

Pointers for the Dairyman

Value of Skim Milk

"I would not say what it is worth. Some men make it worth a great deal more than others. It is quite an interesting problem there if I have time. I make skim milk, separated on my farm, from grade Guernseys, worth last spring 50 cents a hundred pounds. That is as much as some men get for whole milk. It was this way: I sold this bunch of grade Guernsey heifers seven months old, at \$20 each. I advertised them. There were eight of them. A farmer came up and complained about the price. But I said, 'Go back and look at the calves.' He would go back and look at the calves, and then come to me and complain about the price. I would say again, 'Go back and look at the calves.' He would go back again and look at the calves, and they sold themselves finally. The calves were fed on skim milk. They were fed on a little whole milk until they got started on skim milk. They were fed \$1 worth of oats, \$1.50 worth of alfalfa and 50 cents worth of blood meal. That made \$3. I then reckoned the carcasses of each one of them at what the butcher would pay, \$3. That made \$6. They sold for \$20. They left \$14. They consumed 2,800 pounds of skim milk each, and they were between seven and eight months old, and that left me \$14 for the 2,800 pounds of skim milk."—Ex. Gov. Hoard.

Good Cows Hard to Buy

"It is almost impossible to buy a number one dairy cow. She is seldom, if ever, for sale; a friend or neighbor will get her. We cannot tell the value of a dairy cow until we have milked her through one period of lactation, and used the scales and tested in determining the quantity and quality of her milk. She may have a perfect-shaped body and udder, and yet be defective in some way. She may have the self-milking habit, a kicker, a breachy cow, or hold her milk, and not let it come down as she should, or some other habit that would make her an unprofitable cow. The safest way is to raise the dairy herd by careful selection of dam and sire, and use only the best milk strain to be had."—A. G. Harris.

Drying Up the Cow

From ten to eleven months is as long as it is advisable to keep a cow milking during the year unless the cow be a farrow. Some very persistent milkers may with safety be milked the year round, provided they are well fed.

The more highly developed the dairy cow becomes the more difficult it is to dry her up at the close of the lactation period. It should be very carefully done. There can be no hard and fast rules laid down for the feeding and handling of the cow at this time, but as a rule, a decrease in the grain allowance is usually effective in reducing the flow of milk. If a cow is then in flesh it is seldom necessary to make any change in the system of feeding. The milk flow can be reduced by leaving a small amount of milk in the udder after each milking. After pursuing this method for a week, milking the cow once a day is usually sufficient. If managed properly it should not take longer than two weeks to thoroughly dry the cow up, but under any condition all or nearly all of the udder secretions should have ceased before she is turned out to receive no more attention. If the cow is thin in flesh she should be well fed until she is in good condition for her next year's work.

Raising Calves

Mrs. A. F. Howie, of Wisconsin, who attended the dairymen's convention at St. Thomas, Ont., two years ago and delighted her hearers with her addresses, has the following to say about raising calves:

"If sire and dam have been wisely selected and the mother has been properly fed and cared for, the little creature that comes to the herd will be a bright-eyed, lively little thing, and one of the most important lessons in its education is that from the very first it should be taught to regard the dairymen as its friends. Three days is not too long a time to leave it to a mother with a maternal instinct that strengthens its body and regulates its digestive organs by furnishing meals at all hours of a kind and quality provided by inimitable Nature; and when the time arrives to separate the mother and her little one, the herdsman should remember that calf's stomach is of small dimensions and that to distend it unnaturally by a too liberal allowance of milk would result in impaired digestion; therefore, a well-grown, thrifty calf should be given no more than two quarts of milk at a single feeding, and for the first three weeks it should be fed, at regular intervals, this amount and no more, three times a day. The milk must be warm, 98 degrees, and fed from a strictly clean pail or pan.

"At the end of the first week a small portion of the milk may be skimmed; by the end of the second week the entire amount may consist of skimmed milk, and, while a little later the quantity may be raised, it will not be found necessary to do so, for as the calf grows older and requires more liquid, water may be added and from the very first a calf should be offered at least twice daily fresh, pure water, in order to accustom it to drinking large quantities of water, which will aid materially in digestion and at the same time act as a valuable agent in flushing the system.

"From the day of its birth it may be given some bright, clean hay. Now on no account throw the hay down on the floor of the calf pen, where it may become trampled and soiled and, consequently, unfit or even dangerous as a food. Make a little rack in one corner of the calf pen, from which the hay may be pulled in small quantities. A calf may be safely given all the roughage it cares to consume.

"When ten days or two weeks old, a little box may be placed in one corner of its pen and in this may be put a handful of whole oats."

After it has finished drinking its milk, a few oats may be rubbed on its nose; it will soon find the box.

Now its ration is skimmed milk, whole oats and clean hay—all that is necessary to insure a steady, natural growth, and one calculated to provide the requisite bone and muscle-forming elements so important in the construction of a hearty, healthy animal, and, while the proper amount of food, systematic care and inviolable kindness must rank as important factors in raising a model calf, a clean, dry pen, flooded with sunlight and large enough to afford ample exercise, is a positive necessity to insure best results, for nothing will prove more detrimental to the health and welfare of a young animal, or an old one for that matter, than filthy, damp quarters.

"The fall and winter calves should

not be put on pasture until the succulence of the grass has somewhat dried out, and never in a pasture unprovided with shade, shelter and pure water. Spring and summer calves are better for being kept indoors during the heated season and should not be turned out until late in the fall, when a couple of weeks on pasture may prove beneficial."

The Old Cow Bell

Col. F. M. Woods, the well-known live stock auctioneer, in his opening address at one of the big sales in the Western States, became reminiscent and recited the following experience of his boyhood days, which is well worth reproducing:

"Probably it is no freak of fate that I am a cow auctioneer. I was brought up on cow's milk and she has been my sole support ever since. When a boy I followed her on many a long tramp through the marshes, thickets and underbrush of Illinois. We had an old brass cow bell on our cow and you could hear her from a distance. I remember how I used to vie with our neighbor boys as to who could hear his cow bell the farthest. We would lie flat down and put our ears to the ground and listen. One of our neighbors was Hugh Boise. He had a cow bell that could not be heard more than a few rods. I think it must have been made of leather, its sound was so weak. His boy used to say to me, 'Fred, our bell has one advantage over yours. When I hear our bell I know I'm darn near to the cow.' I remember one night I had been hunting our cow until night-fall when I heard our bell away off in the distance, probably six or eight miles away. I did not know how far, but I kept a going and a going. It was dark, and in places the grass was high and the trees and brush were thick. The wolves were howling and I tell you I was feeling pretty blue. I did not know where I was, but the purpose—to find the cow, was all that kept me from crying.

"Finally I came into a hollow place and there right before me was the cow. I tell you I felt glad. I found her. I was found and not the cow. She led me out of the wilderness! She led me home! If ever a man marched to inspiring music, I marched to the music of the old cow bell that night. I have heard the soft strains of the flute and the violin. I have heard the bugle call on the battlefield, proudly summoning us on to victory. I have heard the weird strains of an Indian band by moonlight on the sea. I have heard Sousa and all the great bands. I have heard the sweet voice of Jenny Lind. I have heard the cooing of the babe, as it nestled at its loving mother's breast, but the music of the old cow bell that night was the sweetest sound I have ever heard."

Vitality in Milk

"In the country at large, the product of one cow in five is sold to be consumed as whole milk. It will not be denied that milk varies in its food values and in its composition. The experiments were conducted for the purpose of showing the relative food value of solids from milk poor and rich in fat content when fed to young growing animals.

"For the first forty days the pair of pigs receiving skim milk gained sixty-two pounds; the pair receiving milk poor in fat 54.8 pounds; and the pair receiving milk rich in fat 42.2 pounds. For the next ten days the gain was for each pair twenty pounds, twenty and one-half pounds, and three and one-half pounds respectively. From fifty to sixty days the results were twenty pounds gain,