

The Farm. Milk Strippings.

It is admitted now by observing dety-men that the second half of the milk as it comes from the cow is richer in cream than the first half; but only a few are able to give a satisfactory explanation why it is so. Some say the cream naturally rises to the surface of the milk in the udder, in the same way that it does when removed from the cow; but this is not so satisfactory an explanation that, while in the number and arrangement of its cavities a sponge somewhat resembles the interior of the udder, it is quite different otherwise. The walls of the cavities in the sponge are always distended, whether filled or not, and, if compressed, at once spring back on being released from the pressure; but the walls of the milk tubes and reservoirs, and the follicles or sacs at the extremities of their branches, are always collapsed and in contact except when kept apart by having milk in them. With this constant inclination in their walls to be in contact, it must be evident that a liquid would work its way through them more easily than a solid.

It must be remembered that milk is a mixture of liquid and solid matter, as much so as a mixture of brine and cornmeal would be. The serum or liquid part of milk is water, holding in solution sugar and cheesy matter; and the cream globules are particles of fat in solid condition and sustain the same relation to the liquid part of milk that cornmeal does to brine, especially when mixed with a brine just strong enough to incline the meal to float. If it were attempted to pass either of these mixtures of liquid and solid through the milk tubes, beginning at the follicles, the liquids in either case would work along more rapidly than the solids. The meal in one case, and the fat globules in the other would meet with impediment from friction with the collapsing walls of the slender tubes, and would fall far behind in the journey and be dripping out in the last running of the liquid. This is just what happens in the udder to make the last part of a milking richer in cream than the first. The larger the globules of cream the more friction they meet with in moving along the tubes, and the more get left behind. It is for this reason that in milk having very large globules, like that of the Jerseys and Guernseys, the difference between the first and last of a milking is greater than when they are small, as in the milk of Holstein cows.

When the milker sits down to milk a cow it is erroneous to believe that all the milk he may get is right at hand in the udder, ready for him to draw. Cows giving large quantities of milk have been slaughtered and every drop of milk possible to get has been gathered up, and history of such cases says that the largest amount ever found was about four-quarts. Milk is largely formed during the time of milking, and for best results the cow must be under the best conditions at the time or the regular quantity and quality of milk will not be obtained. There should be no unusual noise about, as of dogs, children or strangers talking, or hammering or pounding, or anything of the kind out of the ordinary. When a cow becomes accustomed to her environment or surroundings, if they are proper, they should always be kept so. A strange cow placed in the next stall is apt to cause a shrinkage of milk for the time, both in quantity and quality. A cow is pre-eminently a nervous creature, and apparently the more nervous she is the better the cow. Good cows, good feed, good care, are the sum and substance of a good milk production. There can be no substitutes for these conditions.—(Galen Wilson.)

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