

The Feeders' Corner

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

Horse Feeding Problems in Saskatchewan

We have a good deal of trouble in this part of the country during winter because we have no hay for them and although we let them out every day they are not able to do so. It is scarce we use oat straw and oats and it seems very difficult to fatten horses that without their stocking up. It is all gone, the amount of straw we feed, as people have no proper way of weighing the straw here, so we give them all they want twice a day and let them out in the middle of the day. We feed two gallons of oats to each horse. The oats weigh 40 lbs. to the bushel. The horses weigh about 1,400 lbs. I may say oats are worth 25 cents a bushel, bran 61 cents and so we do not use any bran. Some people advise feeding more oats and a little salt and I do not know the dose. The good water and plenty of stock salt in the mangers. The horses do not care very much for straw so I do not think they eat too much of it. C.C.Y.R., Bradwell, Sask.

It is evident that your horses require some food other than what you are giving them. The feeding of a certain quantity of oats and purchasing with the proceeds some bran and flax seed meal or oil cake meal, whichever may happen to be available. Take 500 lbs. of oats, 200 lbs. of bran and 100 lbs. flax seed meal or oil cake and mix together thoroughly. Feed at the rate at which you have been doing in the past or a little heavier if the horses will stand it. If the horses show any signs of stocking it would be well to let them have a little more exercise, in fact to compel them to move around quite briskly for a few minutes each day.

The straw is not doing them any harm, but is rather hard on them for the reason that it is not very nutritious and the horse is not provided with a very large stomach to enable it to digest readily such coarse forage. I would suggest that another year you or secure any in your district you cut a certain part of your oat field when the oats are still very green, say just as the oat is in the milk stage, leave in shock till dry and preserve as hay. The horses will eat this very much better than they will the dry oat straw, and it will take the place of hay.

As to the advisability of feeding the salt and pepper you should not do it very frequently. The dose for a horse is about two tablespoonfuls of finely powdered material. Do not heap the spoonfuls, but fill a little more than levelful.

An occasional dose of raw luscious oil, say a pint about once a week would do your horses good and help keep them right as well as make them do better on the feed you are giving them. J. H. Grisdale, Agriculturist, C.E.F., Ottawa.

Feeds for Beef Cattle

Could you tell me the proportions in which to mix the following feeds for beef cattle? I have straw, good wheat and oat—plenty of corn in the stock, mangels and turnips, and clover-mixed wheat, oat and barley. I thought I would cut the straw and corn in the proportion of one bushel of corn to two bushels of straw, giving one and two bushels pulped turnips, giving one and two bushels of the mixture three times a day with mixed corn. Feed. Would that be right? If not, I give me the proportions of what I should feed to get the best result. H.E.T. Co.

The mixture of roughage proposed that is four of straw, one of cut corn and two of pulped turnips might prove satisfactory depending on how the straw was measured. It is very easy to make a bushel of cut straw weigh three or four times as much at one time as at another by the simple process of packing.

I would suggest the following as a good proportion in which to mix your

roughage materials. Cut oat straw 10 lbs. cut shock corn, 10 lbs., pulped roots 50 lbs. Of this mixture about 60 lbs. a day would be sufficient for a mature cow. To this it would of course be necessary to add what meal it was found needful to keep the cow or other animal in good shape. In the case of mature cow it would probably require about 250 lbs. per diem, with heifers somewhat less.

The meal had better be fed sprinkled on the roughage. If the feed is prepared a day or two ahead and does not become moderately damp before feeding it would be well to sprinkle a few gallons of water over the straw, etc., when mixing.

Grind the grain finely. Feed twice a day rather than three times. Just as good results may be anticipated and less labor necessary. J. H. Grisdale.

Ration for Cows in B. C.

Will you advise us how to feed for profit from the following available foods: Timothy hay, \$20 a ton; second crop (poor), at \$20; white carrots and red beets, \$10 a ton; bran, \$30; oat and barley chop, \$25 a ton; shorts, \$25 a ton; middlings, \$25 a ton; waste cabbage free, and some pasture until snow comes.

Cows are stabled at night all time but

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fed in the morning a little poor hay, and let out to pasture and help themselves to cabbages, turnip tops and water. At night a little good hay, one gill bran and two quarts chop each daily. C. E. W., Kelowna, B. C.

For cows producing milk as you indicate yours are doing, I would suggest the following as a suitable ration:

Timothy hay 10 lbs.
Carrots or beets 10 to 20 lbs.
Bran 3 lbs.
Oat and barley chop 2 lbs.
The cows might be allowed to eat what cabbage leaves they wished in addition to the above.

I would suggest as a better meal ration if you could get the materials, four to five pounds a day of a mixture of bran 200 lbs.; oat and barley chop 100 lbs.; oil cake meal 200 lbs. You will find it most profitable to feed about one pound of meal to about four pounds of milk produced per diem, if your hay is of very inferior quality it might be advisable to feed some what freely of the meal ration.—J. H. Grisdale.

Further efforts are to be put forth to secure more favorable legislation for the protection of sheep from dogs. The question of marketing wool may also be taken up by the Association in the near future.



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An Eye-Opener for Dairymen.

Comparisons of the quarter best and the quarter poorest out of 524 cows and 80 herds in 22 Ontario associations given by Mr. C. W. Whitley who had charge of the Cow Testing Associations for the Province, at the Eastern Ontario Dairymen's Convention held at Belleville last week. These comparisons, and the comments on these by Mr. Whitley follow.

Average yield, 5,870 lb. milk, 3.5 test, 206.4 lb. fat.

Average yield	131 BEST COWS
Average yield	131 POOREST COWS
Average yield	7,803 lb. milk
Average yield	282.6 lb. fat
Gross Receipts (fat 24 cents)	\$67.68
Cost of feed	34.00
Profit per cow	33.68

Total profit \$4,412.00

Average yield	4,197 lb. milk
Average yield	145 lb. fat
Cost of feed	34.00
Profit per cow	.80

Total profit \$104.80

Thus 25 cows made as much profit as 1,050 poor cows. It took 456 cows to make a profit of \$100 a day!

The chart presents some facts in a somewhat new light. Taking 524 cows and leaving out half of them, those that come nearest to the average, the remaining half is divided again so as to compare the quarter best and the quarter poorest. It will be noticed that in the fairly satisfactory average yield of 5,870 lbs. milk the poorest cows are included but they give only 4,197 lbs. or in other words they are credited with 1,673 lbs. more than they actually gave.

This again shows poor averages are likely to be quite deceptive. Taking simply the value of product and the cost of feed it is seen that the poor cows are only 80 cents net profit on their year's work, while the best cows gave over \$33.00 net profit.

Calculating it another way, a herd of 25 selected cows made as much profit as 1,050 of the kind that are allowed to pension themselves on the unsuspecting owner. This is the kind we cannot afford to keep—no one can, one would have the colossal task of handling 456 of such calibre to make the astounding profit of only one dollar a day. This must surely open men's eyes to the absurdity of permitting such harpies to prey upon them.

Young grass is much richer in albuminoids and contains a smaller proportion of indigestible fibre than older grass, and is, consequently, more nourishing.—Prof. R. Harcourt, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Ont.

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