



FARM AND DAIRY



W's h'ecoms Practical Progress-ideas

& RURAL HOME

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 The Dairy Cow—Maximum Profits*

An Expert Feeder Outlines Methods That Give Him Good Results

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IN dealing with the subject, "Feeding the Dairy Cow," I do not wish to be looked upon as one who thinks he knows all about feeding. For myself, although I have now had considerable experience in the work, I do not yet consider myself more than 50 per cent. efficient in it. Before starting out in recent work, however, I do not believe that I was more than two per cent. efficient. One of the most attractive features of dairying is, that the dairymen always finds room for improvement.

It is safe to say of the dairy cows of the province that at the present time 88 out of every 100 of them are underfed. Now, so long as a cow is underfed, it is impossible for her to do her best work. To be efficient, a machine must be run at its full capacity. It may not be wise to work a cow at her full capacity, but she should be worked to the point of greatest economical production. To be successful, the dairymen should endeavor to find the point of economical production for each of his cows, and to work them up to that point.

An Inventory of Feeds.

Suppose you were to take over a dairy farm, together with a good dairy herd, and were to go in immediately for record work. The first thing to do would be to take an inventory of the feed available. In the barn there should be found those feeds, all or nearly all of which are grown on the farm. For roughage there should be corn ensilage and roots for succulence. For test work, the best roots are table beets, commonly known as blood beets. In the mows there should be clover or alfalfa, preferably alfalfa, for balancing up the ration against the ensilage. There should also be some timothy hay. For concentrates, you would need plenty of oats, some barley and corn and a few peas.

Besides the feeds enumerated, you would require some that it is necessary to buy. The most important of these are old cake, bran, a few brewers' grains and cottonseed meal. It would not be necessary of course to be feeding all of these at one time. They should not all be fed together, but they should all be on hand, so that the feeder can readily charge from one to the other in order to introduce a variety into the cow's ration. Besides the feeds required, salt, charcoal and Epsom salts should always be on hand.

Economical Production.

In order to secure the most economical production, only feeds of the very best quality should be given. The composition should be varied enough to supply an abundance of all the constituents needed in maintaining the body and in the

production of milk. But there is another factor in economical milk production, the value of which can scarcely be over-estimated, and that is the personal factor. The feeder must be everlastingly alert on his job. "The eye of the master fattens his cattle." To feed just the right amounts of each feed, to vary the rations so as to best suit the tastes of the animal, and to look after the thousand and one things necessary in

weeks before freshening, but for big records, 20,000 lbs. or over, she should be dry for at least four months. A ration which we have found to be a suitable one at this important period consists of 40 lbs. ensilage, 40 lbs. turnips, 12 lbs. mixed hay. At all times the greatest care should be taken to see that the bowels are kept loose.

For the milking period everything in connection with the cow should be conducted on sound business principles. Let me emphasize the fact in this connection that it pays to test. Weigh the feed, weigh the milk and test. Keep in mind that you are working with a living animal and not with a machine, and that for this reason she does not require the same treatment two years in succession, but that her tastes and requirements must be carefully looked after from day to day.

The grain part of the ration for the milking period is the most important, and for this we have found the following to be satisfactory: Two parts of bran, two parts of oats, one or two parts of oil meal and two parts of pea meal. Cottonseed meal may be substituted for the pea meal in this ration. The nutritive ratio of this grain ration is one to 3.8. For big records, three parts of bran, three parts of oats and three of cottonseed meal may be alternated with three parts of bran, three parts of oil meal and three parts of oats. One pound of grain should be given for each four pounds of milk.

Summer Feeding.

Pastures dry up pretty well by about July 15th, and it is necessary to supplement them in order to get the best production. Ensilage, or alfalfa, or better, both, can be used for this purpose. If no alfalfa is at hand, oats and bran may be substituted for it. If a man is a breeder and feeding for records, oil meal may be added to the ration. By September 1st the green corn is ready to be fed. Cows should be stabled at nights as soon as the frost comes.

To the average dairymen the best advice that can be given is: resolve to feed a little better. Feed each individual cow, for cows have their differences as well as people. Don't just feed the cows; feed each cow. Get acquainted with every individual in the herd, and above all, watch the little things. See that the cow has a little salt in every feed, and that she gets the grooming that is necessary. See that plenty of sunshine is admitted to the stable and that everything is kept bright and cheery for her. Whenever the weather will permit it, see that she has an opportunity for taking a little exercise. If these rules are followed, and the feeder takes full advantage of his experience as it comes to him, he is sure to meet with success.

To the young man, I would say that breeding is a young man's game. In the breeding profes-

Location of Buildings and Work

By W. C. Palmer.

THE location of the buildings on a farm has a great deal to do with the time it takes to do the work. It will often pay to move some of the buildings in order to secure a more convenient arrangement. This was done on one farm with the following results: Under the old plan it required walking 53 miles a year just carrying in water. Under the new plan the water was piped into the house—no walking required. Bringing in the wood under the old plan required walking 22 miles. Under the new arrangement this was reduced to 8 3/4 miles. The trips made to the machine shed during the year amounted to 57 1-3 miles; by the new arrangement it was reduced to 1 1/4 miles. By the new arrangement the year's trips in feeding the hogs was reduced 102 1/2 miles, and in caring for the chickens three miles were saved. The total saving for the year through rearranging the farmstead was 217 1-3 miles.

It was also figured up and found that at going wages that the time used up in walking these 217 1-3 miles was worth \$36.74. It must be remembered that it was not only a case of walking these miles, but it was usually with something to carry.

order to secure the best returns for the feed given and the labor expended, requires great care and expertness.

The preparation of the cow for the milking period is very important. Before freshening she should be fed to fleshiness. She should be fed about the same as a fattening animal. Every extra dollar expended for feed at this important period will be paid back with big interest. For ordinary work she would be dry from 10 to 12

*A summarized report of an address delivered at the Dairymen's Convention, Lindsay, Victoria Co., Ont., March 2, 1915.