

## 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.

### Feeding Export Steers

Last fall I bought several head of two year old stockers and hope to have them in shape for export this spring. We have plenty of corn ensilage with straw and hay. Would it be advisable to purchase milk stuffs as well to force them along? What feeds would you advise?—K.C., Wellington Co., Ont.

Stockers two years old will be well developed as to size of frame and fleshing. The main increase from now on will be an increase in fat. Analyses show that in a fattening steer only seven or eight per cent. of the gain is lean meat while 66 per cent. is fat and a high moisture water. Feeds having a high digestible starch content therefore are most economical. To give feeds rich in protein to fattening steers is wasteful.

If the corn silage is well matured less concentrated feed will be needed in addition than if the ensilage is on the green side. Corn meal is one of the most digestible of our carbonaceous feeds and if it can be obtained at a reasonable price is the best feed procurable. A little oil meal, say one or two pounds a day, adds to the good health of the animal and gives it that mellow, sappy feeling which is the delight of all stockmen. If you have a straw cutter, it would be well to run the straw through it and mix with the corn ensilage about 24 hours before feeding. The corn ensilage will then soften the straw and give it a nice palatable flavor. It is not advisable to add the grain to this mixture when first mixed as the heating of the pile would lower the digestibility of the meal. It would be better to spread the grain over the corn ensilage and hay in the manger.

This mixture and the grain should be fed first thing in the morning, followed by a light feed of hay. Do not disturb the cattle again until night when ensilage, hay and grain are again fed followed by a liberal feeding of straw. The straw will be picked over during the night and what is not eaten can be used for bedding. The amount of grain to be fed depends entirely on the individuality of the animals and can be best determined by the feeder himself. The amount of grain fed should be increased towards the end of the feeding period, and the straw feeding reduced. Rest and quiet together with a fairly cool stable are almost as important in putting flesh on steers as is the feed. Never go near them through the day if possible nor allow anybody else to—E.

### Home Mixed Condimental Feeds

Editor, Farm and Dairy.—I have always understood that stock condiments were untruly expensive, and that home mixed condiments or tonics are much cheaper, and serve the same purpose as the more expensive ones that I can buy. Will you publish through the columns of Farm and Dairy a recipe for a home mixed condimental feed?—C. E. Hutton Co., Ont.

The following formula for a condimental feed, recommended by the Vermont and Maine stations, can be prepared for about 20 cents per head and gentian 1 lb., ground (1 lb.), powdered salt peter ½ lb., powdered iron sulphate ½ lb., mix and give 1 tablespoonful in the feed once daily for 10 days omit for three days, and feed as above for 10 days more.

The Iowa Experiment Station suggests the following: Fenugreek 8 lbs., ginger 8 lbs., powdered gentian 8 lbs., powdered sulphur 8 lbs., potassium nitrate, 8 lbs., rosin 8 lbs., cayenne pepper, 4 lbs., wheat bran 100 lbs. This mixture costs less than \$5 per 100 lbs.

and very nearly approximates the composition of the average condimental feed.

In feeding these condiments one must realize that—A tablespoonful of such a mixture fed night and morning will not put his stock on the market in 30 days less time, neither will it double the flow of milk of his dairy herd, nor will it prevent cholera in hogs, abortion in cattle, roup in chickens, or glanders in horses. It is yet to be proved that any stock food or tonic will do this. The feeding of domestic animals in such ways will be a matter of applied common sense and intelligence.

### Decrease in Milk Flow

What should be the monthly yield of a cow that gave 1300 pounds of milk the first month after freshening? What will she give 400 pounds of milk in 10 months?—N. O. R. Lincoln Co., Ont.

The fact is that a cow will give from month to month varies greatly and depends on the individuality of the animal. Some cows will give a great deal of milk for a short time and go dry quickly while other cows will keep up almost the same flow month after month and it is almost impossible to dry them. Professor Henry of Wisconsin estimates after many tests that on the average, when the cow is fed well, each month her milk flow will decrease nine per cent. of the milk flow the month before. A cow giving 1,300 pounds the first month therefore would give 1,188 pounds the second month. Yields for other months down to 10 months would be 1078, 989, 900, 819, 745, 678, 617 and 562 lbs. of milk. These yields, however, while they may be fairly accurate for the average of a large herd could hardly be applied to individual animals.

A cow to give 9,000 pounds of milk in 10 months should give about 1,320 pounds the first month if she is a fairly persistent milker. Yields for succeeding months can be calculated by taking off nine per cent. of the yield the month before.—E.

### A Most Significant Increase

How many farmers would believe it, if they are told that doubling the milk production of their cows, by getting cows that could double it, would more than quadruple their profit? Yet, this is just what Prof. Boeggild, the great Danish authority, says the Danes found to be true.

When we note what the average production per cow is, with the average farmer, it does not seem such a big task to double, or, as we said above, get cows that will double it. But think once on the fact that four times the profit will come with that increase. Herein lies the important fact, which so many farmers fail to see, that is that they need get a cent of profit till the cow has taken heavy toll from her feed for bodily support. It costs just as much to support the body of a poor cow as of a good cow. But the good cow pays for her support and the cost of the surplus in milk, and a profit besides. We must learn to look deeper into this dairy question.—Hoard's Dairyman.

### How to Rid Dogs of Fleas

I should like a reliable remedy for riding a dog of fleas. I have tried several methods, including carbolic acid, but without success.—D. F. Sin co., Ont.

I have known of fleas being destroyed by washing the dog in a three per cent solution of willow oil. This is practically crude carbolic acid, which I note, however, your correspondent has used without success. I should not use the creolin stronger than four per cent., or one part in 25 of water. I think the main reason of non-success in cleaning up the pest is that there have been so many of

them around the dog's sleeping place. Even if in washing him with the solution the fleas which are on him are all killed, others from the same kennel would get upon him after his hair has dried and he will immediately be infested again. Therefore, I would recommend washing or spraying the kennel and the ground, and the walk around it with a five per cent. solution of creolin, or one part in 20 of water. Also, the animal should have a rug or mat upon which to sleep, and this should be taken immediately cut and beaten on the grass in the morning so as to get rid of the eggs which the fleas have dropped on it during the night.

If the breeding places of the fleas are well cleaned up this will be a great help toward getting rid of them. Spraying and washing the woodwork and pavement around with pure kerosene oil, of course destroy the nests at once. Insect powder rubbed into the hair of the dog will drive the fleas from him. Sulphur and powdered tobacco put in his sleeping place will also be beneficial.—Prof. H. A. Surface, State Zoologist, Pa.

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