

cattle will be raised as well as fattened on the farms, and more attention will necessarily be given to breeding and raising better calves, in order that they may be finished as young as possible.

The tendency of the present time is to put too many cattle on the market in an unfinished condition, often flooding the market with an undesirable quality of meat, reducing the price of the unfinished product, thereby making them less profitable to the feeder and dealer, but especially to the feeder, consequently reducing the price of the properly finished cattle.

The younger the animal the cheaper the cost of gain, and it is that consideration that makes early maturity such an important feature in feeding the different classes of live stock. The young calf requires a good start in life, for a good start amounts to much in the beef-making business. Calves that nurse their dams usually gain well, and as that is nature's provision for the young animal it usually escapes digestive troubles. The calf that is raised by hand requires to be well taken care of early in life to insure success. It should be fed whole milk for two or three weeks and then gradually changed to skim milk or separator milk, with flaxseed meal added or an equivalent to take the place of the fat removed from the milk. In addition to the milk the young calf requires to be fed as soon as it will eat. Some sweet clover hay, oats and bran may be given. Calves that are dropped in the fall or early winter will be in good shape to go on grass, and with some additional feed and care they should grow and make good development the first year. In no case should they be allowed to lose their calf-ness, but rather kept growing and gaining every week.

Cattle that have been well fed and cared for can be made to weigh 1,200 to 1,400 pounds at from two to two and one-half years, and cattle of these weights and of right form, finish and quality will command the best market price. The younger the animal the less it costs to produce a pound of gain, and the greater the gain per day; therefore we see the importance of doing well by our cattle, and by so doing we can carry and handle more cattle than by carrying them to a greater age.

The calves should not be fed a forcing ration the first year, but rather a ration that will promote growth and muscle development, and at all times keep them in a healthy and growing condition. If young cattle are forced too fast the first year, they are not likely to develop so satisfactorily the second year.

I believe that the farmer or feeder who raises his steers from a good grade herd of cows will usually have little to complain of, but will get the best price on the market if his cattle are in right condition. But as a rule it is the feeder who raises the poorer class of cattle and does not properly finish them that finds no money in the business. A person feeding cattle must study the market conditions, and keep posted in regard to prices, since it is a decided advantage to sell when the price is good. Sometimes it may be necessary to put them on the market a little sooner than expected, or it may be deemed advisable to hold off for a few weeks if an advance in price is expected. But if the market is good and the cattle are almost ripe they should be disposed of as early as possible. To keep fattening cattle longer than the market demands, or to continue holding cattle after they are fattened adds much to the cost and lessens the profit.

Experience and observation must guide us as to the time to market. Be it remembered when cattle are mar-

tured or ripe enough so that they cease making good gains further feeding can only be done at a loss to the feeder. It should be the object of feeders to raise and ripen cattle that will produce the largest amount of flesh or lean meat, and with only a sufficient amount of fat to make it a highly profitable animal on the block.

No fixed rule can be laid down for feeding one lot of cattle, as conditions, such as feed-stuffs and surroundings, differ considerably. We should feed as much coarse and bulky food as possible in raising and feeding cattle, to keep the expense or cost at the minimum, but at the same time in the finishing period we require to feed enough grain to properly finish the cattle in order to command the best market price.

If there is a determination on the part of the feeder to succeed the problem is often half solved. Animals of good form, quality and well finished generally bring the highest price, and return a profit to the feeder.—Geo. Craig.


"Somehow this picture of Maria don't look natural to me," mused Uncle Gos-

hall Hemlock, as he surveyed his wife's new photograph.

"Somethin' is wrong about it, sure. H'mn. What kin it be? Oh, I see now; she's got her mouth shet!"

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