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THE FARMER'S SEEDSMAN

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SEEDS

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Live Notes about Live Stock

Rearing High-Grade Calves

J. P. Fletcher, Fulton Co., N.Y.

The process of developing milch cows should commence with calfhood and be judiciously followed up. The idea that young animals may be grown cheaply on the poorer qualities of feed is a mistake. As heifers are expected now to begin giving milk at two years of age instead of three, as was once the practice, it follows that they must be kept thrifty and growing steadily from the first.

During the first and second winters they should have the best of hay and a small amount of grain, especially the first winter. This should be of a kind that will assist in the growth of bone and muscle. Ground oats or oats and bran will be good for this purpose. They should have warm, comfortable quarters and always be kept clean and well cared for. In this way they will grow right along, and if rightly handled become quiet and docile, and make good and profitable additions to the dairy at the proper time.

Where winter dairying is followed to any extent, extra attention should be paid to the raising of calves. At least enough of the most promising heifer calves should be selected to supply the dairy with fresh stock as wanted. This will be found better, all things considered, than to depend upon buying cows for this purpose.

Farm Skimmed Milk Best

Where small separators are so generally used on the farm, both in buttermaking and in disposing of the cream in other ways, the conditions are much better for raising good calves than when the milk is delivered to the creamery or skimming station and the skimmed milk returned. This is one of the greatest arguments in favor of the use of separators on the farm. With good warm, dry quarters in the stable and skim milk that can be fed clean and warm to the calves, it is found that they will do as well as in warm weather, and will get a good start over those coming along in the spring.

Care in not over-feeding is necessary, thus inducing bowel trouble. Increase amount of milk gradually as the calf grows older, and there should not often be trouble. In a few weeks these youngsters will begin to eat a little nice hay, and then they should have it every day. A bit of good grain feed will also soon be appreciated and repaid by these thrifty growing animals. With this kind of treatment these early calves should become well grown and ready to turn to pasture another spring. This kind of work requires quite a little attention, but it will be found to pay well, according to the experience of the writer.

What Dairy Cows Will Do

By J. Frank Smith

Ten profitable cows on a farm will yield an average monthly income of from $60 to $100 in cash for the cream, besides the skim milk that is the best of feed for the calves, pigs, and chickens, all of the latter being good money makers when properly handled. The income from a dairy herd depends on the number and quality of the cows.

The cows will bring in a steady monthly income all the year, and they are dependable every year.

The cows will bring in the regular monthly cheque, whether it is dry or cold or warm or wet.

The cows will call for soil building crops and they will also help to fertilize the land. A cow is said to be worth $10 per year to a farm as a soil builder. After ten years of dairy farming the land is would be worth $10 to $20 more per acre.

Dairy farming is an economical business, as it does not require very much capital nor a very large force of men or teams to conduct it.

The market for dairy products is always steady and sure and getting better yearly, and cows call for silos, by the use of which the farmer is assured of plenty of good cow feed and a crop failure is unknown.

Good dairy cows are coming in great demand and bring good prices, and a heifer calf from a good milch cow is worth from $25 to $50 when it is 10 days old. The increase of the herd is a constant source of income.

A Word to Breeders

N. J. Wilson, O.A.C., Guelph, Ont.

Year by year, even month by month, the Holstein-Friesians of Canada are creeping nearer to the standard already obtained by our fellow-breeders across the line, and I am of the opinion of Mr. Rae that Canada will soon possess a 40 pound cow. Who is going to be the lucky one? I say "lucky" one, although the present high production of these cows is a matter of careful selection, breeding and feeding rather than luck; yet it will be a matter of luck for the first man to own such a cow on this side of the line.

Although I have not had the experience that other official testers have had, I have been taking on quite a number of farms and have arrived at certain conclusions which I take the liberty of voicing, for I am positively certain that several of the cows which I have tested, if they had been in more skilful hands, would have made better records than they did under the circumstances. One thing I have noticed is that the pure bred breeders in the majority of cases are very reticent about their ideas of feeding. Breeders, you are all members of the same association, and have, or should have, the welfare of that association at heart. Don't be so stingy with letting the other fellows have the results of your experience. I have come across one or two men who seem to think that the more food you shove into a cow the more milk she will produce, and although they naturally would not listen to me, they might be convinced if they saw in the columns of Farm and Dairy, which I believe reaches the home of every pure bred Holstein breeder, the ideas of different successful breeders.

Then, again, agricultural colleges and experiment stations are for ever preaching "balanced ration" and "nutritive ratio," and we testers are given a course in the same, enabling every one of us to work out a balanced ration as required for the different standards of production; but when I have mentioned the term to one or two men they have answered that it is "too much bother to go into all that." If they only knew how little bother it really was and really worked out a good ration for their cows instead of using guesswork, they might do away with quite a lot of unnecessary and costly experience.

Feeding and breeding for high production of milk has now become a recognized art—art and science go hand in hand, and it won't be a guessing breeder who produces that first 40 pound cow.

The best regulated dairy stables are those in which the same cow is milked by the same man at each milking. Milkers have individuality and the cow soon comes to expect to be milked in the same way and will give down her milk more freely and with less worry.

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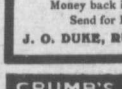

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