to realize that to nourish an unborn calf and keep her own body supplied constitutes a heavy drain on the cow's system. Hence, the necessity of furnishing her with a properly balanced ration containing home-grown grain feeds properly supplemented with protein concentrates and all of the good, palatable roughage, in the form of alfalfa, clover or various other types of hay. I am a great stickler for corn in the ration, because corn is a food that seems to have a special value in building bone and muscular tissues. In a test at the Wisconsin Station to ascertain the relative efficiency of various foods used for feeding cows that were with calf, it was found that the problems in corn were particularly valuable in supplementing the protein in wheat. In the case of wheat alone as a feed for cows carrying calves, the addition of corn caused the most wonderful results in insuring stronger and more thrifty calves.

As calving time draws near the prudent caretaker will see that the cow's digestive system is in good condition and withhold all heavy, heat-producing

ing foods. This will minimize the danger of milk-fever and caked udder. Get her into a box stall and provide her with a clean litter of straw. It is always best to let nature take its course, but be near at hand in case any assistance may be needed.

Immediately after the calf is born give the cow a pail of warm water with a little bran added, and a few whole oats. Warm water and oats seem to aid in expelling the placenta. As a general proposition I believe it best to remove the calf from the cow as soon as possible, as they both seem to forget each other and do less well. Be sure that the calf gets the milk as it acts as a gentle purge and starts its digestive organs to working naturally. Give the calf whole milk for the first few days and go slow in making the change from whole-milk to skim-milk. After the first month the calf will be able to get proper nourishment from other forms of fat substituted in its diet to take the place of the fats removed from the milk by skimming.

I have found rolled oats and old process linseed meal excellent grain feeds for young calves and I always try to encourage them to eat a little hay as early as possible. Second cutting clover alfalfa seems to give the best results; fine timothy is also relished by the calves and gives good results, especially when their feeds contain plenty of digestive protein. The use of roughage in the calf's ration should be encouraged as it tends to enlarge the digestive organs and enables them to make better use of their grain feeds.

Keeping the feeding pails and pens clean is another important factor in raising healthy calves. A little time spent in pitting and fussing with the calves and teaching them to lead is time well spent as it will be easier to train them when they are ready to take their place in the herd. And when the time comes that they are ready to be milked they will not be afraid of you and have to have their legs strapped to prevent them from kicking.

When to breed the young heifers is another important question that has an influence upon their future usefulness in the herd. If they have been properly fed and cared for they may safely be bred for their first calf so early as the end of the first year. Some excellent breeders prefer to breed them early and give them a good, long, growing period between their first and second freshening. A heifer that freshens when she is twenty-four months of age and is given a period of five months before she is again bred will make a good growth and have a tendency to milk for a longer lactation period than is the case when she is bred back too soon and not given time to build up a more vigorous body.

that furnishes the results of what we call brooding, but the heat of brooding induces sleep. Little chicks, if put in comfortable, dark compartments several times a day, especially after each meal, so that they will sleep, will live, grow and thrive. Such a compartment is called a fireless brooder.

A Wagon That Ran Fifty-six Years.

Some time ago I visited a farm of 20 acres, and there I saw an old wagon which was doing the farm work in as good shape as a new one could. I asked the age of the wagon, and found that the owner had bought it of the original purchaser, who had first bought it in 1863.

At first thought this seems an impossibility, because so many of us leave a wagon out in the rain and the sun too often. This one was inside practically all the time it was in use, and it had been frequently painted. When it was time to paint, the whole wagon was washed just like a carriage or automobile, and any needed repairs were taken care of. No places were left for rot to start.

There has been only a new tongue and a bolster on the rear end in all these years. There may have been a new reach, though the owner was not sure. The high wheels and narrow tires put on when the roads were stoned. Reaches and tongues often break in new wagons, and so practically nothing had been replaced because of decay or old age.

Implements that last fifty-six years must be made right in the first place, and must also be cared for. Some time ago I was on a drive of 600 miles, and noticed the very few remaining old-fashioned wooden windmills. But not one of those I saw was unpainted. Paint is the reason they are there today. The painted ones were gone long ago. I noticed also that the other buildings on the farm where the windmill were usually in good shape, which points to an oral that needs no mention here.

The day of the poorly-lighted, badly ventilated, dirty and unsanitary city factory is passed. So is the day of the badly-kept milk factory—the cow stable.

Get boxes ready for seed planting.

Rabbits as a Sideline.

Nowadays any sideline that will help reduce living expenses is worthy of serious attention. In this connection we have found rabbits most interesting and profitable. They can be kept in almost any backyard and usually require less room and are cheaper to feed than poultry. They are also rapid multipliers and a few breeders will keep an average-sized family well supplied with meat.

A small start can be made with only one or two does. We prefer either, purebred Belgian hares or a cross between a Belgian hare doe and a Flemish Giant buck. For a beginner the best way is to buy a doe already bred and get her from a reliable breeder. If she can have a small range she will pick up most of her food. Weeds, dandelions, plantain, etc., are all good foods. Any green stuff from the garden, such as lettuce, cabbage, carrot tops, mustard, parsley, and turnip tops may be utilized to advantage.

The supplied feed should be a handful of good milk as it is easy to digest at night, while just before she is due the doe should have a warm mash in the morning—at least in cold weather—and bran and middlings are excellent for this purpose. In the winter, when green stuff cannot be procured, rabbits readily eat dry clover or alfalfa hay. One can buy a bale at any feed store and feed it a little at a time.

Each doe should have a hutch at least five feet long, two feet wide and two feet high. This allows sufficient room for exercise. Part of this should be divided off and closed in the front so as to form a sleeping compartment. The front of the run can simply be fine mesh wire netting.

The hutches may be placed in tiers of two or three high, when desired, the best place for them being inside an old shed or outhouse. Rabbits can stand a great deal of cold, but if their hutches are out in the open it is best to put them in as sheltered a position as possible and see that the top is thoroughly waterproof.

Give each doe plenty of straw bedding, with which she can make her nest. It is best not to be inquisitive about the little family when it first arrives, as the mother usually resents interference and we have found most of them quite capable of managing their offspring without assistance—at least for the first two or three weeks. Litters usually run from three to ten in number—six is a good average.

The youngsters will not eat any supplied food until two or three weeks old, when they should begin to have grass or hay and oats. Feed the mother well in the meantime, as this greatly helps in making the little ones thrive while she is nursing them.

We have found it best to wait at six weeks, at which time the youngsters can be sold for pets or to other people for raising. However, if one wants to market them early and give them a good, long, growing period between their first and second freshening, a heifer that freshens when she is twenty-four months of age and is given a period of five months before she is again bred will make a good growth and have a tendency to milk for a longer lactation period than is the case when she is bred back too soon and not given time to build up a more vigorous body.

The doe should not be bred again until a week or more after weaning the young, so that she is in good fettle to mate again. By following this practice our does have four litters a year, which is ample. If bred too quickly the litters are not likely to be so numerous nor the individuals of maximum size or strength.

Birds are the farmer's friends. Remember this while the snow is on the ground and see that crumbs and suet are placed where the birds can get them.

The Welfare of the Home

Labor Savers Are a Good Investment.

By Ida M. Alexander, M.D.

I have just returned from the country. I confess I was glad to get back to the city and have no longing to live in the country again. That is not because I cannot stand as much hardship as I once did, but because that hardship is not a necessity. Take the question of water for instance.

Why should the pump be twenty rods from the house with no way of getting it except by carrying it into the house in a bucket? My brother has a windmill to pump water for the stock but the water for the house is carried in by the bucketful. His wife does most of it herself. She is one of those healthy, independent creatures who boast of perfect health and who think carrying water two hundred rods every day by the bucketful is no hardship at all. While my brother is delaying the investment of a few hundred dollars in a water system for the house, he is saving the interest on his money and wasting his wife's health, strength and energy. Think a moment. This same amount of time and energy spent in raising chickens would bring in at least three hundred dollars a year while this brings in nothing but an aching back.

I know one farmer's wife who raised a family of seven children and who carried every bit of her washing water up from the creek. She admitted that she had always wanted a water system, but she had never had the money to buy it. I asked her husband why he could not afford to buy the machine he needed for the farm while he could not afford to put in a cistern for his wife. "Why," he replied with surprise, "she can have a cistern if she wants it. I always have to risk her life in only one way—'d very much about it.' The following summer, the

THE CHEERFUL CHERUB

I love to see a tragic play
Where things are
wrong as they can be.
It makes my own life
seem more bright—
Things sometimes happen
right for me.



Never Is Short of Help.

I was sitting on the porch of a country house one evening last summer, and a neighbor stopped at the gate and a farmer friend came in. Voices were heard in the machine at the gate and he was invited to bring his friends in.

"Oh! no," he said. "They are a couple of the hands who wanted to go to the movies. We have a busy week ahead of us, so I brought them along. I will wait about town and drive them back tonight."

I thought he surely was a most considerate farmer, and spoke of it afterward to my host.

"Yes," my host returned. "That is why he is never short-handed in the busy season. He drives into town with the men or women, and even comes after them in the morning if he possibly can. In no other way could he so well keep his help. Sometimes the hands have families in town; so they only come in to spend their money; but to make sure that they will be on hand in the morning this farmer either waits for them or goes or sends after them. It is twelve miles from town to his farm."

He also claims that after an evening in town or at their homes, the people do better work, being more cheerful and content to stay as long as he needs them."

Surely this is proof that consideration on the part of employers goes a long way in solving the help question.

Growing Onions at Home in Mid-Winter.

It happened that one winter some onions which were beginning to grow were carelessly thrown upon an ash heap in the corner of the cellar. These took root, seeing which, we watered them, and soon there were an abundance of delicious tender onions several inches in length stretching toward the light of the window above. Thus the table was furnished with fresh, young onions the rest of the winter, and proved so acceptable that since that time we have regularly planted onions each winter in ash boxes in the cellar, occasionally watering them, and with uniform good results. As a crisp table garnishing for "thy good stomach's sake," and to reduce the H. C. L. we heartily recommend the plan to others.

A field of winter rye upon which the hogs may be turned early in the spring and on which they may feed while the other forage crops are being sown and started, will help out wonderfully in the amount of grain food required to keep them in a good, thrifty condition.

Ways to Keep Your Dog Well and Train Him Right

A good healthy dog should have no more diseases than a well-cared-for horse. Worms are usually present in puppies when you get them, and a teaspoonful of syrup of buckthorn once a week will rid him of them. Watch his feces when you take him for a walk, as they are a certain indication of his general health. If too tight, add more vegetable table scraps; if too loose, he is getting improper food, and you need more blacuit and should cut out the vegetables for a while.

If you note white, squirmy segments it is a sign of tapeworm. Get five cents' worth of pumpkin seed, grind up in a mortar, and boil for half an hour, and mix the resulting seedy pulp with his food, when it will be gobbled up as a matter of course, and will generally kill the tapeworm.

If the segments still persist, treat him with powdered area nut, one grain to each pound weight of the dog. It is a violent poison, so the dog is first fasted twenty-four hours, and then given the dose with his food, and within two hours followed up with a tablespoonful of castor oil to clear him out, or you will poison the pup as well as the worm. It should not be given to any pup under eight months.

Fleas are a pest which will make a dog miserable all summer. A bath in a tub of water, with about a tablespoonful of creolin dissolved in it, will kill millions of fleas, and if repeated twice in a summer will be enough. Eczeema frequently attacks pups, and is the result of bad feeding. It shows up with continuous scratching behind the ears and under the armpits, which soon become red and sore. The diet I have given above will guard him against it. Also treat his coat with a half-and-half mixture of crude oil and flowers of sulphur.

Distemper is the great dreaded disease of dogdom. It is very like typhoid in a human, and comes from his smelling posts and trees that have been patronized by dogs who have had it. Never take your pup to town if you can help it, particularly in April, May and June. If, however, he gets it, it will make its appearance with a high fever and a running nose, or if it is of the intestinal type, there will be yellow pustules on his stomach and inside his thighs.

The time to act is immediately, for if it gets a four days' head start the pup is gone. Make a warm flannel coat for his chest and back, and keep him outdoors in his kennel, unless the weather is cold and inclement. Shoot a dose of anti-distemper serum under the skin inside his thighs with a hypodermic needle, and feed him nothing but meat broth and beef, iron, and wine. Your aim will be to keep up his strength while he fights the disease. Usually, unless for no really good distemper serum has yet been discovered. Distemper runs its course in fourteen days.

Keep down the fever with child-size doses of sweet spirits of nitre, and feed him by pouring the broth down a funnel made by pulling open his cheek while holding his mouth closed, for a few drops will or can set during distemper, and must be fed forcibly. The rest is hope and careful nursing, followed by the utmost care during convalescence lest he catch cold, for most dogs die of pneumonia. I usually have my pups shot with a dose of the serum in April, and keep them close at home until June, when the danger is much less.

The training of your dog hinges on just two accomplishments: to stop and lie down at command, and to walk quietly by your side when ordered to.

Insurance on Farm Buildings.

The high cost of building materials and labor would bring their present replacement cost up to a figure which would stagger any farmer who is so unfortunate as to suffer a serious fire. Only those who have had occasion to build or make extensive repairs during recent months realize the extent of the increase in construction costs. But every farmer will do well to take this situation into account under present abnormal conditions and see that his fire risk is reduced to the minimum as well as his insurance adequate to the changed situation.

Farm insurance is generally given little attention except to pay the premiums and renew policies on expiration. But it is a factor of the farm business which is of more than ordinary importance under present conditions, and which consequently merits more attention than is ordinarily given to it.

Don't abuse a hog that refuses to be driven. Act as if you had a little sense, even if the hog doesn't.

Profiteering is taking all you can get and giving as little as you can. How about some coifs and hens?

Do you know how much the family coif is worth to you each year? Keeping accounts might show.

Every dog should be taught these two fundamentals.

The basis of all training is affection. The dog naturally loves you, and is pathetically eager to do anything you want, if he can only understand your wishes. The difficult thing is not to give way, yourself, to furious outbursts of temper at some one of the many aggravating things a pup will do and it is the master's part to make the puppy really understand what is wanted, for he does not know the English language! He is not a human child, but a canine one, and his natural world is totally different from ours, but he does understand the language of tone of voice, and that you must be careful to keep kind and firm. Never strap a young puppy, nor do anything really brutal, no matter how great your righteous anger may be. One or two such wild outbreaks on your part will ruin your influence with him forever, and beset in him fear in place of loyalty and affection. If a thoroughbred, his fine blood will tell in the end. Bribe him shamelessly, with titbits and dog biscuit, and make the doing of your wishes a joy to him, with a substantial reward attached.

In that way only can he be raised to doghood, a gentleman. At two to four months he should learn general manners—things that no dog can do—and also reasonable obedience, for a puppy; at four to eight months, minding your whistle, coming when called, walking quietly beside you when required—an irksome business for any pup!—and not to rush out and bark at people and carriages, or to jump all over one's new overcoat with muddy paws; and at eight to twelve months his yard breaking as a hunting dog will begin, if he is one of those breeds.

Roaming, and disobeying at what the dog considers a safe distance, can be checked with an air rifle. The dog soon learns that once out of your reach you have no power to punish his disobedience, but an air rifle, judiciously used to enforce commands, will cure that, and make him fear to incur your displeasure as far as he can see you. If you have an unfenced truck garden or flower beds on the place, it will probably be necessary to keep the dogs penned up when not out with you or the children. No scheme of tying a dog by a leash or a running line, such as a ring strung on a taut wire, seems to work. He will always wind himself up around any fixed point of attachment, and if tied by a ring to an overhead line will sit at the house threshold and howl.

A yard of his own, even a small one, 10x20 feet, of chicken wire, will do well enough. It is the least that the dog objects to, and most hounds will bite it in two. To keep a dog chained to a kennel is surely a condition of punishment.

Another and most serious fault in all dogs is the propensity to fight. No more senseless thing to do can be imagined than to encourage the fighting dog to attack other dogs. Head off this tendency in puppyhood, and keep your dogs out of fights—if you wish future peace of mind. Chasing chickens is another bad habit not to be tolerated about a farm. In the fall the chickens should run free about the premises, and Mr. Dog is to let them severely alone. One two-day session with a dead chicken hung about his neck will cure the most ardent.

But most well-raised farm dogs are well-mannered enough to be allowed the freedom of the place and join us blithely in all our doings. If well-bred—and it is you that must make him so—he will be a continuous delight, and a welcome and useful addition to the farm family.

The treasure that modern salvage ships are raising from the sea might make these old adventurers who used to search for sunken galleons turn in their graves with envy. In one day the salvage ship Racer got \$350,000 worth of gold from the White Star liner Laurentic, which was sunk in 1917 off one of the northern headlands of Ireland.

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TRAINING LITTLE CITIZENS

Many parents long for the time when their child shall "show reason," and then, the majority of them proceed to check the development of their little one's reasoning power by resorting to methods of punishment which tend to fill him with fear! Not infrequently they resort to slapping, spanking, whipping or even telling terrible lies in order to frighten him into obedience.

This kind of training naturally produces a lawless child; for through fear of unjust punishment he resorts to dishonesty in self-defence; then, as the example of his parents teaches him to strike when angry. Let parents reverse this process, be honest and kind but firm with the tiniest child and teach him the importance of obedience and consideration for the rights of others; the cultivation of these qualities forestalls most troubles. When a child is disobedient let the parent "talk it over" with him in a reasonable, self-controlled way and reach a fair conclusion.

A mother cannot begin too early to train her little one. Before the child is old enough to understand words he understands the difference between her smiles and frowns and by the expression of her face she can teach even a little baby the difference between right and wrong. For example, take the habit of pulling the table cloth from the table; let her look directly into his eyes, her smiles all gone, take his hand from the cloth and shake her head with "No, no." She must have patience to do this well, but by these first lessons in obedience she is saving much future trouble for him, for herself and for society.

Of course there are times when discipline and punishment are necessary, and when parents need to correct their children they should do so in private. To permit another person to enter into the discussion or even overhear it and smile at such a time utterly ruins the effect of the punishment and the lesson is lost if it is not clear to the little one that right conduct brings approval, whereas wrong doing merits disapproval and discipline.

A very effective form of punishment is social isolation. For example, excuse a child from the room and make him sit facing a corner in another room by himself; at another time send him to bed early; at another, have him eat his meal alone, away from the other members of the family. If he quarrels with his playmates make him play alone while the other children are happy together, until he is willing to be agreeable. Another form of discipline is to make a child go without something of which he is very fond, no dessert for dinner, or no candy for several days are punishments which have a good effect. But to lock a child in a dark closet or to threaten him with terrifying lies is as harmful and useless as whipping, for such treatment instills dishonesty and cruelty into him.

Parents who use the rod or hand most often are generally the ones who complain that their children are naughty and disobedient. "Spare the rod and spoil the child" seems to be the one Scriptural text familiar to some frantic grown-ups. Many a mother who cannot manage her own little one either whips him or reports his misconduct to his father, too often telling only her own side of the story, for in such cases the child is not allowed to appeal to the father as judge, but must submit to the whipping which his parents mete out to him at a time when they are tired and irritable. Let grown-ups cultivate self-control and justice and remember that wise parents never punish when they are angry but wait until they can see the child's misdeed from an impersonal point of view.

To associate anger with physical blows is to plant the seeds of war in tiny children. Before we can replace war with arbitration among nations, we must do so in the home.

Machinery Speeds Up Firewood Cutting.

Machinery is valuable in cutting firewood and especially valuable now when in many localities there is need to save all the coal possible. Machinery speeds up wood-cutting, and means more wood and therefore more coal saved.

A buzz-saw or a drag-saw will cut several times as much wood in a day as can be cut by hand and will do it much more easily. Wood-sawing machines are comparatively inexpensive, and when well cared for will last a long time. On farms which already have gasoline engines or other sources of power, little extra outlay is necessary. Most of the outfits may be operated by a small number of men. Repairs and upkeep usually are moderate.

The cost of cutting a cord of wood with a buzz-saw is approximately twenty cents. All small trees and cord-wood can be cut readily with a buzz-saw and a circular saw, but logs above ten or twelve inches in diameter can best be cut with a drag-saw, although the latter will not cut so rapidly. A sawing outfit may be owned co-operatively, or may be used for custom work.

Water, says a philosopher, is one of Nature's most lavish and cheapest gifts to the human family and should be employed without stint, literally, externally and eternally.

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will do both—cure the sick and prevent those "exposed" from having the disease. Sold by your druggist.

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