

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.

Barley is a Valuable Feed

Prof. C. A. Zavitz, O.A.C., Guelph. The value of a crop does not depend upon the yield per acre in bushels but rather upon the number of pounds of digestible protein and carbohydrates which an acre of that crop will produce. The protein in a crop is most valuable. It is the flesh forming constituent. The lean meat, hide, hair, milk and albuminoids in the animal frame, are built up from protein. The fat and carbohydrates are the source of heat, energy and fat in the body. Statistics furnished by the Bureau of Industries for the last 25 years show that barley has yielded 1,330 pounds per acre; oats 1,210, winter wheat, 1,248 and peas, 1,154. When compared as to their digestible nutrients barley is surpassed only by peas in the total number of pounds of digestible protein per acre. Barley gives 116 lbs., while peas furnish 219 lbs. In digestible carbohydrates, however, barley furnishes 920 lbs., winter wheat 880 lbs., and oats 644 lbs. Barley therefore is a more valuable plant than meat farmers realize. It is a food of great value for most animals. It should be mixed with other foods for best results, as many animals do not like barley meal alone.

The value of any food depends upon what it is used for. The objections to barley are its beards or awns, the fact that it hasn't as wide a range as oats and does not give as much straw. It is however not so exhausting on the soil as oats, wheat or corn.

Gentleness pay in the dairy herd.—H. Johnson, Middlesex Co., Ont.

Roots are Good for Cows

R. S. Stevenson, Wentworth Co., Ont. I always try to have a large supply of roots for my stock. I find that when the root supply is finished in the spring, the cows fail in their milk and I can find no feed which will act as a substitute. In my experience I have found that Swede turnips are more valuable than mangels for dairy cows. It is, however, difficult to raise turnips in some seasons on account of the turnip louse.

I prefer feeding roots whole. When fed in this way, a larger flow of saliva is induced, and the roots are digested better. Cattle gulp down pulped roots without chewing them. In some circumstances pulped roots have to be fed as in the case of old cows.

There is something in roots that gives the animals to which they are fed a better appetite, enables them to digest their food better and makes

them freer from diseases and sickness that is not found in other foods. About one-half a bushel of roots a day is a fair allowance. Some animals will take more. I would advise sowing an acre or so of white turnips to be fed to the cattle when pasture becomes short in the fall. They do not affect the flavor of the milk as do Swede turnips.

Ration for Fattening Steers

I have well matured corn ensilage, alfalfa, red clover, ground oats, and can use corn meal, cotton seed, and can use cake. What combination of these feeds would make a well balanced ration and what quantities should they be fed to get the largest gain from now until April 15th? —W. J. R. Peel Co., Ont.

In feeding steers for rapid and economic gain, it should be remembered that over 66 per cent. of the increase in weight of a fattening steer is fat and only seven per cent. is lean meat. To feed very much grain is

high protein content such as cotton seed or oil cake is not economical. For causing rapid gains, there is no other feed better than corn meal.

If the ensilage is well matured and well cared, a combination of ensilage and alfalfa or red clover would almost make a balanced ration and steers would do very well on it. When rapid gains are desired, however, and market prices would justify it, a few pounds of corn meal and a pound or two of oil cake would be advisable.

For two-year-old steers, a good ration would consist of 40 pounds of corn ensilage, 16 to 20 pounds alfalfa or oats, three pounds corn meal and two pounds of oil cake per 1,000 lbs. live weight.

I have just received the pure bred Berkshire pig which Farm and Dairy sent me for a club of nine new subscribers to that paper. The pig was bred by Mr. S. Snowden of Bowmanville, Ont., and weighed 53 lbs. It is a dandy, and the neighbors all think so too. I thank Farm and Dairy for this premium.—Geo. E. Wheatley, Peterboro Co., Ont.

BARLEY EQUAL TO OATS PER ACRE

Brother Farmers: At last I can grow as many bushels of barley as I can grow oats to the acre. For four years I have grown the O. A. C. No. 21 Barley. It is free from rust, is longer and stiffer in straw, and it yields up to

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Turnips in New Ontario that proved to be a Profitable Crop. Roots, like every well known fodder crop, grow luxuriantly in the great clay belt of "Greater Ontario." We are indebted to the Cobalt Nugget for this illustration, which shows a splendid field of turnips on Mr. John McFarlane's farm, near Kingshart.

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