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HOW TO OBTAIN LARGE MILK YIELDS

Geo. Rice, Oxford Co., Ont.

"Push Cart Dairying"

"I HAVE had a cow freshen, and I would like to know just how to feed her to get a large milk yield," writes A. B., of Haldon Co. If a man is doing business with a push-cart, then all the preparation he needs is to take hold and push. He will have to keep on pushing too or the cart will stop at once. A man can't do a very big business with a push-cart—his earnings will be small, but the exercise will be large. A cow to give a large yield of milk cannot be run on a push-cart plan.

PREPARE THE COW FOR HER WORK

A cow when giving a large quantity of milk is producing a great quantity of food value, and, although we cannot tell just to what extent, it must tax her to the utmost. When we want a large milk yield, instead of a "push-cart" we are going out with the "fast freight," or the "lightning express," and the greater work we expect to do the more necessary it is to prepare for it. This applies with equal force whether we want to make a one-day, seven-day, or a one-year milk record.

COW MUST NOT STOP

The pace when we start will be terrific. There is no time then to overhaul the engine while running. We would have to stop the engine to do that. But if we stop a dairy cow on the trip, we cannot start her on as good again that year. The engineer knows that if he starts out with a poor fire and low steam pressure he will have a very hard time of it getting up some steam when running. His pressure being low and the steam weak, the power is not nearly as effective.

It is something the same with a cow. The milk she gives does not come directly from the feed she consumes at that time, but from the dynamic energy stored up in her system. If she has not been fed enough over and above a maintenance supply, then she can make no reserve strength, and she will have to start out weak in strength and energy, weak in stomach and lungs. She is in even a worse plight than the steam power, because, besides producing the milk she has the additional heavy tax of maternity to go through.

Common sense, therefore, shows us that if we want a large yield of milk we must start to put the cow in condition for the heavy work we want her to do long before she freshens. If her "machinery" is properly fitted and runs all right, we may expect results. But if her "machinery" is worn out, wobbly and ill-made, we can't expect very effective work.

*See articles of this series in former issues.

We will start on the cow two months at least before she is due to freshen and have her dry. Then the feed necessary will depend upon her condition at that time. It should be sufficient to make her gain in flesh one or two pounds daily. The ration, even at this time, should be succulent and not all dry unpalatable feed as is too often the case. We want not only more flesh upon her bones, more marrow in her bones, but we want also her skin to be in good condition; her stomach in good tone and her lungs sound, and working like a good bellows. In fact, it is the working of the lungs that give the draft as it were, that enables the cow to get energy from the food. It is something the same again as the fire under the boiler, it must have a good draft. The oxygen

so after parturition has taken place, the cow should have a bran mash. Say four quarts of bran scalded with very hot water. After this has steamed a few minutes, fill the pail (it should hold over 12 quarts), with water. The mash should, when the pail is filled up with water, be warm—75 or 80 degrees. The cow will be thirsty and will take it down. It will be good for her stomach and bowels and it will aid in the throwing off of the afterbirth.

The cow must not be in the cold. She should be milked out, only partially, for the first 24 hours. When these simple precautions are taken there is no danger of milk fever or other troubles. The cow's stomach is weak for some time after the calf is born and she must not be fed heavy chop, or, in fact, not so much of anything for the first week after calving, some silage, roots, bran, and oil-cake with a bran mash once a day, pure water and pure air, will answer nicely. Do not turn her out in the cold.

Artificial Incubation

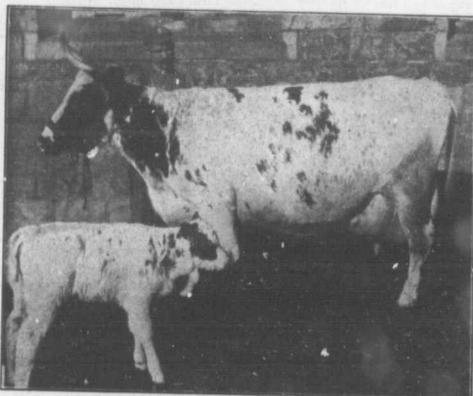
Thomas W. Lee, Mgr.-Dir., Poultry Yards of Canada, Pembroke

When the general travelling representative of Farm and Dairy recently visited our poultry plant, he seemed to be very much impressed, amongst other features, with the vigorous appearance of our stock and learning that every pullet he saw was once an incubator chick, it was no doubt, this fact that prompted him to ask me for a few notes of our experience in operating incubators, so that he might place before his readers the possibilities of the Canadian poultry industry, now that artificial incubation has proved itself a commercial success.

If any words I might write will convince Canadian poultrymen, that to make big money in the business, they should depend on the fowl for producing the egg, and the right incubator for producing the fowl, then this article is warranted. Yes, more than warranted, because the Dominion of Canada to-day is up against a poultry famine, ridiculous in the extreme, which has been brought about, largely,

by the lethargic indifference with which the industry has been publicly treated, and by the corresponding lack of interest on the part of farmers and others who have long since realized that the business offers little encouragement, owing to the difficulty in procuring hatching hens during the early spring so as to enable them to raise pullets for fall layers, and broilers and roasters for the market, when the prices are most favorable. At the same time erroneous impressions prevail as to what a modern incubator is capable of doing, and a feeling is existent in too many minds touching the intricacy of its mechanism, resulting in a mysterious halo surrounding artificial incubation.

Artificial hatching, is mysterious, but only for one reason, that is, its simplicity and in that very



One of the Honest Kind as Shown by Her Record

Ayshire Cow, "Jessie A." This cow has a record of over 11,000 pounds of milk, testing 3.8 in 10 months. She left a net profit of over \$70.00, after paying all expenses for year. Owned by Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

from the air makes the fire burn, and the oxygen of the air helps to digest the food given the cow, and oxidizes the blood.

MANAGEMENT BEFORE CALVING

When within two or three days of calving the cow should be fed no heavy grain. Feed her silage, roots and bran with a little oil cake. It is a mistake to put her on dry feed at this time. Her bowels need to be kept moving. A bran mash is very good. Just as soon as parturition takes place we must consider the cow as an invalid. Her stomach is now weaker and she must be fed judiciously.

Invalids do not want to be starved nor yet to be fed on fat pork and beans. They require a nourishing, easily digested diet. Half an hour or