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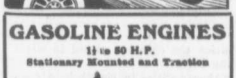

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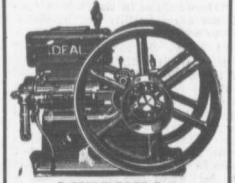

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The Feeders' Corner

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.

Do Oats Affect the Flavor of Milk?

The effect of various feeds on the flavor of milk has long been a disputed point. Many dairymen hold that crushed oats result in milk of very desirable flavor, while others are equally certain that corn meal produces the best flavored milk. To get accurate information on the subject the Bureau of Animal Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture used six cows for an experiment. Three were fed a grain ration of corn meal, bran, and cottonseed meal. The other three were fed a grain mixture of five parts crushed oats and one part cottonseed meal.

A number of samples of milk from the cows fed these rations were submitted to various persons in the dairy division and they were asked to indicate their preference. In all 50 opinions were passed on various samples. Of these, 16 showed a preference for the milk from cows fed on crushed oats, 25 preferred that from the bran and corn ration, while nine expressed no choice. The results show that in these rations, not only was there no marked difference in favor of the crushed oats as a feed to improve flavor, but, if anything, the ration containing bran and corn was more successful in producing a fine-flavored milk.

Regularity of Feeding

R. R. Hamilton, Wentworth Co., Ont.

I have somewhat unusual views on the subject of feeding. I have been reading all of the articles appearing on the subject, and in these the points most emphasized are the quantity and quality of green foods, their relative proportion to roughage, the most desirable kinds of roughage, and so forth. The one factor that I believe in feeding ahead of all others is, regularity.

Have you ever heard it said of a man that he could do a great amount of work in a day and keep it up year after year? Often the wonderful point has been that these men who are such workers are not men of tremendous physical strength. How did they do it? Invariably you will find it is a matter of regular habits. They never subject themselves to unusual hours or to unusual strain of work. It is moderate, everyday accomplishments that carry them ahead.

Let me draw an analogy with the cow. I know that the parallel is not exactly a similar one. The cow must each week produce a certain amount of milk that necessarily requires a certain amount of feed to make. After we have accounted for the amount of feed for milk production, however, the analogy is similar. The cow that is fed regularly right to the tick of the clock without any sudden change of feed, will keep in better condition and do better work for her owner than the cow fed much more extensively, but without regularity. And in the long run does not profitable production depend largely on the condition of the cow?

I would like to see a clock kept in every stable and milking and feeding kept right up to the minute. With cows, as with men, regularity is a priceless boon.

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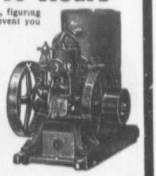

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