

As far as possible have your cows calve in the fall. This season is becoming more popular for a number of reasons. Not only do the calves make more substantial gains for the food consumed, but they develop into better dairy cows, as they get a much better start than they would in the spring. Conditions enabling the dam to maintain her full flow of milk for a longer period are then at their maximum. If a cow calves in the spring her flow of milk is generally arrested after several months by heat, flies, and the scarcity of pasture, so that after several months she falls off in her supply, and does not keep up her flow for the desired length of time. If she calves in the fall she will begin to fail in her milk supply at the time the June grass comes in. This will greatly increase her milk flow, and by the time the pastures fail she may be dried up in order to give her six or eight weeks to recuperate and get in good condition for the rearing of a calf in the spring.

Cows should be bred at from thirteen to fifteen months of age, depending on size and circumstances. Keep the animal in a thrifty condition in order that she may produce stock of a strong and vigorous constitution. Great care should be exercised in her feeding and management during her first period of lactation, as this is the most critical time in the life of a dairy cow. Feed the animal liberally in order to develop her milking powers to the utmost. She will require special feeding and attention during the first few months of lactation, and if necessary, this should be continued, that the period of milking may be prolonged to at least ten months.

It is generally conceded to be poor practice to allow a calf to suck its dam for any considerable time. The calf will do just as well if fed by hand. If allowed to suck its mother for some time the mother becomes attached to it, and weaning it is sure to derange her nervous system and cause a loss in milk. It is well to remove the calf after it has had two or three meals, and then feed it its mother's milk. Calves should be fed on whole milk three times a day until they are old enough to eat, when a gradual change may be made from whole milk to warm separator milk. It is important to teach the calf to eat at as early an age as possible. Bran is the best to begin with; then feed a little ground oats from which the hulls have been removed. At