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## Brood Sows and Their Care

David Barr, Jr., Renfrew Co., Ont.

My sows run in the barnyard, whether the weather is fine or stormy. There is a move in the barn with plenty of cut straw, to which they have access at all times, but they are never shut in. The feed consists of turnips, mangelwurzels and sugar beets, thrown out whole on the hard barnyard, twice a day, all they will eat up clean, besides about 2 lbs. whole peas a pig daily. I have had my sows on this ration for a number of winters, and have had the very best results.

I feed this up to a week off farrowing, and then switch to farrowing. I try to house the sows a week before farrowing, but have just as good results the day before. I believe that sows should have soft light feed before farrowing. A loosening of the bowels tends to prevent fever.

I have started a new ration for my sows this week, corn, ensilage, pulped turnips, oat and barley meal mixed together. We mix enough to feed three or four days, and let it lie in a pile. This is fed in a long trough, twice daily, morning and evening.

We try to watch the sow at farrowing so as to save the litters, but very often have no good results from sows that are left to themselves.

### A NEW EXPERIENCE

Exercise is the main point in raising pigs. Last year I had some experience with pigs I never had before I had a bunch of young sows running with the old ones. They got the small end of the feed and failed considerably. I have shut them up and fed cooked turnips, and oat and barley meal for over a month before farrowing. The result was a lot of big fat, squealing pigs, with half a coat of hair. Though all were living at first, they died after two or three days' warming and caring for. A young sow, a little older than these was left out till farrowing time, when she was shut up, in thin condition. She had eleven big strong pigs. She raised all of them, and I never had to put a hand on them. They were farrowed about the same time as the others, about the end of March.

## Costly Cows and Testing

S. H. Remond, Bothwell.

If costly cows are put in the dairy barn, a strict record should be kept of each cow. Each cow should be tested at least for seven consecutive days each month during the milking season. I have not been regular in my testing work. However, from the work I have done, I have been able to judge the cows and those that do not make a profit are dried up and fattened for beef. Individuals of dairy breeds should be tested daily for one season as their value cannot be realized in any other way. A good grade, however, if she does not come up to the standard in milk, can be fed well and run off at any time, without material loss.

## Pointers on Feeding.

Some timely advice on the feeding of dairy cattle was given by Mr. J. H. Grisdale, of Ottawa, at the recent Dairyman's Convention at Cowanville, Que. Mr. Grisdale insisted on lots of fresh air in stables and plenty of light. Feeding grain and fodder to cattle shut up in badly ventilated stables was wasting that grain and fodder. The cattle did not benefit by it, as they would if kept in fresh air.

The first requirement of good feeding is ample feeding. During the winter, an animal should have its digestive organs full, even if the food was not so very rich. They thrive better on plenty of cheaper foods. It had been shown that straw cut up and moistened and sprinkled with

barley, corn or oatmeal was better for cattle than a large quantity of grain. Make the feed succulent. That was the secret of successful feeding. Fix the feed up, so that the animal liked it and he then would thrive on it.

Feeding cattle in winter twice a day was as good as four or five times, as long as you gave them what they would eat on those two feedings.

Summer feeding was strongly advocated as a means of increasing the flow of milk and the old-fashioned idea of simply leaving it to the pasture to produce milk whereas the farmer saved the produce of his meadows for the winter when his cattle produced nothing was severely ridiculed.

The silo system saved half the area of land in cultivation. Sow corn in rows 3½ feet apart, uniformly so that the farmer may pass through both ways with horse-hoe or cultivator and thus save hand-work, which was so expensive.

## Grain Rations That Work Well

The question of feeding dairy cattle under North-west conditions was dealt with by Prof. Richards of the recent Dakota Agricultural College at the North Dairyman's Convention in Winnipeg. Prof. Richards prefaced his address with a talk on the need for better barns or of improving the old ones, laying stress on the need for better ventilation. He claimed that if barns were more conveniently modelled, there would be less difficulty in getting men to milk. He advocated dairymen all the year round and recommended having the cows freshen in late fall or early winter. In that case, the cows would give more milk during the year, the dairy products would sell for higher prices in the winter and better beef and dairy calves could be raised.

### RATION RECOMMENDED

In feeding, Prof. Richards recommended the giving of a small grain ration all the year round, under conditions that he had found worked well at the experimental station, when cows were on full winter feed, were as follows: First—30 lbs. of ensilage, 10 lbs. prairie hay, 5 lbs. bran, 2 lbs. shorts; second—20 lbs. millet or rye grass, 10 lbs. roots, 6 lbs. barley or macaroni wheat, 4 lbs. bran. Cows varied in their power to assimilate grain rations, and for this reason careful test should be made. Above all things, cows should be watered regularly with a good supply of clean pure water, and they should be milked just as regularly as they are fed and watered.

In answer to a question on ensilage Prof. Richards advocated the growing of more fodder corn in Manitoba. In the discussion following this matter, Ex-Pres. Munro related his experience with corn raised and fed strongly in favor of the variety known as Longfellow, because of the abundant yield and the fact that the cob grew well up from the roots, thus facilitating cutting. He said that the dairymen of Manitoba had no occasion to feel discouraged. Dairying on mixed farms was being carried on slowly in wheat countries, but they had to come, and for Manitoba they were coming now.

## Scarcity of Horses

A despatch from London, England, states that the United Service Institution recently discussed the serious shortage in the horse supply from the military standpoint. General Sir E. Hutton spoke of the deterioration noticeable in Canada since the war, and said that he had done all in his power to draw attention to the importance of developing the class of horse most required. In the case of both countries, a horse-purchasing agency, he said, should be formed by the War Office.



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