

INTERESTING AGRICULTURAL FEATURES FOR OUR COUNTRY READERS

DAIRY
FARM CHEESE

How to Make and Cure for Home Consumption.

There are many farmers' wives who are interested in making cheese for home consumption. The following simple method, carefully followed, may be depended upon as producing a very good cheese for home use.

Keep the night's milk at a temperature of from 60 to 65 degs. F. until next morning, when the morning's milk is added to it. Place the mixed milk in any simple tin in which can be set inside of a wash-tub. Set the vat of milk in the tub and surround it with moderately hot water, heating the milk to a temperature of 80 to 90 degs. Stir the milk while heating, and as soon as the proper temperature has been reached, cool the water to about 80 degs. F. Now add rennet extract to one-half ounce to 100 lbs. of milk. Stir the mixture thoroughly with a wooden spoon, and add water to the extent of four or five times its own volume before adding it to the milk. Mix the rennet thoroughly with the milk, and then let the milk stand, quietly until thick enough to cut. This point is reached usually in less than half an hour. As soon as the whey separates from the curd, when the curd is with a finger is ready to cut. The curd may be cut with a long broad or butter knife. Slice the curd and the out particles are no longer than a half-inch thick. Now cut the curd into cubes with the hands and gradually raise the temperature to 100 to 102 degs. F. Stir the curd constantly during the heating process, which should about 30 minutes. Keep the curd at a temperature of 100 to 102 degs. F. for one and a quarter hours, stirring occasionally, when it will be firm enough to handle.

To remove the whey, put a double thickness of cheesecloth over the whey boiler and dump the vat of curd and whey on top of the cheesecloth. Stir the curd fairly dry and then let stand undisturbed for about 15 minutes. Then dump the curd back into the vat and salt at the rate of three to three and one-half ounces per 100 lbs. of milk. Thoroughly mix the salt with the curd and then slant the vat, pushing the curd to the higher end. This will permit further separation of the whey which collects at the lower end. Half an hour after salting the cheese is ready to put into the cheese hoop.

A regular cheese hoop can be obtained from any dairy supply house for very small cost. A "Young America" hoop will hold the curd from about 80 lbs. of milk and makes a nice sized family cheese. Prepare the hoop (model) as follows: Place a piece of muslin in the bottom of the hoop and on top of this a cheesecloth circle somewhat less in diameter than the hoop. Now place the bandage (cheesecloth lining of hoop) on the bandage, and when the latter is in position the bandage will lap slightly over the cheesecloth circle in the bottom. Now add the curd to the hoop. This done, cover with a piece of muslin and put on the cover. The cheese is now ready for pressing, which may be nicely accomplished in a wine or cider press; or, lacking this, a screw press may be set on top of the cover of the hoop and pressure applied to this by means of long pole, the block acting as a fulcrum. The cheese should be pressed to a round shape, and should be about the size of a small cake. Shortly after pressure has been applied, remove the cover, muslin cloth, and bandage, lap the pressing bandage in the bottom of the hoop, and the muslin and bandage and then apply full pressure for about 24 hours when the cheese may be removed from the mold.

But the cheese is in a damp, moist, unventilated room, kept at a temperature

as near 60 degs. F. as possible. Turn and rub the cheese daily during the first two weeks and thereafter occasionally until cured. If kept at a temperature of 60 degs. F., the cheese will be ready to eat after six to eight weeks' curing. Many who like fresh, mild cheese will prefer to eat it after four weeks' curing.—John Michels.

There is no kind of forage superior to oats and peas to keep a cow in milk and maintain the flesh condition.

For early fall feeding there is nothing superior to sweet corn. This may be slightly thicker than the common field corn and it will make a good growth of fodder and furnish many ears which will add to its feeding value. Sweet corn makes a very palatable feed and the cows will consume large quantities of it in many cases enough to make up for the deficiency of the pasture grass.

Another point that many neglect in making the cows comfortable during the fall months. I believe that as soon as freezing nights come they should be put in the stable every night, but I am in favor of allowing them to be out every favorable day, for the extreme cold winter weather which we are sure to have in this latitude compels us to keep them confined in the stable much longer than we realize. The man who allows his cows to go dry early in the fall is cultivating a habit in them that will be hard to overcome, for once a heifer or cow is allowed to go dry after being milked a few months, it is very hard to make her continue her period for a longer time after she drops her next calf. Training as well as breeding influence her future usefulness.—W. Milton Kelly.

The cow that is allowed to run outside until cold weather comes and compels her owner to put her in the stable for winter, cannot regain her lost condition and flesh and become accustomed to her change of food and surroundings in any short period of time. Then again, few dairymen practice a liberal system of feeding during the winter, but especially when the cows are dry, and for that reason they cannot recover their condition and go through the calving period and come out in condition to give effective dairy work the following season.

The average dairy farmer takes it as a matter of course that cows usually shrink during the fall and fall away in their flesh condition, and therefore he makes no plans to remove the cause of the shrinkage and falling away in condition.

Every thinking dairy farmer knows that there are certain essentials that cannot be neglected at any season of the year if the cows are kept up in a condition to give milk, and that if any of all of these essentials are neglected there is sure to be a falling away in the production of milk.

Cows that are expected to return a profit have liberal rations and the kind of foods best adapted to their needs. They must have dry, comfortable and well ventilated sleeping places and be kept free from excitement caused by exposure and neglect.

The practice of allowing dairy cows to run over the whole of the farm and be herded by dogs and children and compelled to eat frosty clover, and forage, cannot be made to return a profit, even though they may consume waste forage and fodder when this practice is followed.

To supply good food for the dairy it is necessary that we exercise forethought and plan for the fall season which is sure to come every year. Grass does not grow rapidly after cold weather comes and what does grow contains but little nutriment.

The dairy farmer who plans a system of supplemental forage crops to tide him over this period is wise indeed, but wiser still is the farmer who grows enough ensilage so that he can open a silo and begin feeding his cows ensilage as soon as the pastures begin to fail in the fall.

The next best feed about the middle of July and allowed to stand as late as possible before being cut and baled to the silo. To make the best use of the silage and peas they should be fed when in the milk stage of the out development and this will preserve the silage and peas for a long time so that one plot will be at that stage of growth at the time it is needed for feeding purposes. I generally sow one bushel of peas and one bushel of clover to the acre. With the exception of alfalfa,

THE DAIRY HERD

How to Handle in Early Autumn—Preparing for Fall.

There is no time during the year when dairy cattle require better care and more liberal feeding than during the autumn months, yet very few dairy farmers appear to realize the importance of giving the cows an special care and attention during this critical period. My own experience in feeding and caring for dairy cattle leads me to believe that more than one-half of the complaints regarding dairy cattle coming through the winter in a poor, emaciated condition, due directly to their being kept out too long in the pasture or fields and then changing them into winter quarters and putting them on a ration of dry hay, dry forage and fodder.

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STOCK
PUREBRED SIRE

Their Place and Value in Building Up a Herd.

It is evident to a student of Holstein-Friesian stock reports that by the use of well-bred sires and developed dams, Holstein-Friesian breeders are producing animals of greater capacity as well as acquiring greater skill in the development of that capacity, also that the improvement is but slightly dependent on an increased percentage of fat in the milk, resulting almost entirely from increased milk production. I note that increase in milk is the object of most farmer dairymen in introducing Holstein-Friesian blood into their herds, but sometimes they go at it in a queer and discouraging way.

A man who reads these reports as published in the dairy press writes about a neighbor of his that is working into Holstein-Friesian cattle by using a fine looking half-blood bull, nearly half of his calves being black and white, and who intends to use a pure-bred bull as soon as they become a little cheaper. Such a man in his efforts to improve his herd, is doomed to failure, for he has started wrong; and because he has started wrong, even in small quantity, is apt to effect color, he will be apt to hold that breed responsible for his ill success. As he does not read dairy papers, he will never stop to think that the progeny of a half-blood bull carry but one-fourth the blood he desires, and that the one-fourth cannot offset the prejudicial influence of the other three-fourths. He will never learn that the only really good point that his grade bull possesses is the point where the butcher's pole can reach his hind, when he is led to execution.

As such men cannot be reached through the dairy press, Holstein-Friesian breeders should do missionary work when meeting them at the county fairs, or at the shipping station. Point out the benefits, and urge them to subscribe for a good dairy paper; for if you can only get them to read, and think, the rest will find its way to them.

The question is not so much as to whether they can afford a pure-bred bull as it is as to whether they can afford to do without one, moving along in the old way, and using a scrub or grade. Offer to show such a man one of the old-fashioned, narrow width tools, be it a plow, harrow, drill, mower, rake or any other, and he will quickly tell you that he is not farming for his health, and that he cannot afford to have high priced help or high priced land monkeying time away with such narrow gauged tools. By reading a good farm paper he will apply the same logic to the waste of time resulting from the use of narrow gauge cows.

Suppose that a man pays out \$300 for a pure-bred Holstein-Friesian bull and raises but ten of his heifer calves. Suppose that each of these calves on coming into profit yields but one pound more of milk at each milking than did her dam at the same age, an amount too small to be noticeable without weighing; yet it would amount to 600 pounds for the 600 milkings of the year, and have an average value of not less than \$7.50, or \$75 a year gain for the ten heifers. But the average milking period for a cow is fully six years, which would bring a total gain of \$450 for the ten heifers. In actual practice, a bull especially when used by neighbors, baggages several times ten daughters, and the individual gain in production of the daughters over their dams is much greater; so that the average milk yield being increased with \$450 gain, the gain is more apt to be much over \$1,000. What other investment could show such a percentage of profit?—M. H. Gardner.

THE FARM TEAM
Points That Characterize a Well-Matched Pair.

An impressive fact is the scarcity of well-matched farm teams. There is a very strong demand for such teams, and one who possesses one, usually has several standing offers for them either from neighbors or city buyers. A few men appreciate the value of a well-matched team, but the average farmer pays no slight attention to the proper matching of his horses.

Many a team is considered well-matched which, in reality, is not so. The work of putting together two horses that are enough alike in all characteristics to work in harmony is an art not to be despised. There must be a similarity in style; action, general conformation, appearance and color to produce the well-matched pair. The best results are usually obtained when horses are paired soon after being broken. There will then be more of a tendency to grow alike in action and less danger of developing irritable dispositions. Habits in horses as in men become more fixed with age.

Considering that all other points are medium in perfection there is no quality which adds or detracts so much from the value and appearance of a team as action. If they move with snap and vigor, are stylish, steady, straight and balanced there is no feature so attractive to the buyer or so pleasing to the driver. It matters little how well the team meets the other requirements if the action is unlike, one horse up on the bit and the other with the singletrees rubbing the tire. The annoyance is so constant that it demands an extraordinary control of the driver's temper.

Strength and conformation are points next in value. Some teams will start out well-matched, but after working a short time one will lag far behind. Strength is indicated by a short, deep middle, close coupled and well muscled over the loin. Loose joints and babbly muscles never indicate staying power. Disposition often influences a horse's ability to do work. A nervy, high-strung horse will often keep his temper, but after working a short time one will lag far behind. Strength is indicated by a short, deep middle, close coupled and well muscled over the loin. Loose joints and babbly muscles never indicate staying power. Disposition often influences a horse's ability to do work. A nervy, high-strung horse will often keep his temper, but after working a short time one will lag far behind. Strength is indicated by a short, deep middle, close coupled and well muscled over the loin. Loose joints and babbly muscles never indicate staying power. 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