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Questions and Answers. Miscellaneous.

Ropy Milk—Calves Chew Wood.

1. Have two cows milking. At times, especially when it is very hot, the milk and cream gets stringy when it has been set in pans a while. Is there anything I can do to prevent it?

2. Have two calves in a box stall. They keep chewing at the boards. What is the reason? A SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.-1. Ropiness in milk and cream is caused by bacteria in the substance. The trouble should not be confused with abnormal changes in milk, which sometimes occur from cows suffering from garget or other udder trouble. To get rid of the trouble thoroughly, clean the stables, brushing down all dust, then whitewash. Pay particular attention to all cans, strainers, dippers, pails, and other utensils used in handling the milk. Each and every one of these should be carefully cleaned and thoroughly scalded. If the trouble continues, wash the flanks and udders of the cows with a weak disinfectant solution. If the milk has once become affected, it cannot be prevented from becoming ropy unless it turns sour. The souring of milk by the lactic-acid germ will prevent the development of the ropy-milk germ. Of course, this is not practicable where sweet milk and cream are sold. The germ must be prevented from getting into the milk. A simple method of ascertaining where the germ comes from is to take a series of vessels, such as tumblers, cups, bottles or jugs, thoroughly scald these and put int_0 them some milk immediately after milking. Into one of these put about two spoonfuls of water from the cooling vat, into another put the same quantity from the well or cistern, into another a little dust from the stable or milkhouse floor, and so on. Put into each one of these vesof milk a little water or other material which may be suspected to be th. source of the trouble. It might be said that water has been found to be a source on several occasions, and sometimes wells near the barnyard are very badly affected. Cover these receptacles over with a plate or saucer that has been scalded, and put them away where they will not be disturbed for twenty-four hours or so. then using a spoon or fork to test them for ropiness. Once the source of contamination is found, it is an easier matter to overcome the trouble. Of course, careful scalding of all cans, pails, strainers, etc., is essential. One part of potassium bichromate to 1,000 parts of water may be used in the cooling vats. This is, however, a poison, so care must be used to prevent its access into the milk. Disinfect the stable floor and walls, and also the milk-house, with a five-per-cent. solution of sulphuric acid. 2. Give the calves plenty of salt. This chewing by calves sometimes becomes a habit, which they persist in after being fed milk. It is something like sucking each other. Chewing wood and bones by

Over the fence the neighbors conversed

older cattle is generally a sign of lack

of phosphates in the food, and this is

sometimes relieved by the addition of

some material containing this ingredient.

as follows: "Why, Mrs. Murphy, you look quite festive to-day. Wot's up, then ?" "Wet! 'Aven't you 'eard my Bift comes out to-day?"

seven years.

"Yes; but they're lettin 'im out nearly two years earlier 'cos' 'e's behaved so well."



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