

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.
Miscellaneous.

FEEDING GRAIN TO CALVES.

Calves three months old, not growing very fast; fed two quarts dry corn meal and hay at will; skim milk, 1½ gallons daily. What would you advise as an additional feed? W. B. D.

Ans.—You are feeding altogether too much concentrated meal, which lies heavy on their stomachs, digesting imperfectly and with difficulty. Reduce the quantity and change the kind, giving little or no corn meal for a time, but making use rather of whole or crushed oats mixed with a little bran, to which a sprinkle of ground flax seed might be added. Do not allow more than will be eaten with a keen relish.

CEMENT FENCE POSTS.

1. Would you advise me to use cement posts in building a permanent wire fence?
2. If so, state cost of posts and (3) the proper way of making. J. A. M. Kent Co.

Ans.—1. If you have gravel handy and the time to spare for making them, we think it advisable, as they should be practically indestructible.

2. We quote from an American bulletin that seven-foot posts, 6 x 6 inches at bottom, and 6 x 3 inches at top, counting in everything, material, moulds and labor, would cost 30 cents each. In this estimate the gravel is valued at five cents per post.

3. Moulds consist of a level platform on which boards on edge, fastened together the proper distance apart for the required thickness of posts, are placed. Somewhat rich concrete should be used, 1 to 5 say, mixed rather thin and sloppy. In the process of filling, reinforcing wires, one near each corner, should be imbedded. Twisted wire is best for this purpose. Wire staples, to which horizontal fence wires can be fastened, should also be inserted at proper places. The ends and sides of moulds may be removed after twenty-four hours, but posts should not be handled for at least a week, being protected meantime from sun and wind and sprinkled several times daily. They should be allowed to cure sixty days before being used.

WHITE GRUBS—DAIRY SHORT-HORNS WANTED.

1. I have a field of sod that I am plowing for oats next year, and it is full of little white grubs, about one inch in length and about as big around as a lead pencil. Will they hurt the grain crop, and how can I get rid of them? I have three acres of mangolds on ground that was in sod two years ago, and they have destroyed about one-third of them.

2. Can you inform me where I can get a Shorthorn cow of the dairy type, similar to the one illustrated in July 30th number of "The Farmer's Advocate." I do not see them advertised in any of the papers. And is there a class for this type at Toronto Fair? Kindly answer the above questions in "The Farmer's Advocate" as soon as possible, and oblige. Yours truly, J. H. R.

Ans.—1. These larvae are probably what are known as white grubs, which eat the roots of grasses and many other kinds of plants, particularly corn and potatoes, their injury being usually most noticeable in the second year after the sod is turned down. The first year the grass plowed down feeds any grubs which may be in the ground, and as pigs are particularly fond of these grubs, a crop such as rape or turnips may be grown the first year and the field turned into a hog pasture. The pigs will not only feed on the crop, but hunt many grubs out of the soil. Clover is seldom attacked by white grubs, consequently it is a good crop to use frequently on infested land. Leaving land continuously in meadow for a number of years gives the grubs (as well as wireworms) an excellent opportunity to increase. A short rotation is therefore advised. A flock of poultry following a plow in infested fields tends to reduce the pest materially. This is quite feasible on farms where the poultry are kept in portable colony houses, that may be drawn out to the field.

2. Unfortunately there are few breeders in Canada exploiting the demand for

genuine dairy Shorthorns, although a number of breeders possess animals approximating the type illustrated. Correspondence would probably lead to the discovery of a few such for sale. There is no special class for dairy Shorthorns at the Canadian National Exhibition, excepting that in a special section (No. 11), for cows under four years old in milk, it is specified that dairy qualities are to be considered.

BUTTERMILKING—MARE DOES NOT CONCEIVE.

1. As I am a new subscriber, this being my first year in the country, and have no experience in buttermaking, would you please give me the necessary information of the process from the cow to the market, and what would be a fair yield for one cow, giving from seven to eight quarts at a mess?

2. Mare bred last season did not get in foal. Bred her this season; she takes the horse regularly every three weeks. It is a different horse than I bred to last season. Can you tell me the reason she fails to get in foal.

A NEW SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—1. If the cow is actually giving 7 quarts twice a day of fairly rich milk, she might be expected to yield 7 to 9 pounds of butter a week, but unless the milk has been weighed or accurately measured, it is a fair assumption that the yield of milk is considerably less than stated.

The cow, it is probably needless to say, should be kept clean, and should be milked in a cleanly manner. Where six or more cows are kept, it is wise to have a cream separator, but if, as we suppose is the case, only one or two cows are kept, shallow pan creaming would be most economical. Strain the milk as soon as possible after milking into pans not more than four inches deep and twelve inches wide. Set pans in a cool cellar, free from draughts, for twenty-four to forty-eight hours. In skimming, first loosen the cream around the edge of the pan with a thin-bladed knife, then having wet the edge of the pan with milk, glide the cream carefully over into cream crock. Keep cream cold and sweet, stirring well each time fresh cream is added, until sufficient for a churning is collected, which should be twice a week. Warm to a temperature of 65 degrees twenty-four hours before churning, adding about 10 per cent. of a pure culture of good-flavored sour skim milk or buttermilk. When the cream commences to thicken, it may be gradually cooled to churning temperature. This, for gravity cream, is from 58 to 65 degrees in summer, and 65 to 72 degrees in winter. Scald the churn—a barrel or box churn is best—with hot water, then rinse with cold water before pouring in the cream. When the butter is like grains of clover seed a dipperful of water may be added to assist separation. When the butter granules are the size of wheat grains the churning is completed and the buttermilk should be drawn off through a strainer. Pour cold water on the butter and wash by revolving the churn rapidly. Salt to taste, or to your customer's taste, sifting the salt over the butter granules in the churn or after the butter is removed from the churn.

Work without grinding until butter is close in texture, the salt evenly mixed throughout, and buttermilk and excess of moisture removed. Do not overwork or it will be greasy. Butter for immediate consumption sells best in pound prints, wrapped in parchment paper, or it may be packed in crocks or parchment-lined boxes.

2. The mare may have some mechanical impediment that prevents successful coition, may have diseased ovaries, or may be barren owing to an acrid condition of the secretions of the generative organs, which is believed to be destructive to the female ova and male spermatozoa. For the last-named condition the yeast treatment is often effective. Take an ordinary two-cent cake of yeast and make it into a paste with a little warm water. Allow this to remain in a moderately warm place for 12 hours, then add one pint of freshly-boiled water, mix and allow to stand for another 12 hours. Prepare this mixture 24 hours ahead of the time the mare (or cow) is expected to come in heat, and inject it into her vagina the moment she is seen to be in heat. Breed just as she is going out of heat.

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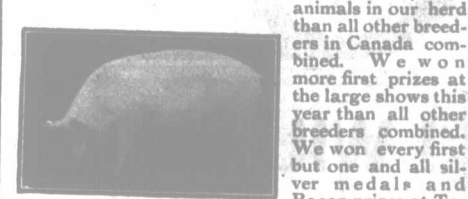
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