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### FARM AND DAIRY

# Breeding the Heifers for Winter Dairying An Old Argument Restated by E. L. McCaskey.

D URING the summer months of 1915, many heifers will be bred to come in milk in the spring of 1916. Would it not be better to carry them over a few months longer and start them off in their milking career in the fall of the yeat? Other things being equal, 1 am fully conviced that winter dairying is more profitable than summer dairying, that cows will yield a greater total of milk and fat in a lactation peried and that the production of that milk will be less of a strain on the aminal, than where they freshen in the spring. This I know from personal experience as a dairyman. Recently

sonal experience as a dairyman. Recently heep browsing through one of the farm journals from the other side of the line for which I subscribe, I came upon the actual experience of a United. States dairyman who had recently tested the matter out in the own herd. He found an advantage of fully 20 per cent. in milk flow and fat production through fall freshening. This is as I would expect it to be.

Winter conditions are more conducive to milk flow. The cow freshening, say, Novenber first, will have six or seven months in the stable under uniform conditions, with nothing to check her flow. The dairyman has time to spare during the winter months and will be careful in his feeding if he is a good cow man. Well built stables do not expose cows to hardship because of charges in temperature outside. There is time to study the individual preference of each cow in the feeding line, and then when spring comes along the fresh grass will give a fresh stimulus to milk flow.

Adversities of the Summer Milker

How about spring freshening? Perhaps the cow has a month or two in the stable.

Then, when she is working hard, she is given a jolt in the radical change from dry feed to pasture grass. However, she will not suffer much from this as the change is a desirable one. She does well up to the middle of July, or the first of August. Then comes the period of excessive heat and numerous flies. Her milk flow drops. Perhaps scanty pastures are supplemented with green feed, or perhaps with meal. In neither case will the same care be taken in feeding as is the case in winter. The farmer is too busy. By the end of the summer the average spring cow has dropped off so much that she cannot recover her flow, and she will be dry before December. The cow that freshened the previous fall, however, is giving only a moderate flow when the hot weather and the flies come along, and can stand the discomforts of summer much better than a hard-working fresh cow.

The pure bred stock man has a special reason for looking with favor on winter dairying. The majority I know regard their crops as of as much or more importance than the milk and cram. I believe it is the experience of most dairynon that calves can be raised better in the suble during the winter for the same reasons that their dams can milk better. They have better care and more equitable conditions and in the spring are big enough and strong enough to do batle with files and heat. Even in grade bards, big, well grown helfers are a valuable asset, and these can be best secured with fall freshening.

#### Winter Prices Are Higher

Another argument that 'may be advanced in favor of carrying the heifer over to the fall is the higher prices that prevail for the product during the winter. This is a considerable item per cow, about 810 under our conditions. Milk dealers are very independent in summer. There is milk and to spare within handy shipping distance of every city. In winter, however, they must hunt far and wide for a sufficient supply of either milk or cream, and they are willing to pay higher prices. Creamery prices, too, are higher during the winter, and if the butter is manufactured at house, the same argument applies. It's good business to have produce to market when the price is highest.

The ideal farming from the standpoint of fertility conservation calls for the feeding of the raw material on the farm where it is produced. Good cows, fresh in milk, will return 100 per cent. above cost of their feed. Here is a chance to market the



This Holstein Matron Believes in "Business More Than Usual." Forez broeder of purchould delay catital likes to sas his head increase Surely than N. P. Borensen, Bellingham, Washington, USA, should have been adjiefed whan this tenzerariod cow gave birth to trajekt two males and one female. Photo taken wher caires were six weeks old -Photo ourtesy N.W. Horicaliurist and Dairyman, Faccana, Wash

> crops to the very best advantage, and we get our pay right away. Where the cows are dry or nearly so, we must wait till the following summer for the pay cheque, and then it won't be as large a one.

> I know that I have not yet touched the main spring of the argument. The general practice of farmers in this locality is to rough their cows through the winter, and then get cheap milk in summer from pasture. From this practice they claim more net profit. None of them have ever kept track of those net profits; probably that is why they are so satisfied that their course is the right one. Their cows come out of the stable thin and the flush of good pasture is past before they have gained in hodily condition. By the time they have a little flesh on their ribs, flies and heat come along and they never really get a chance to do themselves justice at the pail. A half-starving cow produces a poor calf and the herd so managed is bound to go down hill. Let's whoop it up for winter dairying.

#### The Control of Sex

TF cows are bred early in the heat some experi-

Intenters believe that there will be a preponderance of heifer calves. Some investigations have seemed to prove the theory. Mr. A. C. Riebrock, in Hoard's Dairyman, tells of data secured on four of his farms. In three cases the breeding was controlled; in the fourth case the bull was allowed to run with the cows, and the inference is that the cows were bred when early in heat.

In the six years, 1997 to 1915, 580 calves were born on the first three farms, and the males and females were exactly apportioned, -180 of each. On the fourth farm, were more females were expected, 84 calves were born, 480 of each case. These figures would seem to verify the older belief that, in the long run, males and females will just balknee each other.

# With the Freshening Cow

GENERAL directions for handling the freshening cow may be summarized very briefly.

The cow must have vitality and stored up energy for the hard work of the lactation period; hence the emphasis I always lay on feeding well during the four to six-weeks in which the cow is div. As the end of the gestation period approveches, the bowels must be kept in excellent order. Frequent bran mashes are then in order, and a little boiled flax seed is an excellent complement to the bran. This feeding also reduces the danger of milk fever, a great danger nowadays with our big producing cows. Plenty of exercise is also important. A roomy box stall is the ideal place for the cow; as she moves

around her legs rub the distended udder, and prevent inflammation and caking. If the udder becomes very much distended milk out a little each day; not much.

My old sytsem was to milk a cow partly out directly after calving and give the warm milk to the cow to drink. If one does not care to do this luke warm water. with a little chop in it should be offered every couple of hours for the first day. For three or four days the ration should be light and nutritious. After that the cow may be brought down gradually to full feed. In no case should a fresh cow be milked out dry. Doing so is the most prolific source of milk fever. Milk a little out at frequent inter-When the udder is unduly swollen vals. and hard to the touch bathe in warm water, rub with camphorated oil, and on no account allow the cow to lie with the udder in contact with cold cement.

Garget or milk fever may be treated with all<sup>10</sup> oxygen injections. A breeder with valuable cows should have an oxygen pump and know how to use it himself in case of det. emergency. These precautions are the main price we must pay for the returns we get from high class dairy cows. Dual purpose cows

are not so affected. Neither are poor dairy cows.

## Peas and Oats for Hay

L. K. P., Victoria Co., Ont.

LAST year we had the third dry season in succession. All over the county the clover eathes were killed or seriously injured by the dry weather. Many farmers found themselves without sufficient hay to carry them through the winter. What are they going to do about it?

The best thing to do under present conditions is to increase the corn grop and put up a silo. Ensilage to a large extent can be made a substitute for hay. Millet is a good crop to grow to dry and cure for hay. The mixture, however that I use most frequently under these circumstances is one of peas and oats, about three pecks of each. The high price of seed peas is a disadvantage but if the farmer has been growing his gave seed, this need not deter him from using the peas and oats mixture. Cut a little on the green side, and cured, peas and oats make an excellent hay; more nutritious I believe than corn fielder or timothy; somewhere between these and clover.

When sowing this mixture I would suggest that an additional two or the acres be put in for soiling crops to help out the dairy cows when pastures are short.

Last fall I had a large crop of roots. I filled the storeroom in the barn and also the cellar of the house, and had to pit the remainder. I had never pitted roots before, so I took a sandy nook, used the scraper and plow for a while and then pat in the turnips. I covered them with straw, dirt and manure, making a thickness of 12 inches. These turnips are just as nice now as the day I put them in the pit.-W. R. Vandervoort, Hastings Co., Ont.

(5)