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FEEDERS CORNER

Milking Three Times a Day

Our cows are grade Holsteins and Durhams. They are giving 10 to 12 lbs. of milk daily. Would it pay to milk three times a day? We have the help in the family to do it if the increased production would pay for the work? Or does the profit from three times a day milking come only in sinking official records with pure-bred stock?—"Dairymen," Ar, Entell Co., Que.

In Denmark, Sweden and other European countries, the practice of milking three times daily is very common, and evidently with their available cheap labor, very profitable. It is doubtful, however, if this practice can be profitably adopted in Canada other than in rare instances where the labor is available or in the making of official records. It is doubtful if the milking of a cow giving less than 40 pounds of milk daily in two milkings would pay for the extra labor of the third milking. The extra milking in itself may be responsible for an increased milk flow of 8 per cent to 30 per cent, depending on the cows. For cows carrying a very heavy flow of milk even these figures may be exceeded.

The common practice to give the same number of feeds as number of times milked. Undoubtedly the heavy milking cow can digest more feed and produce from 15 to 30 per cent more milk under this system.—E. S. A.

Millet as a Feed

Will be short of hay next year with only about half the usual supply of clover. We are planning on five acres of common milk cow hay, and know something about its feeding value as compared with clover hay, and what it should be fed. Will the ration need to be much heavier as compared with clover feed at the same stage should millet be cut to make the best hay?—"Cowboy," Y. C.

Millet makes only a fair feed for cows, its value depending largely on the care in harvesting and curing. If properly made it is slightly superior to average timothy hay but much inferior to clover or alfalfa. The common millet is the earliest, most drought resistant and makes the finest and best hay of all varieties. Millet hay should not be fed too liberally else it may induce scours or similar digestive troubles. It should be fed to cows in conjunction with meal and silage or roots. Changes from other hays to millet must be made gradually. Millet for hay should be cut when the heads of plants start to shoot. If left till later the stalks become too woody and more indigestible. Millet hay contains 4.3 less protein than clover hay and is a less digestible form, hence more meal of a protein nature is needed in the ration.—E. S. A.

Use of Calf Meals

We are shipping milk to Montreal and getting almost a cow's feed for it. We have a half dozen better calves on hand and more are expected. These are pure-bred animals and we don't like to part with them. Will you give me the formula for a good milk substitute and tell me how to feed it? Can I get meal from calf meal as from feeding whole milk and skim-milk?—"W. P.," Huntington Co., Que.

It is not possible to raise as good heifers to eight months of age without whole milk or skim-milk and in the absence of these feeds greater care must be used. However, very good calves may be raised without these feeds and the somewhat later development may be just as good at three years of age as the milk reared calves.

Remove dairy calves from the cow at birth. Do not allow them to suck, unless weak or unable to drink, or unless the cow's udder is severely

caked. Mother's milk for the first four days, at the rate of 12 to 14 pounds divided into three or four feeds is essential. Continue whole milk till the calf is four weeks of age. Then during the following two weeks gradually replace the milk with a well prepared calf meal. There are many excellent calf meals on the market, such as Royal Purple, Gold Dollar, Caldwell, etc., which will give good results. A homemade meal which makes a good milk substitute is composed of: Flaxseed, fine ground, 1 part; oats, fine ground, and sifted, 2 parts; corn, fine ground, 2 parts; wheat shorts, 1 part. Any such meal should be prepared by mixing with a little cold water to moisten, then pour on boiling water and allow to stand for a time before feeding as a gruel. Feed at a temperature of 59 degrees F. Start the calves on half pound of this meal daily and increase gradually to two pounds daily till the calf is five months of age, when she may go on dry meal.

At three weeks of age, feed a small quantity of whole oats in the manger. Fine clover hay and clean water should be provided and kept before the calves from this time on. Replace the whole oats at four weeks of age with a grain mixture of equal parts bran, rolled oats, and ground corn.—E. S. A.

Grain on Pasture:

Our cows have just gone out on grass and I am debating whether or not to feed grain. A year ago I read in Farm and Dairy, written by Mr. Gray, of Ottawa, that he liked to let the cows rest on June pasture. More recently I have read that the best feed for cows should be fed at least a little grain the year around. Still other question the advisability at all if sufficient grass is provided. Will Mr. Archibald kindly tell me what ration to feed his cows on good pasture, fair pasture and poor pasture? Mr. Gray's cows are Holstein grades and mostly fresh in April and May.—W. C. O., Oxford Co., Ont.

Whether it is advisable to feed grain to cows on pasture depends on the condition of cows, quality of pasture, price of grains, and many similar conditions. When the good pasture is the best it is doubtful economy to feed grain to cows giving 30 pounds of milk or less, but with the heavy producing cows it is essential to feed some grain in order to uphold the milk flow. Although a cow may gather 50 to 75 pounds or even more, of grass daily, this may not be sufficient to maintain a heavy flow and body weight. When the pasture is very watery it is necessary to feed some grain to balance the ration and supply the necessary nutrients. However, as the pasture becomes better the grain may gradually be withheld and with the heavy producers, discontinued. Good pasture is relatively high in protein, in fact almost perfectly balanced as to the relation of protein and carbohydrates. As the grass becomes more mature it is more starchy and extra protein must be given in the meal unless a rich green feed, such as peas and oats, is available. During the periods of dry pasture, late fall pastures and that of intense heat and flies, it pays to grain feed milk cows in order to hold up their condition and milk flow till other feeds are available. Generally speaking, for heavy milking spring freshened Holstein grade cows it may pay to feed grain as follows:

1. On good pasture a grain mixture of bran, 4 parts; corn or corn bran, 2 parts; cottonseed meal or other oil cake, 1 part; fed at the rate of one pound for every eight pounds of milk produced.
2. On fair pasture a grain mixture of bran, 3 parts; corn or corn bran, 2 parts; and cottonseed, 2 parts; fed at the rate of one pound grain per eight pounds milk produced.
3. On poor pasture feed at least some green peas and oats or silage and a grain mixture of bran, 3 parts; corn or corn bran, 2 parts; cottonseed or oil cake, 2 parts; and gluten or dried distillers' grains, 2 parts; fed at the rate of one pound grain per 4½ to 5 pounds produced.—E. S. A.

FIELD NOTE

By "Mac."

Springtime Observations Eastern Ontario

One who has been accustomed to farm life, and who for a farm life or from the city as auto, as he rides through the country, has become accustomed to observe the little things of country life, there is nothing interesting during the spring of the year than a trip through farm districts. During the month of May has been my private spring considerable time in parts of the eastern part of the province, and possibly a few natural observations would be just to my readers.

Probably the thing that is noticeable on such a trip is the fact that the farm people of all that may be said to be putting in a strenuous and busy season of hours and shortage of help as evidence at present. Owing to the fact that in many places where the work was done last fall the work has been held back to a considerable extent. Land which was prepared in the fall in most cases has been put in for field crops, but there are fields and parts of fields in the country which were plowed in the spring after the other crop had put in and which cannot be put in for a full crop during the season. One of the most serious results of this is where part of the land has been sowed at one time or another time, thus causing unevenness in the time of the early part of the season. The early part will necessarily over-ripe if allowed to wait later part, and the later part will be ripe enough if the field is plowed in time for the early part. Taken in general, the season has been a favorable one in Ontario. In most districts there were not held up to an extent by bad weather, a ground which was plowed in was put in in good time and shape. There were some however, for instance along Lawrence River in the more westerly counties, where the land level, that the soil had not sufficiently before rain came to get the crop in. Thus or more of wet weather later in the season, the land is longer time, and at the time it is possible that the grain not needed. However, in section such as this and in the soil of the St. Lawrence valley this condition causes little or no harm.

Still unusually severe winter also left its mark upon the land. During the month there has been much attention as to the possibilities of fall wheat crop, and judging appearances the lowest estimate the most near correct. The wheat from the car through the counties of Hastings and Northumberland I noticed fields which appeared to have been there through them largely as of course grass. After several of these I made the fact that what I supposed was grass was in reality fall wheat farmers, who owned the fields, had to save every precious inch of the crop, had left every inch even though it be only a few diameter, and worked up the field for the spring crop. Spring crop coming up later fall wheat standing in patch and there through the fields very much like bunches of

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