

Keeping Milch Cows over Winter.

A Beginner asks if it would pay to keep milch cows on a farm well adapted only to pasture, and depend in a great measure for their winter feed upon purchased hay, straw, and bran; and would $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. hay, $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. straw, and 2 lbs bran cut fine and mixed with warm water, and fed three times a day, be sufficient to keep a cow, not giving milk, in good condition, and be relished throughout the winter? This would be allowing a cow a consumption equal to $11\frac{1}{2}$ lbs of good hay per day. An animal, to keep in good stock condition, but no more, usually requires to consume an amount of food equal to one thirty-third part of its live weight per day of good meadow hay, so that the above quantity of mixture would just keep an animal of nearly four hundred pounds live weight, which would be a pretty small cow. Few good cows would go to less than double that weight, and many would go far beyond it. So we fancy it would require an addition of at least double the quantity of hay, and treble the quantity of straw, to keep up the condition in winter time. If the animals were kept in warm stables and allowed plenty of straw to fill the stomach, and about a peck of sliced turnips, carrots, or beets per day were given in addition to the amount of hay and bran proposed by our correspondent, we imagine they would do very well. In answer to another enquiry, we give a table of the relative value of different foods for stock, which "A beginner" will doubtless find useful in making up his calculations, and he will see from it that there is considerable difference in the feeding values of the various kinds of straw.

We hope he will experiment and let us know the results, for there is nothing so satisfactory as being able to tell from actual practice what is the best and cheapest plan to be pursued. The value of the manure made must not be left out of the calculation, and we are quite sure that, properly managed, the manure from store-fed cows will fully compensate for their winter keep, and a little extra cost in feed, to have them in first-rate condition by spring, will well repay their owner. We fed ours liberally with early cut hay all last winter, and estimated that the difference in the price they brought in the spring when in first-rate condition, over what they would have brought if sold in the fall, fully paid for the hay consumed, leaving the milk, butter, and manure made for profit.

Cheese Manufacture in the United States and Canada.

The *Utica Herald*, of the 6th instant, has a two column article on the cheese crop, as made up from returns from the factories in New York State, Ohio, Vermont, Massachusetts, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Michigan. Two hundred and twenty-four factories were

heard from, whose product put up to the last instant, is set down at 179,024 boxes, of an average weight of 64 31-100 lbs. Of this amount 82,210 boxes have been sold, leaving on hand 96,814 boxes. The daily make of the 224 factories is 3,758, of an average 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ for each. The *Herald* estimates that in the United States and Canada there are 1,000 factories, whose product is 117,250 boxes a week, though this yield will probably fall off some 1,500 or 2,000 boxes weekly as the season advances. In relation to the stock on hand, the *Herald* says:—It will be seen by the figures that we present, that the stock on hand is considerably larger than what has been sold. There is probably as much May cheese back as has been sold of June cheese, so that we may safely estimate the entire June make as waiting for a market. There are now not far from 430,000 boxes on the ranges, as the average number each of the 224 factories, from which we have returns, have on hand is a fraction over 432, which for 1,000 factories, would give 432,000. Whether there are more than were on hand last year at this time, we are unable to say. The make has unquestionably been larger but the sales have been larger also, as factory-men have sold as fast as possible in anticipation of a general decline in prices. Last year they were holding back for a rise. There was a large stock of old cheese on hand last year, and very little this, but consumption, owing to high prices, has been very much less, at home and abroad, than it was then. As prices come down we may reasonably look for an increased consumption and a better home demand.

In making estimates of the amount of cheese in the country, it must be borne in mind that our figures do not include any of the farm dairies, the stock of which must be added to the total factory stock on hand. Another item it is well to consider. Our estimates are for the whole country and Canada; but most of the Western cheese finds a Southern and home market. One large Ohio firm writes us that about half their cheese and this year has gone South and West; the balance has come East. This is the first season, we believe, that Western cheese has an Eastern market to any considerable extent.

COW LEAKING HER MILK.—A subscriber asks what will prevent a cow from leaking her milk. We have seen it prevented by placing an India-rubber ring around the teat after milking. Another remedy common with some dairymen is to milk such cows three times a day, until the muscles of the teats gain sufficient strength to hold the milk from morning until evening. Another very successful and simple way is to apply a small quantity of collodion to the end of the teat immediately after milking. This forms at once a thin, tough membrane or skin, which will prevent leakage, and is easily removed before milking. It may be had at the druggist's.—*Ex.*

Poultry Yard.

Raising Turkeys.

Many have alleged that the turkey sits thirty-one days. This is an error. The chicks break the shell from the twenty-sixth to the twenty-ninth day, scarcely ever later. The day but one before the hatching is expected, the hen should be plentifully fed, the nest cleaned of any dung or feathers during her absence, and an ample supply of food and water placed where she can reach it, as she must not again be disturbed till the chicks are out. In dry weather, if the nest be in a dry place, the eggs will have been daily sprinkled. With these precautions, there will rarely fail to be a good hatch.

The egg-shells may be cleared away after hatching has proceeded some hours, but the chicks should never be taken away from the hen, and never be forced to eat. The latter practice is very general, as turkey chicks are very stupid, and do not seem to know how to peck. But a much better plan is to put two ordinary hen's eggs under the turkey, five or six days after she begins to sit, which will then hatch about the same time as her own, and the little chickens will teach the young turkeys; quite soon enough, what they should do. Water or milk may be given, however, by dipping the tips of the finger or a camel-hair pencil in the fluid, and applying it to the end of their beaks.

The usual feeding is oatmeal and bread-crumbs, mixed with boiled nettles. Such food is not good, as turkey chickens for a few weeks have a great tendency to diarrhoea, which the oatmeal rather increases, and the result is a weakening of the system, and frequently many deaths. The very best feeding at first—say for a week—is hard-boiled eggs, chopped small, mixed with nothing but minced dandelion. With regard to the choice of this herb, Mr. Trotter—who was the first to study turkey treatment rationally—and after him many others, have observed that, when at liberty, the young birds invariably choose the dandelion before all other green food, and it probably serves to keep the bowels in proper order. When dandelions cannot be obtained—and it is well worth while to grow them where turkeys are reared—boiled nettles chopped fine are perhaps the best substitute.

At the end of a week or ten days some bread-crumbs and barley-meal may gradually be added to the egg, which may be by degrees lessened, until quite discontinued at the end of three weeks. About this time, a portion of boiled potato forms an excellent addition to the food, and by degrees some small grain may be added—in fact, assimilating the diet very much to that of other poultry. Curds also are excellent as a portion of the dietary, but must be squeezed very dry before they are given. They are easiest pre-