

Raising Calves with Whey.

EDITOR CANADA FARMER.—Among many valuable suggestions you make on various agricultural topics, I see several theories advanced about raising calves with hay tea as a substitute for milk. I will give the result of my experience in raising calves with whey.

I have made cheese for some years past out of my own dairy of cows, and the subject of raising calves would thrust itself upon my notice every spring, as I am much opposed to killing heifer calves from good cows—so I must needs try by virtue of whey. I generally feed my calves ten days or two weeks on new milk before cheese-making begins. In a dairy of twenty-five cows, six or eight calves may get a good deal from the first milk of the cows before it is fit to use. I then take a little shorts, or pea flour, scalded or boiled, and mixed with whey. I feed warm, with a good drink of sweet, warm whey at noon.

Calves relish such fare and thrive on it. I have raised six or eight every year for several years. I have had no trouble, having them always fully up to the average.

More than the half of my heifers come in at two years old, and still grow large enough to be the most profitable dairy cows.

A little extra care and feed in the fall and winter is very necessary, for if calves get run down in the fall from neglect, they are scarcely worth the trouble of wintering. Some oats or provender are very good in the winter after watering.

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Flukes in Deers' Livers.

It has been asserted that, on this continent, sheep are not subject to "rot," as the presence of flukes in the liver is called in England. Some veterinarians have denied that the fluke, *distoma hepaticum* or *fasciola hepatica*, exists here at all. A correspondent of *Forest and Stream*, however, has discovered the parasite in the biliary ducts of the deer, and another correspondent writes that he has found it in his own sheep, in which it existed as an accompaniment of the rot, and he has also found it in a flock at Babylon, L. I. He continues:—

Now that it has been found in our native deer, (and I expect it will also be found present in the liver of the antelope as well, and probably in that of the Rocky Mountain sheep,) the fact that it is more widely prevalent among our sheep than has been supposed or admitted, may be accounted for. The discovery is of great interest, not only to sportsmen, naturalists, and veterinary surgeons, but to farmers, who are very much concerned in the knowledge that it is indigenous, and their flocks may be subject to it wherever deer, antelope, rabbits, or hares are found, or have recently existed, for all these animals may be bearers of the "flukes." That there is no more deadly disease than that known as the "liver rot" or the "rot" to which sheep are subject, makes it very important for us to know as much as possible of the natural history of the parasite to which the disease is attributed, or by which it is always accompanied. Sportsmen should all be close and accurate observers, for they have many opportunities of gathering valuable facts in natural history. Nevertheless, there are very few who can tell you how many teeth a deer has upon the lower jaw more than the upper, or whether the deer has a gall bladder or not. How few, too, ever search the viscera of the animals they kill for parasites.

An Unsuccessful Long-Wool Raiser.

Here is the account, by a correspondent of the *Live Stock Journal*, of how he didn't succeed in the raising of mutton sheep. It is astonishing at what diverse results different farmers will reach. The only thing that the correspondent proves is that, at raising mutton sheep, he is not a success. He says:

My experience with the so-called mutton sheep, from 1853 to 1858, was attended with considerable trouble and loss, and I then thought that I would attend to my other farm stock, and make up some of these losses; afterwards the war closed, and wool was low in price, coarse wools were in the ascendancy, and as, for some reason, I still retained a fancy for a nice fat Cotswold or Leicester, I concluded to gather a flock of fifty of them. These I was enabled to get from Canada at a cost of from \$20 to \$75 each, for lambs and ewes. In the lot were some beautiful animals, and all of them gave me great satisfaction.

With this flock we spent much time for two years, and such grand feeders—a few of them seemed capable of eating the produce of a whole farm; and so prolific—from one to three lambs from each ewe, and these so fine—just to see them eat! How easily in imagination we could change our feed to wool or mutton, and then into money! One drawback we must mention, some would die, and then again, we could sell none of them. However, we followed it up for two years, and found the deaths greater than the

births; so one day we concluded to hunt up a drover to buy them. We sold the entire lot, and received \$59.25, and concluded to quit this profitable business. Several car loads were brought into this vicinity, and found ready sale at lower prices, and were in turn sold off at about the same proportion to investment. Many tried raising half-bloods; these must have been very satisfactory, for they soon abandoned it.

I must except one case near me; that flock was bought at the same time as mine, although a smaller flock, and he yet persistently retains it. He seems attached to them, although they have not paid him very well. Their increase and productiveness are strikingly manifested, as that flock contains eleven of all ages, and of both sexes, living last week, although I will not vouch for it to-day. He raised some half-bloods until his ewes became rather old, and this fall he sold them off for nearly \$2 each. I inquired why he did not sell the long-wools with them, and was told they were thrown out, and he had to keep them or break the sale of the others. Many of us have tried keeping these sheep, and failed. When we read communications from the breeders of these wonderful long-wool sheep, it reminds us of our own experience, and we feel as pleasant as possible under the circumstances, but could only wish our enemies to repeat our experiment with long-wools.

More about the Horning of Cattle.

In the last number of the CANADA FARMER we gave some particulars about the controversy among Scottish farmers on the cruelty or non-cruelty of the practice of cutting off a portion of the horns of cattle to prevent them goring each other. Among other things, we gave the gist of a letter written by Professor Walley against the practice. In the *North British Agriculturist* Mr. Wm. Alexander takes the other side and gives the learned Professor fits. "It is useless," says Mr. Alexander, "to enter into the comparison of this operation with the others the Professor mentions, for it seems to me that the whole question turns upon the cruelty and necessity of it. I may, however, remark that the pain of firing and castration is not so temporary as that of horning properly done. The farmers of this district have nearly all had experience of knobbing cattle, and it is the fact of this last being more difficult of performance, and unquestionably more ineffectual, that has caused the practice to be relinquished in favor of horning. Professor Walley gives a very graphic description of the knobbing of Mr. Thynne's cattle. I propose giving you a description of horning as it is practised in this part of the country, but I will start by saying that the sawing of the horns close to the head, to which Professor Walley's experience seems confined, is unnecessary and very seldom practised here.

"The animal is caught and either held, as Professor Walley describes, or roped, as is Mr. Thynne's custom, and the point of the horn clipped off instantaneously by means of a pair of sharp and powerful shears made for the purpose. This can be done by one man who is accustomed to the work at the rate of one hundred an hour if the cattle are caught for him as fast as he requires. I venture to say that I have seen more cattle horned than Professor Walley has seen knobbed, and I never saw one appear to suffer more than the most momentary pain, and the greater number do not show the slightest appearance of it. If it is about feeding time, the cattle, as a rule, go straight to the turnips, and begin to eat as if nothing had happened. I never knew one lose a meal from the effects of horning. The exposure to the air stops the bleeding in a very short time (we never tie them up), and as to the inflammation, I take upon me to say that inflammation after the operation of horning as I have described it is unknown.

"An experienced eye would at once detect it, if an animal were suffering pain or any other symptom of it. I may here say that the removal of an inch or two of the sensitive part of the horn is quite sufficient, and as effectual as the removal of the whole of it. The animal at once finds that he cannot gore another without hurting himself, and he gives up the practice at once, and even though the stump of the horn becomes quite callous in a very short time, he never seems to revert to it. Professor Walley must know that the instantaneous cutting of even a sensitive part is productive of very little pain, though the boring of it by a gimlet is a very different affair. I may mention that it is only to court cattle that horning is applied. No one thinks of horning an ox that is ready to be tied up. I have seen an ox that had got rid of a knob set to and gore every one that came near him. An ox once horned, as I have said, gives up the practice for ever.

"I deny emphatically that horning properly performed is to be classed with the cutting of dogs' ears, and the other cruelties which Professor Walley enumerates. It is an easy thing for him to make a sweeping condemnation like this, and it sounds very fine, and is calculated to secure the applause of people who know nothing practically of the subject, among whom I am afraid I must class many of the laymen in the shape of editors of newspapers, &c., he mentions. The farmers here are tolerably wide awake to their own interests, and I don't think you would find them doing anything to injure their stock for an imaginary benefit. If, as Professor Walley seems to admit, it

increased the value of the stock, that is a strong argument in its favor. I may conclude by stating, as the result of my experience, that cattle actually thrive better after their horns have been cut. It would require a thorough remodelling of all the farm-teachings in this district if the isolating system were to be carried out; and would be quite impossible to turn out anything like the number of cattle at present sent into the market."

Retention of Afterbirth.

An enquiry through the *Country Gentleman* for a medicine which would prevent the retention of the afterbirth by cows, gets replies to the effect following:

If the cow is in a thrifty condition, neither too fat nor too lean, she will seldom be subject to this infirmity. In order to prevent it, I have known farmers that have fed on hay only, to feed moderately with oats for awhile before calving, to increase the thrift of the animal. Wheat bran mash is also an excellent feed, healing, cooling and strengthening in its effect. Another one I have seen practised, and which to many will no doubt appear very simple, is to wash the back with warm milk, rubbing the whole extent of the loins. It has proved very successful as far as I have known. Whether this new milk, so rubbed in, operates as a laxative, others can judge as well as myself. The rubbing no doubt strengthens the loins. Be careful not to allow the cow to take cold drinks for forty-eight hours after calving; if the water is up to blood heat no matter. By all means take the chill off.

Another correspondent says:—I believe in the old adage, that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. The treatment which I have practised with my own cows for some years with perfect success, is to feed two quarts of rye, boiled, per day, for about a week before calving. The rye needs boiling until it swells about double its ordinary size. I have had no trouble in this direction since I adopted the above system.

Another.—If the inquirer will milk his cows as soon as convenient after calving, and give them this milk to drink, he will have no more trouble from his cows' retaining their afterbirth. The best preventive is a good warm stable at night and in stormy weather, with two quarts of meal and two of bran per day, for three weeks previous to calving. I consider one bushel of grain fed before calving worth two fed after.

Still another:—For three weeks or more before calving, give the cow a full table-spoonful of wood ashes in 2 quarts of wheat bran, per day. This has been my practice for three years, and has never failed.

And yet another:—Juniper berries, 3 oz.; gentian, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; bayberries, 2 oz.; gum myrrh, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; nitre 1 oz.; asafoetida, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.; anise seed, 1 oz.; well pounded together and given in a quart of ale, made warm by the addition of one quart of hot pennyroyal tea. I have never given the ale, but used the pennyroyal tea, and only in one instance did I have to administer the second dose. If the cow is not relieved of the afterbirth in twenty-four hours after calving, I give her the medicine, and it not relieved in twenty-four hours more, I repeat the dose. The milk will be fit for use at the expiration of the usual time after calving, say six or ten days, according to the views and tastes of the consumer.

TURNIPS FOR COWS.—You are right in saying that turnips are good for cows. From two Red River cows, (calved last June, and are in calf again,) I got an average, during this winter, of seven pounds of butter per week, and one week nine and a half pounds. I gave turnips and bran after milking.—W. Wajner, Ossauo, Manitoba.

AN APPETIZER FOR OXEN.—A correspondent of the *Massachusetts Ploughman* asked for something that would make his oxen eat well. Another correspondent says:—Give about one table-spoonful of saltpetre to each ox four times in seven days, with a little scalded meal every day, a plenty of good hay and a plenty of time to eat; also lessen the load and drive carefully.

COMPARATIVE VALUE OF HAY AND CORN.—Experiments carefully made indicate that eighty pounds of good hay is equal to sixty-four of corn; or, to place the matter in another light, if a ton of hay has a feeding value represented by 1,250, then that of a ton of corn meal will be represented by 1,600. Taking these figures as a guide, when a ton of good hay is worth \$20, the equivalent feeding value of one ton of corn meal is \$25.

TO PREVENT SOWS LYING ON PIGS.—A correspondent writes:—My plan of a pen for sows to farrow in is generally eight feet by twelve. And in order to keep the sow from lying on her pigs, I take a two-inch auger and bore a hole twelve inches from the wall on each end, and ten inches from the floor, and insert a strong pole about two and one-half or three inches thick, shoving down each end so it fits tight, as the sow will invariably try to take it out of her way in making her bed. It should be fastened in so she cannot move it, and she will now make her bed against the pole, it being the nearest she can get to the wall, and do you be sure that the space is not packed full of straw on or about the time she has her pigs, so that the pigs when farrowed can have room to walk around their mother and not get overlaid. The pigs will soon learn to nestle in this place, and feel secure from harm. This arrangement, when carried out, would save a large percentage of young pigs to the farmer.