

in accordance with the law that younger animals give better returns for food consumed and that the returns diminish in proportion as the animal approaches maturity. Careful feeding tests have demonstrated this conclusively. There are, then, some decided advantages to the producer in making early-maturity beef on high-priced lands where feeding products are expensive.

"The first essential in making baby beef is to start right; that is, with a well-bred animal. Without this the feeder had better not undertake to produce baby beef as it will prove to be a losing business. Having a good animal the key to success lies in never losing the calf fat but in carrying the calf steadily forward from start to finish. The time lost at the outset or in the early stages is the time of growth and can never be made up. Nature never goes backward to make amends for mistakes of man. The producer of baby beef must bear in mind then that there is no time to lose and every day must be a day of growth and increase in weight. The most successful method of rearing the calves is to allow them the full milk of the dam during the first three or four months. They should not be allowed to run with the cows, but kept in and taught to eat grain and hay at an early age so that they will not suffer a setback when the milk is taken off. Heavy milking cows may raise two calves successfully but they need to be selected with this in view. Some cows will not raise one calf successfully. In Scotland, last summer, I found Mr. David Buttar, a well-known Shropshire breeder, raising three good calves per cow each season. A sufficient number of calves were bought to give each cow two calves for the first three months. At the end of that time, these calves were taken off and carried forward on grain and grass and an additional lot of calves bought and each cow suckled one for three months longer and at the end of the time the undesirable cows were themselves fattened and turned for beef. Shorthorn grade cows were used and bred to Angus

sires. The calves were a uniform lot and fed well.

"In making baby beef, however, or maturing well-bred calves under twenty months, the critical time is not while they are with their dams, but during the first six months following the weaning period, and the next six months are equally important. The calves must be kept growing and yet they must be made ripe and well finished or they will not be fit for market. Other things being equal, the cheapest beef is always made on grass, though the calf makes but little use of it during the first six months, and when pasture is used it should be of the very best. In addition to the grass the grain feeding must be continuous. If pasture alone is depended on, the probabilities are that growth will be made at the expense of flesh and more time will be required in getting them on to market. Corn constitutes the cheapest and best single grain feed, yet it cannot be relied upon wholly for the reason that it does not furnish the elements of growth in sufficient quantity to give the best results. Until the calves are ten months old, shelled corn, supplemented by oats and bran, with a sprinkling of oil meal will constitute a satisfactory ration. No grain need be ground for the calf until it is nearly a year old. For roughage, clover hay and shredded fodder have no superiors. Add to this ration a few pounds of sliced or pulped roots daily during the winter season; and furnish dry, well-bedded and well-lighted quarters with the run of a sheltered yard and the progress of the calf during the first year is assured. The bedding must not be neglected. The old adage 'Well bedded, half fed' is never truer than when applied in the management of the calf and fattening steer."

"Farming."

