

The Feeders' Corner

The Feeders' Corner is for the use of our subscribers. Any interested are invited to ask questions, or send items of interest. All questions will receive prompt attention.

Regularity in Sheep Feeding

A good observer of sheep and lambs has made the remark that sheep are excellent timekeepers. They have no alarm clocks of their own, but seem to keep the sense of time very clearly in their minds, so clearly, in fact, that if you are disposed to be somewhat irregular in your hours of doing your farm work it would be best for you to invest in an alarm clock for your own use. In such a case you can safely charge the investment which the clock represents up to the flock.

It will pay you back with interest. In other words there is perhaps no other animal that is more sensitive about being fed on time each day than is your listening lamb or sheep. Noise, confusion—anything, in fact, which annoys and disturbs the flock, means the loss of good money-making fat and flesh to you. No one should be allowed to have any part in the handling of the flock who is in the habit of losing his temper or who is rough in manner or speech when working about the flock.

As a matter of fact, so important is this matter of sheep feeding, that you cannot so much as show a stranger about the shed where the sheep are being fed without the act costing you in good hard money from the loss of flock which the distraction of the sensitive animal will produce.—"Shepherd."

Thoughts on Feeding Dairy Cows

The prerequisites of success with a dairy herd are cleanliness, comfort and contentment. These can be acquired only by gentle handling, proper stabling and a plentiful supply of food sufficiently rich, succulent and palatable to fully supply the wants of the animal.

Perhaps the most frequent mistakes made by dairymen are the failure to supply sufficient food, or failure to provide food sufficiently succulent and palatable and too frequently stabling in barns seriously lacking in proper sanitation.

Economical production is the watchword of the dairymen. This can only be reached through liberality of feeding and wholesome environment. Many good cows have had their prospects blasted by scanty feed, or through unwholesome and uncomfortable surroundings.

The answer to the question "how to feed" is to feed liberally, regularly and wisely. Feed a well balanced food, both succulent and palatable, never forgetting the fact that a meal eaten with a relish will give better results than one consumed reluctantly even if of equal nutritive value.

Never feed more at one time than the cow will eat up clean. Let the manger and the rack be empty a goodly portion of the time when the cow is confined for long periods in the barn.

Succulent food, such as kale, turnips, silage, or in fact any foods with pronounced odors, should always be fed shortly after milking, so as to permit the volatile oils to be eliminated from the system before the next milking and thus obviate undesirable odors in the milk. Even feeding valuable foods injudiciously may produce harmful results to the dairy product of the cow.

It matters not where one is dairying, the primary factor should be to grow all the protein possible in the coarse feed. Protein in cow feed is

like gold in the circulating medium. It is the standard of value. Where alfalfa can be economically produced this should constitute the coarse feed. Clover is good, and no mistake will be made if this constitutes the principal hay of the dairy herd. Its nutritive value and palatability will be increased if alsike and red clover are mixed.

A ration of good protein-bearing hay such as alfalfa and clover, with 40 pounds of silage and six pounds of ground grain or bran and wheat shorts will give excellent results.

The dairymen should produce as much as possible of the feed that the dairy herd consumes. The ordinary cereals grown on the farm, such as wheat, barley and oats, make an excellent combination with alfalfa, vetch and clover hay. If, however, these cereals are worth considerably more per ton in the market than an equal mixture by weight of bran and wheat shorts, then it would be good business to sell the grain and purchase the mill feeds.

The modern cow has been designated the wet nurse of prosperity, which indeed she is. Stable her well; keep her clean; feed her wholesome food; treat her kindly and she will pile up a bigger bank account for her owner than will any other animal on the farm.

Dairy Thoughts

The wise breeder of cows always keeps his eye on the sire. The rise breeder of bulls traces back for a long line of high-producing mothers.

A cow may not know anything about the theory of dairying, but most cows have got the practice down fairly fine.



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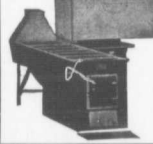
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