

LIVE STOCK.

THE YEAST TREATMENT AND CONTAGIOUS ABORTION.

About a month ago we received a letter from a subscriber who claimed that he had used the well-known yeast treatment, commonly recommended for barrenness, to stop abortion, by injecting it into the womb. On page 575, issue March 26th, we published a synopsis of his letter, with a somewhat extended comment by our own veterinary authority. We also referred the letter to two eminent American veterinarians, Dr. A. S. Alexander, of Wisconsin, and Dr. M. H. Reynolds, Veterinarian of the University of Minnesota, both of whom draw attention to the remarkable assertion that the yeast treatment will stop abortion. Its value as a preventive, when injected into the vagina, they are disposed to concede, Dr. Alexander claiming that he had published it originally. Both agree with our own veterinarian, "Whip," in pointing out the error of speaking about injecting the liquid into the womb, it being the vagina that was undoubtedly meant. We quote from the letters as follows:

Dr. Alexander.—"This is a most dangerous bit of advice. To inject the yeast mixture into the womb would cause abortion with absolute certainty. He no doubt means the vagina. I published this yeast treatment originally, and there is nothing new in the statement except the error, and use of it to stop abortion, which I take little stock in. It is all right as a preventive."

Dr. Reynolds.—"There is very little evidence available to show the value of this treatment as a prevention. On the other hand, it is not unreasonable from a medical standpoint. It is possible that the yeast treatment could take the place of lysol or creolin, or bichloride, as we use these in preventive treatment. Your writer makes a rather radical statement in saying the treatment will stop abortion. It is possible that a few cases might be checked by such treatment; but, as a rule, when a cow is aborting from the infectious type of this disease, I do not believe that this or any other form of treatment can stop it 'without fail,' or even in any considerable percentage of cases. We have been doing a considerable amount of experimental study in connection with this disease in our University herd, and hope to have some questions settled this season, so that we will feel justified in publishing our results. Our experience thus far seems to show that carbolic acid wisely used, and in very large doses, has considerable value as a preventive. To accomplish results, it must apparently be used not only in very large doses, but its treatment must be conducted through a considerable period of time. It is not impossible, by any means, that your correspondent's cow aborted by reason of something other than infectious abortion. A man may lose a considerable number of calves by premature birth, from a number of different causes. I can easily believe that the yeast treatment might be very valuable indeed in treating a case after abortion, and get a cow ready for service. I am going to give this idea a trial at the first feasible opportunity."

TO WORK UP LIVE-STOCK TRADE WITH WEST INDIES.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The Hon. Sydney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa, has asked me to proceed to the West Indies in the interest of Canadian live stock, with a view of ascertaining to what extent it will be possible to establish and encourage the small export trade in live stock which already exists between Canada and these Islands, not only in pure-bred animals, but also in the ordinary commercial live stock. I am leaving on the 26th for Halifax, and sail from there on the 29th, going as far south as Demerara, and expect to return in the latter half of May.

At a meeting of the Executive of the Maritime Stock-breeders' Association, December 14th, it was decided to hold the annual meeting of said Association on April 8th. At a meeting held on Wednesday, the 25th, it was decided, under the circumstances, to postpone said meeting until June 9th.

Since the first of the year we have been endeavoring to secure specials for the next Maritime Winter Fair, and have been most successful. Messrs. Henry Birks & Sons, Montreal, have donated a cup to the value of \$100, to be competed for in the dairy section, cup to be won three times, not necessarily consecutively, before becoming the property of exhibitor, the award to be made to the cow, any breed or grade, making the highest scoring during the test.

I am hopeful that the result of my trip to the West India Islands will be a large increase in our export trade. Our live stock, from a physical point of view, is second to none, and I know of no place where these people can so well supply their wants as they can from the herds and flocks of Canada.

E. B. ELDERKIN,
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FEEDING THE CALF.

If the calf is to be fed by hand, it is all the better for both the calf and its mother if they can be left together in a loose box stall for a couple of days, so that the calf can take little and often of the colostrum or first milk of its dam, which nature provides for the moving of its bowels and giving it the best start in life. There is a common notion that, because the cow is liable to fret a little when the calf is taken away from her, after being with her for a while, and the calf is a little harder to teach to drink after having suckled for a day or two, it is better to keep them separate from the first. It may be more convenient to adopt this course, but we do not believe it is the best course. There is less danger of milk fever in the cow under the system of leaving the calf with her for the first day or two, or of bringing it to her to suckle it three or four times a day until that danger is past. However, if they are separated, the cow should be only partially milked for the first two or three days, and only the mother's new milk should be given the calf, and not more than a quart at a time three times a day. It is a grave mistake to overload the stomach of any young animal, as it is apt to cause indigestion and diarrhea, which may weaken its constitution and stunt it for life. It is always safer to underfeed than to overfeed, but, with good judgment, a happy medium may be adopted which will be for the best. For the first two weeks of its life, it is better to feed the calf three times a day about a quart of its own mother's milk, and then drop off to two feeds a day, and two quarts at a time, of new milk, until it is four weeks old, when the ration may be increased to four quarts, one half of which may be skim milk warmed; and in another week the new milk may be dropped, and all skim milk given. If separator milk is being used, it should be given while yet warm, the froth being first skimmed off. If the milk has been cooled by the deep-setting process, it should be warmed to blood heat, care being taken that it is not boiled. It is better to continue the warmed milk until the calf is two months old, and, if later milk is scarce and water is added, it should be warm water. In teaching a young calf to drink, the good old-fashioned practice of giving it the finger to suck in the milk cannot be too strongly commended, as, by this process, the calf takes its nourishment slowly, a little at a time, which is much safer for its digestion than if gulped down in a hurry. The ideal way of feeding a calf, if the device could be kept sufficiently clean, would be by means of a rubber nipple attached to a spout on the bucket. The calf may be taught to eat when a month old by keeping a little well-cured clover within its reach, and placing a few whole oats in its mouth immediately after receiving its milk. This will serve to prevent calves sucking each other, and will help in the digestion of their food. And experience has taught that there is no better feed for calves than whole oats. A small handful thrown in the bottom of the bucket when the calf has about finished drinking will help to get it in the way of eating. The practice of feeding meal in the milk is harmful, as meal swallowed without mastication and the mixing of saliva with it is almost sure to cause indigestion and scouring. After the calf is three months old, and it has learned to eat a considerable amount of feed, the milk ration may, if necessary, be gradually reduced by adding water, but the calf had better be kept in a roomy box or shed, protected from flies the first summer, though, if convenient, it may run out nights on grass. It is important that its quarters be always kept clean and well bedded, as foul smells are likely to cause dysentery and other diseases.

WHY SHORTHORN BREEDERS USE THE NURSE COW.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I do not believe in saying anything against any breed of registered cattle, as there is room for all good stock; but why is it that so many Holstein breeders censure the Shorthorn cow, and make the misleading statement that she will not raise her own calf, which is not true. Mr. H. Bollert refers, in your March 19th issue, to the number of nurse cows at the Toronto Industrial Exhibition. Unexplained, this is to many misleading and unfair, as they get the idea that the calves have had these cows since birth, which is not so in most cases. The ages of most of those calves, when exhibited, are from ten to twelve months, and their dams are about giving birth to another calf. Now, a Shorthorn calf, to win, must be in good condition; no skeleton need try. Consequently, they are given a nurse cow to keep them in bloom, while a dairy-bred calf shown fat would be promptly turned down, as lacking in dairy form.

Peel Co., Ont.

J. B. PEARSON.

THE SHORTHORN VS. THE DAIRY COW.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I am more than pleased to note Mr. Bollert's defence of the dairying business, in your March 19th issue. Most heartily do I agree with him as to the possibilities of the special dairy cow for her special purpose. Many a time it has been a pleasure to me to state, at Institute meetings, the excellent results Oxford County farmers have obtained from their specializing, such as that of the winning herds in the competition of a year ago, and again this season in the splendid total of the herd winning the Ryrie Bros.' Medal. But if Mr. Bollert will look over my article, to which he takes exception, he will readily see that my contention is regarding the average dairy cow in Ontario, which the dairymen everywhere state—not I—is unprofitable. Grant that, and then no man on earth can figure out that dairying, as a whole, pays its way. For many years, large sums have been expended annually by our Government in fostering that old 3,000-pounds cow, and yet, according to the dairymen, she is still with us. What have the forty-two Government inspectors and instructors, drawing their \$32,000 in salaries annually, been doing? Why have they not chased out of our country that useless boarder, as named by dairymen, and made room for such good ones as Mr. Bollert mentions? Let the Government give us who grow the good beef cattle, and the sires which help to produce the useful dual-purpose cow, forty-two teachers who know the business of producing the right kind, to educate the interested ones, by pointing out the folly of attempting to gain profit from the mixing in of dairy breeds in growing beef, and a revolution similar to the great improvement of the bacon hog would soon be manifest.

I have been in North Oxford, and studied to some extent the doings there, and surely thought the dairymen were getting much larger returns from their herds than Mr. Bollert figures out. He states that, in his own section, East Zorra, "Seven cheese factories, in a space of 15 miles square, distribute something over \$200,000 annually among their patrons, outside of by-products." I find that 15 miles square gives 1,440 one-hundred-acre farms. Divide the \$200,000 among them, and it gives about \$138 to each 100-acre farm. Surely the by-products must have wonderful value, else how do the people live and keep the bailiff away? Again, Mr. Bollert compares values of Shorthorns and Holsteins, as set at public sales. He does not mention sellers' names, which is unfortunate, as that makes it impossible to check over the figures. Let us compare reports of sales, as given in "The Farmer's Advocate" issues of March 5th, March 12th, and March 19th, of this year. Geo. Rice's 43 head of Holsteins averaged \$118; highest, \$265; lowest, \$46. Next in order is the Edwards-Drummond-White sales, with 58 head of Shorthorns, which averaged \$149; highest, \$380; lowest, \$100. Next we note the Miller-Gunn sale of Shorthorns, when the average for 35 head was \$159; highest, \$480; and lowest reported, \$100. J. H. Patten, of Brant Co., is next on the list, with his sale of Holsteins. He is the gentleman Mr. Bollert refers to, I presume, when he mentions the cow for which a claim was made of one dollar per day being realized. Mr. Patten's 26 Holsteins averaged \$123; highest, \$270, and lowest, \$15.

Here is an array of figures proving, right of late, and in our midst, the comparative selling values of noted herds of beef and dairy types. Mr. Bollert's mention of the dollar-a-day Holstein cow reminds me of Mr. James Leask's calf at the International, which, in sucking its dam—a Shorthorn grade—for the previous season, made for him over three dollars per day from start to finish. Further, to show possible profits in growing beef cattle in quite an ordinary way, allow me to mention an instance from our own experience. Fifteen years ago last December I purchased from the late Mr. Cargill, M. P., of Bruce Co., the first female he sold while establishing his herd of Shorthorns. She was a two-year-old heifer in calf—a Strathallan—for which the price was \$100. The cash returns from that investment to date total up to near two thousand dollars, and there are this day eighteen of her descendants in our stables. As there is not an inferior one in the whole lot, fair value for them would be \$1,300. Some of the females sold at \$200, in less than six months resold in the American sale-rings at \$400 to \$600. Young bulls sold in this locality, for grading purposes, at \$75 to \$80, each have, after three years' service, been sold to market shippers at \$100 to \$110. In all the fifteen years we did not find it necessary to have a nurse cow. On the other hand, a heifer, two years ago, suckled all season two calves. So well did she do it that, of five bull calves offered for sale at a price for the choice, one of the two she nursed was the first selection sold.

Having bred and fattened beef cattle with satisfactory profits for over thirty years, I maintain now that no other line of cattle-growing fits in so well in a good system of mixed farming, on good high-priced land, as the well-bred and highly-finished butcher's bullock. I hope sometime to be able to accept Mr. Bollert's invitation to visit