

DAIRY.

Raising Calves on Skim Milk.

While many farmers in the State are raising their calves successfully in this way, there are many localities where this practice is virtually unknown, and it is not thought possible to raise a good calf except in the natural way. Some have seen unhealthy and undersized calves that have been fed skim milk, and have considered them as the necessary result of feeding skim milk. Such calves are the unfortunate victims of their owner's ignorance or carelessness. The skim-milk calf, raised according to modern methods, differs little, if any, in size, quality, thrift and value from the same animal when raised by the cow.

The poor results which have so often followed the feeding of skim milk, have been due to faulty methods, and not because the cream which had been taken out is absolutely indispensable to the normal development of the calf. In truth, the butter-fat or cream of the milk is by no means the most valuable part of the milk for the calf. The fat does not go to form growth in a young animal, but to keep up the heat of the body, and to supply fat for body tissues. The parts of the milk which furnish the growth-making material are the casein and albumen, which are seen as white curd when the milk is sour. From this material is made the muscles and bone, nerves, hair and hoofs, and this remains in the skim milk. The calf fed on skim milk is not generally so fat during the first six months of its life as the one nursed by the cow. It often has, however, rather a better development of bone and muscle, and the difference between the two cannot be seen two weeks after weaning time. It is true, the calf requires, in addition to the skim milk, some food which will furnish a reasonable amount of fat to take the place of the fat removed from the milk when it was skimmed. Corn meal has been found to be very satisfactory, and is used quite extensively for this purpose. By giving the calf something to properly balance the skim milk, by feeding the milk warm and sweet, and not in too large quantities, excellent results can be depended upon.

The statement has been made to the writer by a number of Missouri farmers, that their hand-raised calves were not only equal, but were really superior to those raised by their neighbors in the natural way. The explanation given for this was, that the calf fed by hand was accustomed to eating grain, and was not checked in growth in the least by weaning; whereas, the one that had been raised by the cow had not learned to eat grain, and was materially checked in growth when suddenly deprived of milk and required to subsist entirely upon grain and coarse fodders.—[Mo. Ex. Station Bulletin.

Hints on Milking.

The only proper way of making heifers which are unaccustomed to being milked submit quietly and contentedly to the milking operation, is to treat them as gently as possible. If the heifer proves restive and obstinate, she must be gently cajoled and coaxed, and this will practically always in the end be effectual in causing her to submit quietly and to allow her milk to be drawn off. The great thing is to exercise patience, but instead of doing this milkers more often than not lose their temper, and thoroughly upset and frighten a young cow when she shows any restiveness, and that, of course, is fatal to the good behavior of the animal.

It is a good plan to gently rub or scratch the back of the udder with the hands prior to attempting to draw the teats in the case of heifers and young cows that evince any signs of unsteadiness when the milking operation is commenced. Cows are fond of the back of their bag being scratched, and this procedure serves to soothe them and put them into a good humor, as it were. It, of course, not infrequently happens that at first a heifer resents any attempt to touch her about the udder at all. In such cases, instead of persevering in this attempt, as is generally done, the proper thing to do is to scratch the animal's back and to handle her about the hind quarters, beginning at the top and gradually working downwards towards the udder, until finally the hand arrives at the latter, when the cow will not show any resentment.

Supposing a young cow is very unsteady and troublesome at first, the person attempting to milk her should be assisted by another, the latter taking his place at the head of the animal and holding it, at the same time scratching the forehead and the jaw, which plan will distract the animal's attention from the milker to some extent, and render her more quiet and submissive.

In some cases, the fact of a cow's teats being sore or chapped—which often occurs in the winter season—causes them to resent being milked, and to kick or move about. It is, therefore, well to bear this contingency in mind if an animal proves refractory. The rubbing-in of a little pure lard or vaseline into the skin of the teats will readily cure any superficial soreness or roughness. Warts on the teats are another source of unsteadiness in dairy cows at milking time.

Amongst the various devices adopted by milkers in order to force cows to keep steady when being

milked, that of getting an assistant to catch hold of the animal's nostrils and to press them with the fingers and thumb of one hand, on the principle of a bull's nose-ring, is perhaps the least harmful, while in many cases of refractory conduct on the part of spoilt or vicious cows it answers very well.

As a rule, the fact of a cow showing unsteadiness or kicking whilst being milked is the result of rough and improper treatment at the commencement of her milk-yielding career. Dairy cattle are generally of a very docile temperament, and when they do show any viciousness, this is due to their having been spoilt by ignorant milkers and ill-usage.—[H. F., in Agr. Gazette.

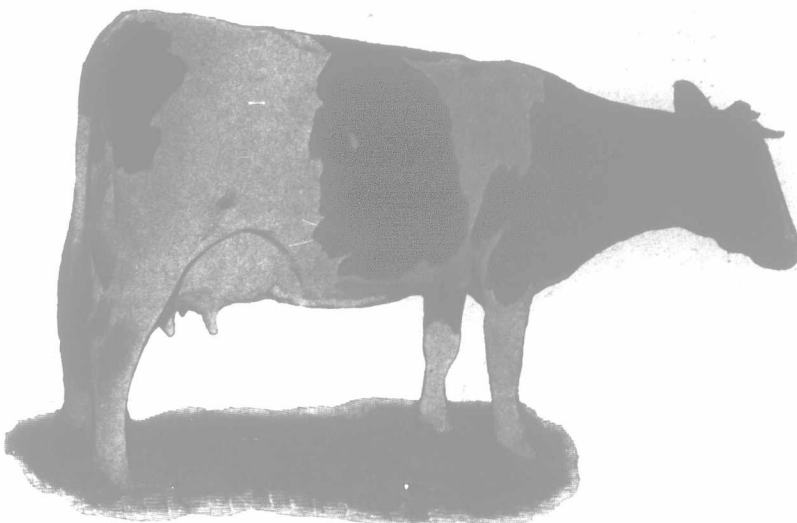


Mr. G. H. Greig.

Live-stock Commissioner for Manitoba and the Territories.

British Comments on Cheese.

The Canadian Commercial Agent at Leeds, Eng., reporting on waxed cheese, says opinion is fairly evenly divided for and against the practice of waxing cheese. He also adds: "There are some Canadian cheese sent here too high in color, and when kept in stock a few months turn mottled, as the color is not fast. In all cheese too highly colored and not properly pressed, discoloration sets in very quickly. The two extremes, 'white or pale' and a 'deep red,' are not wanted in certain districts. The majority of the Canadian cheese are too light in the curd, and for that reason are too hard and flinty. It is said the Canadian makers apply too much heat to the curd, and in this way drive out too great a proportion of moisture, hence the difference between the nice cheddar, with its smooth, solid, silky texture, and some of the cheese sent from Canada. On the other hand, the English cheddar will not keep as long as the average Canadian; hence the very best of Canadian is generally sold as English cheddar. If it were compulsory for the makers to stencil the month in which the cheese was made on each package or cheese, it would make the trade more satisfactory."



The Typical Dairy Type.

Notice the well-developed udder, extending well forward and well up behind; the evenly-placed teats, the large milk vein, the great depth of body, the dished neck, the strong back, the quiet expression.

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

Orchard Meetings.

The Fruit Division has completed arrangements for a series of orchard meetings in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces. During the last week the staff have been in attendance at the Experimental Farm at open discussions of topics relating to orchard management and the care and handling of fruit. Dr. Fletcher led in a discussion on the treatment of the orchard insect pests, giving the results of the treatments which have proved most effective. The care and cultivation of orchards was taken up by Professor Macoun. As all of those present were fruit men of long experience, there was no lack of discussion and suggestions as to improvements. This is the first year that anything of this nature has been attempted, although a conference of institute lecturers of a somewhat similar nature is annually held at the time of the Experimental Union in December. Those who have been in attendance speak highly of the advantages of a thorough open discussion such as this. Not only may they broaden their opinions on many points, but they are thus enabled to have a uniformity in their methods and system that would otherwise be impossible. Alex. McNeill, Chief Inspector, is leaving at once for Nova Scotia to conduct orchard meetings during the rest of May and the first half of June. He expects to be in Prince Edward Island for the last part of June and during July. Inspector Carey has arranged for a number of meetings in Quebec during June.

Ship Apples Direct.

The Canadian Commercial Agent at Leeds, Eng., reports: "The British buyer is commencing to shape himself for the apple crop again, and I came across a matter the other day which emphasizes still more strongly my advice to ship apples to the interior centers direct, viz.: The president of a chamber of commerce here, when in Canada last year with the deputation, bought three barrels of Canadian apples, and had them shipped to his nearest port. The carriage of the apples from his port to the station, 80 miles, cost him 9 pence (18c) more than the total freight from Montreal to the British port. The railway freights here, for short distances, are much larger than in Canada, but exceedingly good through rates from Canada can always be arranged. Canadian apples and other produce may be shipped very expeditiously to the interior towns in this district, not only via Liverpool, but also via Manchester.

"Manchester has good steamers with regular weekly sailings, running direct from Montreal and Quebec during the summer months, and from Halifax and St. John during the winter, and carrying all descriptions of cargo at the Liverpool rates of freight, and the cost of forwarding from Manchester to the interior towns compares most favorably with the cost of forwarding from Liverpool.

"I am impressing on the English exporters the absolute necessity of quoting their prices (duty and freight) at the Canadian ports in Canadian money, dollars and cents, and I cannot too strongly urge the Canadian exporters to do likewise, by quoting their prices here in pounds, shillings and pence."

Give Evergreens a Chance.

If there is one thing about our landscape more lamentable than another, it is the scarcity of evergreen trees. The defect might be excusable if such trees were not indigenous to the whole north-eastern part of America. The whole difficulty seems to lie in the fact that these trees so long opposed the conversion of forests into fields that those upon whose responsibility the planting of trees depends, fail to appreciate the beauty and utility of evergreens, and regard them only as so much of a hindrance to growing crops. In these days of bleak winds, burning suns, and high-priced timber, the pines, spruces and cedars have a threefold claim to recognition.

On every farm there are numerous corners and waste places where trees not only should be planted for the sake of the improvements they would make in appearances, but because it would be one of the most certain means of making such spots contribute to the revenue of the farm, by protecting the stock and crops, and by furnishing fuel. When planted in groups and judiciously mixed, nothing tends so much to break the monotony of our winter landscape as do these vari-colored evergreens.

Our selection for planting purposes is by no means limited. Among the pines, those that flourish in Canadian climates are our native white pine, Scotch pine, Austrian pine, red pine, bull pine (the latter a native of B.C., but a most majestic specimen), and pines grown chiefly for ornamental purposes. For spruces we have the