

**COW MANAGEMENT.**

Mr. H. C. Taylor, the owner of Brown Bessie, was in attendance at the Wisconsin Dairyman's Convention at Neenah, last February. He gave the following statement on the "Selection and Handling of Dairy Cows," which was also followed by an interesting discussion reported by the *Farmers' Review*.

The calf to be developed into a dairy cow, should be handled from the first with that object in view. She should be fed with the idea of increasing growth, but not of laying on fat. She should have her mother's milk for a few days, and then be put gradually on a ration of skim milk, ground oats, and so forth. Dairying in winter is a modern invention, and as to its general value dairymen are not agreed. There are plenty of men that will say it pays, but the man is not yet born that can prove that it is a success with all men, for conditions vary so much. As to shelter, your stables may be costly or cheap, as you desire, but in either case they must be warm. How many stables are there in this state where the mercury will not go below 50° in the coldest days in winter? There should be many, but there are probably very few. More barns there are where the mercury will go below 30°. If you will have a winter dairy, have a warm barn. The usefulness of a cow largely depends on her ability to stand still. A part of the cow's ration should be twenty-six pounds of dry matter per day. Of course you all have silos now, or soon will have. As you commence feeding silage, haul in the dry corn stalks and cut them up to mix with the silage. Put on some water, and the stock will eat the whole of it with a relish. You will be surprised to see how much stock a small patch of corn will winter. Add to the ration, oats, corn meal, oil meal and wheat bran to balance it. This makes you independent of the hay crop. Do not husk your corn and leave half of your stalks to dry up in the winter air. It is held by many that good flesh invites milk fever. But this is not true. Milk fever is due to plethoric condition, and not to good condition. Many men are feeding their dry cows as well as they do their milking cows, and those men have no more trouble with milk fever than others. It tying the cows in the stable, give them sufficient room so they can reach their flanks with their tongues. After freshening do not give the cow too much sloppy food for two or three weeks. She should be brought up to her full capacity gradually, and should not reach it before she has been fresh for two months. Remember also that the more milk you make the cow give during this period, the more she will be able to give in subsequent years. In milking the cow after the birth of her calf, do not take all the milk, but leave a part in the bag.

Q—Why do you not draw off all the milk after parturition?  
A—Because, if the udder is emptied it will have a tendency to collapse and bring on milk fever.  
W. D. Hoard—More than 3,000 cases of milk fever have been found in England, where this was the cause.  
Q—Do you warm the water for your cows?  
A—Yes, sir; I keep the temperature of the water at about 60°.

Q—How much good feed will the dairy cow consume per day?  
A—She will take eighteen pounds of meal per day when she is giving a supply of milk. I have some that

take twenty-four pounds per day. We also feed them forty pounds of silage per day.

Q—How do you feed your meal?  
A—I feed it dry.  
Q—Do you feed your meal mixed with silage?  
A—No, sir.

Q—What is your rotation of feeding?  
A—We feed hay first. Then we milk, and then feed the grain ration dry. Then we feed twenty pounds of corn silage, and let them rest till noon. In the afternoon we give twenty pounds of silage, and then grain, and lastly hay, as in the morning. Cows that are getting into a full flow of milk we feed three times a day.

Q—Are you careful to keep the mangers clean?  
A—Yes, sir. We have found that stuff will collect in the mangers, and so we scald them out frequently.

Q—After a calf is born will not she take all the milk out of the cow's udder?  
—The calf does not do it at first, for he can't take it all.

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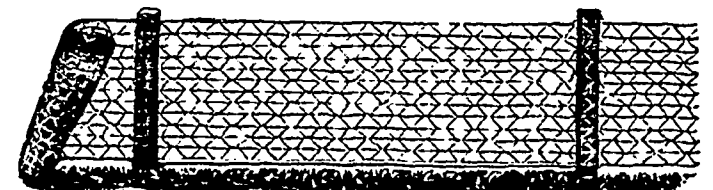
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