

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.

To Dispose of Coarse Fodder

I have a large number of corn stalks and straw over and above what my dairy cows will consume along with their other feed. Would it pay to put in steers and give them grain to feed with it, or would it pay getting some young cattle and allow them to rough it on these feeds? What profit can I reasonably expect from feeding good big steers on this rough feed in addition to what I would have to buy to supplement it? G. P. Brant Co., Ont.

I would under present market conditions and with present prospects for spring prices think it more advisable to put in steers to feed off rather than put in young cattle to rough it on the feed.

On good big steers of fair quality fed well for four months you might expect an increase in value of from \$20 to \$30 according to how well you feed and prices paid and received.

Such steers would require about 300 lbs. meal each in four months. The meal mixture had better be about equal parts bran, barley, oil cake meal and corn meal. During the last four or five weeks on feed this might be changed to a mixture of 2 bran, 1 barley, 2 corn, 3 oil cake meal. To start, give about 2 lbs. of meal mixture per diem. Increase fairly rapidly say at rate of one pound a week or more if manure seems to be about right.—J.H.G.

Quick or Slow Finishing Hogs

Which would be the more profitable; to force pigs right along by heavy grain feed so that they would weigh the 150 to 300 lbs., as demanded by the packer, when six months old, or carry them along slowly, with cheaper feeds and less of them, and have the pigs reach this weight at nine or ten months? To what extent can roots and other such feeds be used profitably in hog finishing?—R. J. L., Leeds Co., Ont.

Greater profits may be anticipated from forcing pigs along by heavy feeding to have them reach the 150 or 200 lbs. at six months old, rather than letting them drag along till nine or ten months old, before attaining the desired weight. This may be said, however, that where pasture and other cheap green feeds are available and cannot be utilized profitably in any other way, it might pay to let the pigs come along slowly on these feeds.

Roots and green feeds may enter quite extensively into the feeding of pigs it is desired to get ready for the market at from 6 to 8 months. If mangels, sugar mangels or sugar beets are mixed with meal, sugar beets must be pulped. If turnips, potatoes or pumpkins are available then it will pay to cook and mix after cooking. The amount of water is about the same for all kinds of roots say from 4 to 8 lbs. per pig per diem. In summer rape, clover, vetches, etc., may be profitably fed in somewhat similar quantities.—J.H.G.

Feeding Idle Farm Horses

How would you advise us to feed our idle farm horses from now until spring in order that we may bring them through as economically as possible and still have them in good condition for work next spring?

The feeds available are an abundance of straw, mixed with hay, silage, mangels and such grains as are usually grown on the ordinary dairy farm. We would like to be as economical as possible in grain feeding.—J. C. H., Hutton Co., Ont.

The feeds at hand are in the exception of mangels quite suitable for horses. Very little grain should be

necessary till about a month before the beginning of spring work. If grain is being fed heavily at present I would not advise dropping off entirely as soon as work stops. It would be better to gradually decrease the grain feed until at the end of 10 days the horses were receiving what they could get through the winter, say three or four pounds, or less each per day.

I would suggest the following as a good plan to follow for the idle horse till about five weeks before spring work:

Morning:—5 lbs. ensilage, 5 lbs. straw; 1 or 2 lb. oats.

Noon:—5 lbs. hay, 1 lb. oats, a mangel.

Evening:—2 lbs. hay, 5 lbs. straw, 1 lb. oats, a mangel.

An occasional hot bran mash or boiled oats will do them good.

About a month before work on the land begins the average ration should be gradually increased and the ensilage cut off. A mixture of 200 lbs. whole oats and 100 lbs. bran will be found to be more wholesome, more satisfactory and possibly cheaper than oats exclusively not only while getting ready for spring work but at all times, even when on hard work.—J.H.G.

Shall We Cut the Feed?

What are your opinions in regard to cutting feeds when the average ration is not the practice a waste of time in so far as good quality of hay and straw are concerned? I have always noticed that a cow seems to relish whole mangels and long hay.—H. A., Durham Co., Ont.

It is a waste of time and energy to cut mangels, straw and hay where these are the principal parts of the ration and are of good quality. Where the hay or straw are poor it will probably pay to cut them, pulp the mangels and mix together. Where ensilage is being fed one of the best ways to feed it is to cut the straw and mix in the proportion of from five to 10 lbs. cut straw to 100 lbs. ensilage.

Hay is in my opinion and practice always better fed long if of fair quality. If very inferior in quality then cut and mix with ensilage and pulped roots.—J.H.G.

Good Feeding Pays

I see a lot written about dairy cows not being fed enough to produce the quantity of milk they might. Do you think it pays to feed cows up to the highest limit of production? Is it not better to feed more moderately and get an average milk production? Would not this high feeding production? What amount of feed would you advise for a cow giving say 35 lbs. of milk per day?—J. B., Stantec Co., Que.

Dairy cows as a rule receive too light meal rations in Canada to enable them to do profitable work. There is very much to be said in favor of feeding very much more than the average Canadian farmer. There is very little danger of overfeeding the dairy cow in the average herd. Where sending milk to creamery or cheese factory it is probable that heavy meal feeding would not be profitable, but where shipping to a city it is absolutely necessary.

To a cow producing 35 lbs. milk a day this time of year I would consider it necessary to give approximately the following ration. Corn ensilage 35 lbs. lacking ensilage then roots 40 lbs., or both available, then ensilage and roots 35 lbs., clover hay 6 lbs., bran 4 lbs., gluten and oil cake meal 2 lbs., chopped barley or corn or oats 2 lbs., cut straw 5 lbs.

If she is an average sized dairy cow this will keep her doing very nicely. If a large or dual purpose type of cow more will be necessary of all kinds of feed. Good feeding is not necessarily extravagant or dan-

gerous feeding, but rather the reverse. Good feeding pays.—J.H.G.

Quantity of Grain for Cows

I have a large quantity of barley as well as oats. What amount of this grain would you advise me to feed per cow with, say, 40 lbs. of silage, a few roots and some red clover? Can I profitably sell common mill feeds to take their place? If so, what feeds would you advise?—Subsister, Quebec.

I would suggest the following as a most suitable grain or meal mixture to feed along with the 40 lbs. ensilage, the few roots and clover hay. Barley 100 lbs., oats 100 lbs., bran 300 lbs., gluten meal or oil cake meal or cotton seed meal 300 lbs. Any one of these three last is good, a mixture of the three is best of all. That is to say the best meal mixture I could suggest would be 300 lbs. bran and 100 lbs. each of oil cake meal, gluten meal, cottonseed meal, oats and barley. Note that I have said gluten meal. Gluten feed is not the same thing. The gluten should show over 30 per cent. protein.

Oats at present prices are too dear to feed to cows save in small quantities as a sort of flavoring feed. Barley is not too dear but is not a retention, hence the suggested change.—J. H. Grisdale, Agriculturist, C.E.F., Ottawa.

Re the Balanced Ration

Please say in what quantity the following feed should be fed to dairy cows in order to get best results? What would be that which is referred to in the paper as "a balanced ration"? Feed on lupin-barley chop, oat chop, bran, ground root, salt, good upland hay, oat green feed. The cows are well stabled and have plenty of good water.—J. W. H., Edmonton, Alta.

To get the best results from the feeds mentioned I would suggest the ration given below. This ration would probably not be quite as narrow in the nutritive ratio as is generally recommended by advocates of a balanced ration but it would, I am sure, give good results, I suppose by upland hay you mean prairie hay.

Ration for 1,200 lbs. cow producing 30 lbs. milk per diem: Oat green feed, 12 lbs.; Hay (Upland hay), 12 lbs.; barley chop, 3 lbs. oat chop, 3 lbs.; bran 4 lbs.; salt 4 ounces.

The best way to prepare the meal would be to grind the oats and barley and mix 300 lbs. of each along with 400 lbs. bran, then feed about one pound of the mixture for each three pounds of milk produced by your cows, some cows might stand more feed than this, others less. The feeder must use his best judgment in determining the exact amount to feed.—J.H.G.

I like a good, clean, straight paper like Farm and Dairy.—Chas. Blake, Frontenac Co., Ont.



Anybody Can Kodak

There's no longer anything complicated about photography. From pressing the button to developing the negatives, every step has been made simple, easy. By the Kodak system it is daylight all the way. No dark-room is needed for loading, unloading, developing or printing, and all the processes have been so simplified that the merest beginner can take and finish the photographs with good results. The Kodak tank method of development has, in fact, so fully proved that skill is not necessary in development that thousands of professional photographers, in spite of the fact that they have the skill and have the dark-room facilities, are using the tank system of development for all of their work. Anybody can Kodak.

And there are interesting pictures everywhere, pictures that you can take and that you and your friends would enjoy having. Ask your dealer or write us for a copy of "The Kodak on the Farm."

CANADIAN KODAK CO., LIMITED
TORONTO, CANADA

It is desirable to mention the name of this publication when writing to advertisers.