

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AYRSHIRES AS MILKERS.

I write to send you a statement of the yield of milk of my three Ayrshire cows. I have kept an exact account, and have ascertained their yield in pounds. I would say that my Ayrshire cows are only those whose ancestors either have been imported or whose pedigrees can be traced back to their progenitors in Scotland. My Ayrshires are mostly young stock, and include an imported bull and a heifer, Lady Essex, 1413, which has just dropped a fine bull calf, and which is a promising milker. The age given is taken on July 1st, 1872; the weights are those recorded March 23rd, 1872; and the number of days in milk are comprised between August 26th, 1871, and August 25th, 1872, inclusive:—

Name.	Age.	Weight of Cow.	No. days in milk.	Weight of milk.
Maud, 604,	8	1268 lbs.	320,	8159½ lbs
Lily Dale, 1475	4	975	283	7728½
Lassie, 1442	4	1151	200	5277½

My record was not commenced early enough to give more than one year's yield.—*Cor. Country Gentleman.*

TO PREVENT CATTLE JUMPING.

A correspondent of the *Vermont Farmer* thus describes an improved poke or jumping stick:—

"First put a piece across the horns. Then have a piece of hardwood board, one-half or three-fourths of an inch thick, and about three feet long. Have a hole inserted in the bar across the horns in such a way that when this hardwood strip is inserted in it, running out over the back, as the animal naturally carries its head, the rear end will be just free of the back. Drive three or four shingle nails, ground sharp, into this end, letting them come through three-fourths of an inch, so that as soon as the animal makes an effort to raise his head to jump the fence, the nails will soundly prick his back, and he will be apt to frisk his tail and start for some feed that is easier to be obtained. For cheapness and durability this arrangement is unequalled. It weighs less than three pounds; it is not in the way in travelling around, and when the animal lies down it is on one side, as it is natural for the animal to throw its head opposite to the side it lies on. When they are feeding, it is upright in the air.

BEST KEEP FOR DAIRY COWS.

For small farmers, be they wealthy amateurs or working men, the first step to success is a clean, well ventilated cow-house—a shed will not be sufficient; next, a dairy-house where the temperature can be kept uniform during the year; after these, convenient dairy utensils—not elaborate patent machines, but well made, simply constructed articles that admit of being kept clean, and strong enough to bear the wear and tear of dairy use. These having been provided, the next consideration is the breed of cattle. Wealthy men ought to own nothing save clear-bred cattle, and they may safely allow fancy to dictate between the rival merits of the Channel Island cattle and the two varieties of the Ayrshire, or the clear-bred Kerry cow. These various families are all noted milkers and first class butter makers. The working farmer can very seldom purchase clear-bred cows, but at least he can obtain grades, and grades of the above named animals are the best for him, as by having such, and then using clear-bred bulls, he can obtain gradually and inexpensively a nice herd of high-bred cows.

TURNIP FLAVOR IN MILK AND BUTTER.

A correspondent of the *American Agriculturist* states that last winter he fed turnips in the usual way at milking time to five cows, until the milk and butter became so strong that it could not be used. He then commenced feeding immediately after milking and found that "there was not a particle of turnip flavor in the milk or butter." After a time the taste returned. On investigation he found that one of the cows was nearly dry, and was milked only once a day, while she was fed with turnips twice a day. She gave but a pint of milk per day, so that when fed in the morning she could only have about half a pint of milk in her bag; yet this received so much taste from the turnips that it spoiled the milk of four other cows in full flow. To make the test complete he had her milked twice a day, when the difficulty at once ceased and did not recur.

Evidently a very small amount of milk in the udder will suffice to do the mischief, and if drying-off cows are milked only once a day while on turnip feed, their milk should not be mixed with that from the rest of the herd.

THE BRITANNY COW.

The Brittany cow will average from thirty-six to forty-two inches high, from the hoof to the top of the shoulder. Mr. Flint has an imported cow, six years old, recently bought of Gen. Paine, that measured only about thirty-two inches high, but the average height is a little over three feet. The weight varies from three to five hundred pounds. A two year old heifer owned by the Massachusetts Agricultural College, full with calf and in high condition, weighed 445 pounds.

The milk varies, of course, like that of other cows, but it is usually from eight to ten quarts a day at the height of flow, and it holds out exceedingly well, and is of high quality. We know of no breed of cows so uniformly good temper as the Brittany. They are docile, and like to be petted and fondled. They are very easy and pretty milkers, the teats generally long enough, with a free and easy flow. So far as our observation has gone, they are easier milkers than the Ayrshires, and the teats, as a general rule, much better developed as to length and size.

As to the expense of keeping, we never saw cows of any breed more easily kept, and though no careful and exact experiments have been made so far as we know, we think they will not consume more than half as much as our larger cows to keep in the same condition. They come up full and satisfied, on short, rocky and hard pastures, which is more than the larger cows in the same herd do.—*Massachusetts Ploughman.*

BREAKING HEIFERS TO MILKING.

A correspondent writes as follows to the *Lewiston Journal* on this important subject:

"All domestic animals require some training or education. The steer may require more training than the heifer, because the uses are varied to which he has to become accustomed to make his labor skilled and practicable. While the cow may not need to be schooled in these higher branches of practicable studies, she should be taught that to stand quietly while being milked, and to 'hoist' the right foot and place it back of the other, are virtues to be commended and rewarded (by kindness at least). No animals should ever be allowed to pass their first winter without being thoroughly 'halter broke,' so they can be led by the horn, or a rope around the neck, gently and peaceably. Doing this while they are young and easily handled saves a vast amount of subsequent hard work and perplexity, and, may be, the animals kicks and blows. There is a great difference in teachers in this kind of science, as well as in the four-footed pupils. Some teachers I have seen did not evince half the sense of the cattle they undertook to train. On the other hand, there are some animals so perverse, or *non compos mentis*, that it seems almost impossible to teach them the first rudiments of good manners. But certainly, in most cases there is nothing gained by letting them grow up in these uncouth ways, thinking to take them in hand at a later day. 'Train while young' should be the motto of the barn-yard."

"Many an otherwise excellent milker has been spoiled for life by harsh treatment. It is better to govern by gentleness and kind treatment than by harsh means and fear of the master. A heifer, if well broke to the milk pail, is thereby made worth a least twenty-five per cent. more—an increase that will pay for much painstaking. The handling of the udder and the process of milking is a very unusual proceeding, and, in addition, the teats are often inflamed so as to be painful to the gentlest touch. How often in such a condition from pain and apprehended danger she almost unconsciously lifts her foot and knocks over the pail, and perhaps hits a well-deserved thwack over the pail, and then kicks and bruises are freely exchanged between the frightened brute and the irritated master."

"First teach all the animals to love rather than fear you. Teach them to welcome your coming by presents of a nubbins of corn, an apple, a little salt, &c., on all occasions when practicable. Handle them freely, and get them accustomed to your touch by rubbing and scratching them. Heifers thus accustomed to being handled will soon come to like the operation of milking. I once had a heifer that from having exceedingly sore teats contracted the habit of running away from me, when milked in the yard, before the milk was half down. All my endeavors to break the habit failed, till, as a last resort, when she started away from me I caught up the pail with one hand and seized one hind leg with the other, and held it firmly. After hopping a few steps and giving some pretty severe kicks and jerks to free herself, made

all to no purpose, she 'accepted the situation,' and calmly submitted to the process till milked clean. Two or three such lessons cured her entirely. Such usage would probably have frightened her and made the habit worse had she not been accustomed to being handled and petted. But a few lessons gave her an understanding of what was required, and subsequently any attempt of a repetition of the misdemeanor would be suddenly checked by merely placing my hand gently upon her leg.

"It is very important that cows of any age be milked clean; but more especially should this be practised with heifers. One of the secrets of butter-making lies just here. I need not tell those that are used to the care of cows and dairymen that the last drawn milk is nearly all cream, and when one of these little measures of milk is left in the udders of several cows, as a careless milker will often do, no insignificant quantity of the richest milk is lost every day."

"But this is not all or perhaps the greatest loss. Leaving milk in a cow's bag has a most deleterious effect upon the cow. Undoubtedly many cases of garget may be traced to this neglect. And the habit, if persisted in to any length of time, will cause a gradual falling off of the milk, and the cow will be very unlikely to regain her full milking powers again. This matter is worth more than a casual thought. Heifers, the first year of their coming into the dairy, should be instructed to no inexperience for careless milkers. A good milker will draw the milk in silence and quickly. Never allow yourself to leave a cow half milked and then return and finish, thinking to get the full compliment that the cow would give. This habit is nearly as bad as the one spoken of above, and its practice brings about the same results. By such means heifers often contract the habit of withholding their milk; a most perplexing habit and often not easily cured. A good milker will attend to his work, and draw the milk clean as quickly as possible and establish the habit of giving down freely—a valuable item in a young cow."

RIGHT AND WRONG WAY TO MILK.

The *Irish Farmers' Gazette* publishes the following from Professor Dick, on the manner of milking:—The operation of milking is performed differently in various parts of the country. In some the dairy-maids dip their hands into a little milk, and by successfully stripping the teat between her fingers and thumb, unloads the udder. This plan, however, is attended with the disadvantage of irritating the teat, or less the teat, and rendering it liable to a local inflammation, which is followed by inflammation extending to the rest of the quarter. These effects may be, and are, almost entirely avoided by the most scientific plan of milking adopted in other parts of the country, where instead of drawing down or stripping the teat between the thumb and fingers, as I have stated, the dairy-maid follows more closely the principle which instinct has taught the calf. She first takes a slight hold of the teats with her hand, by which she merely encircles it, then lifts her hand so as to press the body of the udder upwards, by which the milk escapes into the teat; or if, as is generally the case when some hours have elapsed between milking times, the teat is full, she rasps the teat close to its origin with her thumb and fore-finger, so as to prevent the milk which is in the teat from escaping upwards; then making the rest of the fingers to close from above downwards in quick succession, forces out what milk may be contained in the teat through the opening of it. The hand is again pressed up and closed as before, and the milk drawn easily and freely, without the tugging inflicted by clumsy milkers.

BREEDING TOO YOUNG.

Ewes should not be permitted to breed at one year. The lambs of such young mothers will be of little use, always small, puny and unprofitable, and the mother will not grow much afterward. Besides, there is no profit in this early breeding, for the first fleece will be so much less and the young ewe of so much less value, as to quite overbalance the gain in the lamb. The ewe should not breed at less than two years old, and she should be fed most liberally the first winter to keep up that healthy growth made the first summer on her mother's milk and good pasture.

Green food seems even more necessary for sheep than cattle. Therefore a small quantity of turnips, beets, carrots or potatoes, should be provided for lambs. Let the young ewes be healthy and strong, and the lambs will be like them and sell at high figures to the butcher. But early lambs always sell best, and sheep breeders should provide such warm quarters that lambs may be safely dropped in February.

WELL-FLAVORED BUTTER.

How can it be expected that butter of good flavor can be produced from pastures foul with every storg flavored weed? From early spring, when garlic abounds, up to fall, when the golden rod and ragweed cover the pastures and meadows, cows rarely get a bit of grass or clover free from admixture with weeds. And when it is known that these strong and often disagreeable flavors concentrate in the milk, and that every impurity in the milk seems to concentrate in the butter, how can it then be otherwise than that the great bulk of butter coming to market should be poor in quality, and poorer still in profitable returns to the farmer? Here is the strongest argument for clean pastures and meadows, and such farming as will raise feed and not weeds.—*Am. Agriculturist.*

HIGH FEEDING ONLY WILL PAY.

Our graziers are beginning to learn that they will soon be driven out of the field as feeders, if they continue to undertake to compete with the coarse Texas cattle of the South and the vagabond grass-fed steers of the Western plains. The best feeders in our State have already adopted the practice of buying grade Durhams, and the higher the grade the better, and if full blood, so much the better yet, and crowding into them all they can eat from the very start, and selling them at two, or between two and three years. In summer, blue grass and timothy, clover and standing corn; in the winter, corn in the shock and corn in the ear, cornmeal and oil-meal, sheaf oats, and the best hay the richest fields will yield—such is the bill of fare provided. Grade steers, so pushed, make a gross weight of from 1,300 to 1,600 at the age named, and sell for 7c. to 8c. while equally heavy but scrubby raw bone bring not more than 4c. As ordinary fed, our prairie cattle getting ready for market lose the fat and flesh, and everything but the mere bone and frame growth of two summers. The calf in good condition at the first of September is a skeleton at a year old. He gained flesh during the summer to be reduced again the second winter, and is finally sold, after he has gained 3 and lost 2 suits of fat and flesh. This style of feeding is about at an end; and so it is getting to be with hogs. It is recognized that in order to be profitable they must be sold at 9 and 12 months, instead of 18 and 24 months.

In Kentucky, I understand, about the only profitable business now pursued on their high-priced lands is feeding mules, and breeding fine cattle, horses, sheep and hogs. The mule colts are bought in the fall at home as largely as possible, and abroad across the river in Ohio and Indiana from \$40 to \$75 being paid for fair to best mule colts. These colts are placed on the highly cultivated, high-priced, rich lands, and are pushed with all the art and skill the experience of half a century has gained, until they are sold the spring they are two years old. These animals so fed are never allowed to get hungry, never wet, never athirst, and their appetite is never suffered to be cloyed. The market for them is on the cotton plantations of the South, where they bring from \$400 to \$600 the pair, according to the quality and the market. If we should feed cattle, hogs and mules as they ought to be fed, there would be few things better than corn and oats.—*B. F. J. in Country Gentleman.*

ALDERNEY CATTLE.

The Alderney cow gives a moderate amount of exceedingly rich milk, richer in cream than the milk of any other breed of cattle whatever. A cup of coffee is never so good as when flavored with Alderney cream. Butter is never the best unless made of the cream of the Alderney. It is second best when made in part of Alderney cream, and third when made from the cream of other breeds. Some dairymen claim that to incorporate the milk of one Alderney with that of half a dozen other cows, will improve the color and flavor of the butter very materially. One Alderney dairymen near Boston sells his butter regularly to families in the city at \$1.25 per pound. Another in the same vicinity, whose process of manufacture is not so perfect, sells at 75 cents, this latter price being about double the price of good common butter.

The Alderney was originally from Normandy, a province in the northwestern part of France. The British Channel Is-