

Sorby's Lady Charming; harness, Pepper & Co.'s Creighton; combination, saddle and hunter, Pepper & Co.'s Daisy Dean.

Provide for the Colt.

During the first two months of the colt's life there is generally sufficient grass to supply any extra feed he may require other than the dam's milk, but with the hot days of August come dry pastures, lessened milk supply, increasing appetites, and possibly work for the dam, so that the foal is liable to lose some of the flesh he has laid on earlier in the season, unless some provision is made for his growing needs. For the purpose of keeping colts in good flesh, there is nothing better than fine-ground oats. Other feeds; such as ground corn middlings, etc., may produce more fat, but oats are more easily digested and are better for building up bone and muscle. When the colt is young is the time to teach him to eat. A very few lessons are sufficient. Prepare a box in the corner of the pasture, and in it feed both mare and foal a few times, until the youngster comes to relish his meal, then build a pen about the feed box to keep the mare away, but with a small gap to admit the foal. Keep a supply of ground oats there for him, and he will show the effects of liberal feeding. A lump of rock salt near the pen will be sufficient attraction for the dam for a few hours each day, and during this time the colt will be improving his time. With such treatment, the weaning time will never affect the colt in the least, but his growth will be continuous throughout the whole autumn.

STOCK

Calf-rearing in Cheesemaking Districts.

Whatever may be the relative advantage of rearing calves in the spring or in the fall, the fact remains that, in many cheesemaking districts especially, most of the calves are dropped in March and April. The advantages claimed for the practice are that the calves may be given a good start on whole milk before the season's operations in cheesemaking are commenced, and that the cows will be at the heaviest production at the most profitable period.*

The aim is a laudable one. In too many cases, however, are not the first well-directed efforts in calf-rearing lost through gross lack of attention later on? Many excuses are offered. Lack of time is a popular one, and during this dearth of hired help very admissible, but is it not true that farmers often overlook the fact that their future success as milk producers rests to a great extent with the care of the dairy cow during the first twelve months of her existence? We cannot expect to make strong, healthy, heavy milkers from calves that have been stunted.

The first mistake is usually that of cutting off the milk supply too abruptly. Where the milk is sent to creameries, or home dairying is practiced, the evil may be largely overcome by changing gradually from whole milk to skim milk. Where the milk is sent to the cheese factory, the case is different. When operations commence in the spring, the milk supply for the calves is cut off completely, and this is where many dairymen make a mistake. In their desire to send all the

milk possible to the factory, they deprive the calves, when they are two to six weeks old, of their milk ration without making sufficient provision for a substitute. The youngsters have not learned to eat well enough to subsist on dry feed, and the result is they receive a check from which they never recover. It surely is a mistaken policy to follow such a practice. The result is an inevitable deterioration in the constitution and productiveness of the future dairy herd.

The feeding of whole milk is an expensive process, and it is often hard to know when it should be discontinued, so that the calf will not be raised at too great an expense nor yet stunted in its growth. The milk supply, however, should not be cut off entirely until the calf has learned to eat coarser food in sufficient quantities to supply the needs of the growing body. With a four weeks feeding of whole milk, and gradually diminishing the quantity fed at the end of that time, the calf may be reared in a condition consistent with economy and good strong development.

Shorts and linseed cake seem to stand unrivalled as feed for young calves. If the calf's nose is daubed with a mixture of shorts and a small quantity of the meal every time it is fed, and a little left accessible to the animal at all times, he will soon learn to eat it. The trough from which the grain is fed should always be clean and the supply fresh. After the calf is two or three months old oat chop may be used as part of the grain ration. Clean, sweet clover hay should also be provided.

To obtain the best results the calves should not be turned out through the day during the summer. Cool, dry quarters should be provided, and the calves should not be subjected to the flies, heat and early summer rain. Exercise may be provided by turning into a yard or paddock during the night. The practice requires a little more work and attention, but the improvement in the growth of the animal, and, ultimately, the returns in the milk pail, will repay any extra labor involved.

It costs no more to feed a good calf than it does to feed a poor one, neither is it more expensive to rear a well-bred calf than a nondescript, and yet the truth is that there are more of that latter than any other kind in many districts. Farmers seem to think that so long as a cow is brought to lactation that everything to be desired has been accomplished. Sometimes Shorthorn, Ayrshire and Holstein bulls are brought into a neighborhood in rotation, according to the whim or liking of individual breeders, and these are used indiscriminately. Occasionally, a cross with a "scrub" is introduced. Mongrel cows are the result, while with the same outlay and with a well-defined system in mind, each farmer might be caring for a uniform herd of cows of practically pure breeding. Let the farmer choose the breed that he thinks best adapted to his own conditions, and then use the best sires he can afford. This is not a plea for registered-pedigree stock, though that is desirable, but it is a plea for the substitution of the present dairy cow of many farms with an animal of high excellence, the result of intelligent breeding, weeding and feeding.

Our cheesemaking industry is an important one. A good deal of effort is necessary if we are to retain our reputation for a high-class article. A careful observance of the market requirements will enable us to do so, and intelligence in the care and selection of our stock will enable us to take advantage of the premium prices to the fullest extent. EX.

Age of Breeding Sows.

In a letter to the London Live-stock Journal, Mr. Sanders Spencer, who has had long and varied experience in pig breeding and management, takes exception to the following paragraph, in a letter appearing in a recent issue of that paper:

"For the purpose of breeding stock that is ultimately to take a place in the herd, I quite believe that fully-matured animals should be used; but, as a young sow's first litter is hardly ever destined for any purpose other than the butcher's block, this is no argument against breeding sows early."

Mr. Spencer writes: "I have for nearly half a century been trying to learn a little about pig-breeding, and my experience leads me to believe that the produce of yelts are equally as good for breeding and exhibition purposes as the produce of fully-matured boars or sows, or both. I could give scores of instances in proof of my belief. I will give one. At the Royal Show at Carlisle, I successfully showed a Middle White boar under six months. Early in September, when he was about eight months old, I had him mated with a young sow. The produce, ten pigs, arrived on January 1st following. I showed a pen of three of the young sows at the 1903 Royal Show, where they each won first prize in their class. The best young boar of the litter I reserved, and have been using; the others were sold at high prices. I also reserved the best of the young sows. She is being prepared for the coming Royal Show, and is, in my opinion, one of the very best Middle White sows I ever bred. Further, in proof that early use did not affect the Carlisle Royal winner, now named Holywell Middleton, I may state that I showed him at the Bath and West of England Show at Swansea, where he easily won first prize in his class, and the gold medal as best of his breed.

The writer of the letter makes a very good point when writing of the desirability of attention being paid to the nursing capabilities of the sow: the general neglect of this most important quality has done more than all else to bring into bad repute some herds of pure-bred pigs. As a rule, it will be found that the best milking sow is also the most prolific and the best mother. I do not go quite so far as to assert that late mating of the young sow will necessarily affect the milking qualities. Provided a young sow's parents have for generations been bred from good milkers, she is almost certain to possess the same valuable qualities whether mated early or late in life, nor does showing affect these hereditary qualities if the animal is judiciously trained."

A Hardware Merchant's Decision.

Though not now farming, having gone into the hardware business, we realize that we must still continue to take the "Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine." J. W. FLEMING & SON. Kent Co., Ont.

Several readers who have lately sent in questions to be answered in the Farmer's Advocate forgot to comply with our rule which requires the full name and P. O. address to be given in every instance. We can pay no attention to anonymous communications or enquiries. Please read and observe the rules of the "Questions and Answers" Department.



The Bovines Line Up—Stock Parade, Edmonton Exhibition, July 2nd, 1903.