

FARM AND DAIRY & RURAL HOME



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The Recognized Exponent of Dairying in Canada.

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham.

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Feeding Cows for Great and Economical Milk Production

An Address on the Principles and Practice of Feeding by Prof. H. T. Van Pelt—Part 2

As freshening time approaches, if the feeding has been judiciously performed, the cow will begin rounding into bloom and developing an udder to the fullness of her capacity. It is true that more careful attention will be necessitated at freshening than though she were permitted to calve in poorer flesh. Careful and skillful management will suffice to bring her through parturition safely, and every feeder should consider it a part of his education to know how to manage his cows for securing the greatest results.

Three days or so before the cow is to freshen, her grain ration should be eliminated, and in its stead bran mashes composed of three or four pounds of bran, thoroughly moistened and well salted, should be given at regular feeding hours in addition to the roughage, which, being of a laxative nature, may be continued.

It is never advisable to permit a valuable cow to calve without attendance. If she is a heavy producer under natural conditions, much greater yields may be expected as a result of special fitting. Furthermore, udder troubles and milk fever are more liable to occur. It is quite generally conceded, however, that if feeding operations are such that the cow's digestive tract is kept in a loose, laxative condition and little if any milk taken from the udder except by the calf for the first 48 hours, the danger is reduced to a minimum. The thought of the careful feeder and herdsmen, however, is always of the welfare of his charge, so he will watch closely day and night until the danger of parturition paralysis may be put to use and forestall sickness before it has advanced far enough to be weakening in its effect. In case of milk fever, all feeding must cease until the cow is again on her feet and quite enough recovered to have regained her appetite.

It is well to leave the calf with its mother the first two or three days, for it assists greatly in relieving the inflammation of the udder and keeping the cow quiet. As a rule, when 48 hours have passed, if all has gone well, the calf should be taken away, for the mother is ready to begin work in earnest. This is in case the udder has reached normal condition. Otherwise, the feeding of soft foods, such as bran mashes, should continue, and in addition to frequent application of heat the udder should be milked out thoroughly many times day and night. This pre-

sents much labor, but success in any business is attained only by persistent, intelligent effort and close attention to details, and it is he who is most willing and industrious who succeeds and leads others to wonder what secrets he practices.

When the cow's condition warrants that she be placed on solid food, haste must be made slowly, for within 30 days she should be on full feed and giving her daily maximum milk yield. Furthermore, she should not be brought to full feed and milk sooner, for at best she is in a weakened condition following parturition.

It is now that the feeder will begin to appre-

feeds as bran, oil meal, ground oats, and gluten feed. In the beginning the daily ration should be increased slowly and on alternate days. All concentrated feed given and all milk yielded should be weighed. No feeder, no matter how experienced, can get the best out of a cow unless by the use of the scales he knows every day the results he has attained that he may use the knowledge on the morrow. Realizing this to be a fact, many most successful record makers now provide for each cow a box large enough to hold a day's ration, and at a convenient time each day her feed for the next 24 hours is weighed

and placed therein. A little extra work, but results will pay well for it. Developing cows is a business, and any business that is worth while is worth doing in an expert manner. By using boxes in this manner the 24-hour ration can be divided as best suits the demands of the cow. Some cows eat better in the morning, some at noon, and some at night. Often it is found best to give a cow one-half of her entire day's ration at night, leaving the other half to be divided between the next two or three feeds, and this can readily be done where the full ration is available.

Keep Your Eye on the Record

After the first day's ration has been given, results begin. On the third day the ration should be increased one-half or three-quarters of a pound, and as a result the following day the scales should indicate an increase in milk flow, in which case a like increase should be made the fifth day. If the scales do not show

an increase in the milk, something is wrong. Perhaps the ration is not suited to the particular cow, and a change should be made. Thus the ration should be increased by small amounts each alternate day, the scales showing the way on the intervening day. Invariably during the first 30 days a narrow ration—one composed largely of ground oats, oil meal, bran, gluten feed, cotton seed meal, dried distillers' grains, with a very small amount of cornmeal in addition to the roughage—should be used, because these are all rich in protein and stimulating to milk secretion.

Greatest results are attained from the feeding that is practised the four weeks preceding and the four weeks following freshening. If all has gone well the cow has almost reached the limit of her feeding capacity and the limit of her milk producing ability at the end of 30 days. A per-

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A British Columbia Youngster of Show-yard Fame.

At Chilliwack, B.C., last September, this Ayrshire calf, Live Wire, was made grand champion over all breeds. His dam has a two-year-old record of 7,244 lbs. of milk and 299 lbs. of fat. He is owned by Joseph Thompson, Sardin, B.C., British Columbia dairymen are laying well the foundations for the future dairy herds of their province.

ciate the value of the careful and liberal feeding given before freshening, for in all likelihood he has been rewarded with a strong, vigorous calf not predisposed to all the ills that affect calves less fortunately born, and he finds the mother strong, fleshy, and ready to work. She has much extra fat stored up in her body and this is well, for unable to utilize large amounts of food she at once begins drawing upon the reserve nutrients that are stored and converts them into milk and butter fat. The purpose of the feeder has changed, and it is now to encourage by feed and care the transferring of the fat from the body to the pail.

Succulent foods and those rich in protein stimulate milk secretion at the expense of body fat. Therefore, it is well to continue the use of green foods, roots, silage, beet pulp, leguminous hays, and in addition a light feed of such protein