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The Feeders' Corner

Fall Cattle Management

Now that cattle must all be brought into the barns, a few words as to early stable treatment may not be amiss. Well started is half wintered. Such a statement may be considered too sweeping, but the writer is of the opinion that cattle properly prepared for winter, properly placed in the stable and properly fed during the first two or three weeks, have an infinitely better chance of coming through in good shape, than have similar cattle, under similar conditions where badly started off.

The proper housing is probably the first consideration. It is not proposed that every farmer with rather faulty stable accommodation, should at once proceed to build a new stable, or remodel the old one. On the contrary the spending of money and improvements before the same are necessary is not an uncommon way of losing money on the farm. Certain minor improvements may, however, be made at very small cost as to money and time, and will repay the outlay in economizing feed, and improving condition of cattle in a very short time.

Is the stable airy? Is there any way of ventilating? If not the loss on this account will be very great and indeed incalculable, should disease get into the herd. Some simple, temporary system of ventilation could be installed by a handy man in a day or two; why not do it right now, and save feed, improve health and increase comfort of stock all winter and for winters to come.

LIGHT IN THE STABLE

Have you light enough? Can you see to work even during the dark days in the fall, in all parts of your stable? Do you like to work in your cow barn and do you feel cheerful when working therein? If not, then get some more light into the stable. Put a window in wherever possible on the south, east and west sides of the barn, and let them be good big windows. The cost will be small, the value to your cattle, to your family, to your men and to yourself will be far beyond your highest expectation. Put windows wherever possible.

Is your stable clean? Is it bright? Take a day and give it a thorough cleaning. Leave not a single cobweb or particle of dust on ceiling, wall or floor. That done, just look it over and see if a coat of whitewash would be worth its cost and more, just for appearance, to say nothing of healthfulness, brightness and sweetness. A few bushels of lime properly prepared and carefully applied in the fall, leaves its mark and shows its effects all winter. Do it right now, because the cattle are already in the barn is no excuse for postponement. Let a few of them out while the whitewashing is going on.

Your cattle in the barn, the next thing to consider is their health, freedom from parasites, vermin and condition of the coat and hide. Not infrequently the mixture of dry and green grass, so commonly sated by cattle in the fall, affects the digestive organs injuriously and cattle, young stock especially, enter the stable with digestion somewhat upset. A few heavy feeds of turnips and clover hay will usually set things right. In the more severe cases a good heavy dose of Epsom salts would likely help improve matters.

GETTING RID OF LICE

One of the most common causes of lack of thrift, again more especially in the case of young stuff is the presence of lice. Every individual animal, and more particularly white ones, should be examined to see that they are free from these most annoying and expensive pests. They are usually found along the back and

about the base of the tail. The most effective and certain treatment is to wash thoroughly with some good sheep dip. Failing this it is fairly safe to depend upon a rather free application of some heavy mineral oil well rubbed in along the back beginning at the horns and going right back to the tail in a strip six or eight inches wide. Where a dip is used care should be taken to choose a warm spell in order to prevent colds or chills. Where oil is used, it is rendered doubly effective by first clipping the hair off the strip above mentioned. Where it is not intended to turn the cattle out on cold days it will be found advantageous to clip them all over. They are more easily kept clean, are more comfortable and do better all winter. Of course where it is the practice to leave the stock exposed to the weather during a part of each and every, even the coldest days, then clipping all over would be cruel and inadvisable.

Where winter dairying is practised the clipping of the cows in milk has much to recommend it. No other thing that the dairyman can do to his cows will count but the time required for the clipping, that should be done is quite insignificant when compared with the amount of work necessary to keep similar animals even passably clean, where clipping has not been practised. ("P" your cows, and so improve their health, lower cost of maintenance and make a reputation for clean milk.

"After Results."

Feeding Milch Cows

C. R. Tutton, Westworth Co., Ont.

We stable our cows at nights during the early fall, commencing as soon as it becomes cold enough for them to be uncomfortable out of doors. We feed them dry fodder and mangels in a quantity varying according to the state of the pasture on which they feed during the day. Later in the fall, I feed alfalfa hay also. I never open the silo till Christmas. A little oat and barley chop mixed is fed to the milch cows if the corn is not matured, though we do not practise this grain feeding to very great extent.

In my experience, it is not profitable to feed any chop with silage from corn that is well matured. If at all possible, the corn is allowed to get well matured before it is put into the silo. I would like to have the experience of other feeders in regard to feeding grain with well matured, well cured corn silage.

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