

Stock.**Spring Care of Dairy Cows.**

The winter season is now so far gone as to leave only four to six weeks of feeding before the milking season will commence, according to the various times of calving; and the dairyman who has not fed his cows as well as his interest required during the early part of the winter, should do what he can to recover his lost ground, by feeding judiciously during the few weeks left. It being so near calving time, he should be cautious about giving food of too heating a nature. Pea, or corn-meal alone should not be given, if that can be avoided; and, if nothing else is at hand, it should be fed upon cut hay, so as to have it thoroughly mixed with fibrous food before entering the stomach. Peas and oats, ground together—one bushel of peas to two of oats—makes one of the best foods for dry cows. The food most needed by the cow at this season is such as will build up her muscular system, and re-invigorate her vitality. The food should be rich in phosphate of lime; for she is often depleted of this during the milking period, so as to render her bones spongy; and the diseases that afflict cows in spring are usually occasioned by the poverty of the food given through the winter. Cows that are fed upon good clover hay during winter, usually recover their vigor, because clover is rich in muscle-forming matter and phosphate of lime. Oats, peas, wheat-bran and oil-meal are all rich in phosphate of lime, and are excellent to give the cow renewed vitality during her non-lactate period. Care must be taken to give oil-meal in very small quantity at this period, as the time of calving approaches; and especially if it has not been given through the winter; yet one pint per day through the whole period of going dry will assist very materially in keeping the cow in health; and it often prevents the evil effect of dry, innutritious fodder. When given through the winter, we have never known impaction of the manfolds. Oats and bran, mixed together, will be excellent food at this period; and if this food is continued after calving, it will help to establish a good yield of milk. During the first week after calving the diet should be spare—not so necessary if the cow is thin—but if fleshy, she should be kept on hay, except a quart of oil-meal, which is laxative and cooling. After all danger from milk fever is past, the feeding should be most liberal, so as to start the cow on a large flow of milk. After ten days from calving, no better extra food can be given than oats and wheat-bran, with one or two quarts of corn-meal. Much will depend upon the feeding of the cows before grass comes, to insure a good yield through the season. From dairymen who withhold the feed now shall be withheld the season's profits.—*National Live-Stock Journal, Chicago.*

Preserving Harness.

The first point to be observed is to keep the leather soft and pliable. This can be done only by keeping it well charged with oil and grease. Water is a destroyer of each of these. But mud, and saline moisture from the animal, are even more destructive. Mud in drying absorbs the grease and opens the pores of the leather, making it a ready prey to water, while the salty character of the perspiration from the animals injures the leather, stitching and mounting. It therefore follows that to preserve a harness the straps should be washed and oiled at intervals as required. To do this effectually the straps should be all unbuckled, and detached, then washed with warm soft water and crown soap and hung by a slow fire, or in the sun until nearly dry, then coated with a mixture of neatsfoot oil and tallow and allowed to remain in a warm room for several hours, and when perfectly dry rub thoroughly with a woollen rag. The rubbing is important, as it, in addition to removing the surplus oil and grease, tends to close pores and gives a finish to the leather. In hanging harness care should be taken to allow all the straps to hang their full length. Light is essential to the care of leather, and when the harness closet is dark the doors should be left open at least half the time during the day. All closets should be well ventilated, and when possible be well lighted. To clean plated mountings use a chamois with a little tripoli or rotten stone, but they should be scoured as little as possible.—*[Harness Journal.]*

The Farrowing Season.

One of the things to be especially guarded against at this season is costiveness in the brood sow. If there is any tendency in that direction it should be counteracted by giving laxative food, and corn should be especially avoided. They should be separated from all other swine at least a week before the time of farrowing, and should be assigned quarters where she can remain warm and comfortable until the pigs are old enough to follow her. A very common mistake is made in giving too much bedding. A very little cut straw will suffice; corn husks are good, and dry leaves are best of all, if they can be had. If you have no bedding but long straw, give it to the sow several days before farrowing, and she will work it up short herself. Very many pigs are lost by being tangled in the long straw or smothered on account of an over-supply of bedding. If there should be a cold snap just at the critical time, many a litter of pigs may be saved, that otherwise would be frozen to death, by quietly covering the sow completely over with an old horse-blanket. By this means the heat of her body will be confined, and the pigs may come through safely with the thermometer at zero on the outside. After they have once taken the teat and have dried off, there will be but little danger from freezing, unless it is extremely cold.

With a large sow there is always more or less danger of the pigs being crushed by getting under her. This may be prevented in a great measure by a simple device. Place a sheaf around the sides of the pen six to ten inches from the floor. It should be about eight inches in width and just high enough that the sow's back, when she is lying down, will not go under it. The pigs can escape under the sheaf, instead of being crowded against the sides of the pen, as is often the case without this contrivance.

The sow should have but little food for a day or two—nothing more than a very weak slop or gruel, slightly warmed. After the pigs are from four days to a week old, the sow may safely be fed all the nutritious food she will eat; and the pigs themselves should be taught to drink by the time they are ten days old.—*[National Live-Stock Journal, Chicago.]*

So-Called Founder.

In a reply to a horseman, Huron Co., we give from the National Live Stock Journal the following article on so-called founder:

In the beginning of the disease remove the shoes, and rasp down the heels and edges around the hoofs, so that the bearing of the animal's weight comes entirely on the sole and frog; then place the forefeet in a tub of warm water, during half an hour, and repeat this three or four times daily during two days; thereafter apply hog's lard or some softening ointment to the feet daily. Leave the animal without shoes in a roomy box-stall or comfortable shed with plenty of bedding. To keep such an animal tied up in a stall with inclining or sloping floor is objectionable; he must have liberty to frequently change his position, which cannot be afforded in a single stall. As soon as the shoes have been removed, and the feet pared as directed, the horse should be given a laxative dose of medicine; for which purpose dissolve from one to one and a half pounds of Glauber's-salts in a quart of hot water, adding to the solution an ounce of ground ginger, and give the whole in one dose; then give every hour, during six hours, ten to fifteen drops of tincture of aconite; afterwards, during two or three days, give, morning, noon and evening, each time, four ounces of solution of acetate of ammonia with an ounce of sweet spirit of nitre, in half a pint of cold water. If after three or four days, much pain and tenderness should remain, a fly-blister may be applied round the coronet, to a space of three fingers' width. The horse should be tied so as to prevent his interfering with the blister (by rubbing it with his mouth), during six hours after the application of the blister. From the beginning he should be kept quiet, in a comfortable, well-ventilated place, and be well blanketed, to excite perspiration. The food, which should only be given in limited quantity, should be of a loosening nature, such as a mixture of steamed oats, bran, and flaxseed meal, together, with only very little hay, which should not be timothy. When the urgent symptoms have disappeared, the horse should be given liberty in the barn-yard during day time, when weather permits, and during summer be placed on pasture.

Feeding Horses—Sore Shoulders.

A correspondent of the Country Gentleman states he has found, by long experience, that the best grain feed for horses is corn, oats and shorts, of each one-third, the first two to be ground finely, and the shorts to be well mixed in. The hay, or hay and straw, were cut fine and wet twelve hours before feeding, and the meal was thoroughly mixed with the hay at the time of wetting, so that all could become thoroughly softened and prepared for digestion. His horses were uniformly healthy and in good condition at all times. The Adams Express Company feeds its horses a little oil meal once or twice a week in addition to the mixture of corn, oats and shorts. This is done to help the grooms keep the horses' coats glossy at all times, saving much time in rubbing and brushing.

The systems of feeding adopted by several street railway and carrier companies in Manchester, England, is as follows: The feed varied from 10 to 14 pounds of cut hay, or hay and straw, and 16 to 20 pounds of grain, for each horse, daily. Their horses are all heavy, powerful dray horses, and, of course, need more feed than the lighter ones used here. The grain feed was composed of maize, beans and wheat bran, in the proportion of three pounds of corn to one of each of the others, all finely ground and mixed. The hay and straw were chaffed and wet, and the meal mixed in some time before feeding. No horse beans are grown here, but oats and shorts are a good substitute for beans and bran.

An old stage-driver of long experience, who was noted for keeping his teams sound, always washed the shoulders and breasts of his horses as soon as the harness was taken off, using cold water in the summer and lukewarm water in the winter. After rubbing newly dry, he washed them daily with a decoction of smartweed, in the summer, when there was most danger of galled shoulders. In the winter the smartweed was used about once a week. His teams never had sore necks or shoulders.

THE CANKER WORM.—From the report of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association we extract the following:—The insect has made its appearance in great numbers, doing great damage to the orchards by eating the leaves, often stripping the trees entirely so that they are as destitute of foliage as in the winter. J. J. Bowman had quite too much experience, having suffered severely from their depredations. The female moth is wingless; comes out of the ground in November, crawls up the trunk of the tree and lays her eggs. From these eggs the worms hatch in the spring, devour the leaves, and disappear about the middle of June, going into the ground, when they undergo their transformations, and come forth again as moths in the autumn. He had tried Paris green in water sprinkled upon the leaves, and it killed them. There are two species.

COUNTERFEIT EGGS.—It is well known that in America everything is counterfeited; the wooden hams and nutmegs sent from the New England States are well remembered. Eggs are now also counterfeited, and this manufactory is carried out on a large scale. On one side of a large room the reporter saw several large copper vessels filled with a thick, glutinous, yellow of the egg—the yolk. On the opposite side were similar vessels, in which the white was fabricated. The egg shells were made of a white substance resembling plaster of Paris, by means of a blowpipe, just as soap bubbles are blown. After being dried in an oven, the egg shells were filled, first with artificial albumen. The small opening at the end of the egg was closed with white cement, and the greatest achievement of modern civilization, the artificial egg, was ready. In appearance it resembled a natural egg, but, whether cooked or raw, it was indigestible and injurious to health.

CATTLE TRANSPORT.—The Government has adopted an improved cattle car for the Intercolonial and Pacific Railway, by means of which five days' feed and 325 gallons of water can be carried.

For shepherds it may be a useful hint to tell them that after a cold and rainy night, if they would dip the sheep one by one for five minutes into a tub of water, at the temperature of an ordinary warm bath, they will find them restored to life and activity at once.