

STOCK & DAIRY

WINTER BUTTER-MAKING.

A farmer's wife thus gives, in the *Rural New Yorker*, the result of twenty-two years' experience:—

"Commence to heat the milk when the cows are first given corn fodder, which I manage in this way: Strain the milk in tin pans, filling only half full—a little more or less will make no difference; then, as soon as convenient, set the pans of milk on the stove, where let them remain until a roughness or wrinkled appearance on top of the milk is noticed (if the milk gets too hot the only harm will be less cream), then take it into the milk room or cellar, a cool place, till next morning, when bring it up into a warm room and let it stand till next day, when it is generally ready to skim. When treated in this way it will not do to skim much under forty-eight hours. My plan is to skim morning's and night's milkings both at the same time in winter. It does not hurt butter for the cream to sour—rather aids in churning, making butter come sooner. The cream-kettle I keep in the cellar until the day or evening before I desire to churn; then, if convenient, set near a coal stove or one that fire is kept in all night. In the morning, before churning, try with a thermometer; it should be at a temperature of sixty-two degrees. If not convenient to set the cream near a warm stove, setting the kettle in hot water will answer every purpose. Many object to heating the milk because it sometimes burns to the bottom of the pans. Set pans with water on the stove, and place the pans with milk in these, and the difficulty is at once avoided.

QUALITY IN MILK.

Extracts from a paper read by Mr. T. S. Gold, at a meeting of the Vermont Dairymen's Association:—

Cows differ almost as much in the qualities of their milk as they do in their external form and appearance. Breeds have general characteristics too well known to need description here. Individuals, also, have their peculiarities. A child, and there is no nicer judge of milk, fed upon the milk of one cow, often refuses that of another which may be offered to it.

The product varying so much in quality while the cows are in health, how will it be when disease supervenes to form another element in the calculation? Cows continue to give milk under local and constitutional disorders. The cow pox, the fowl, garget, disturbances of the alimentary canal, foot and mouth disease, and pleuro-pneumonia, though interrupting, do not always prevent the secretion of milk. The cow pox, even in its mildest form, often causes the teats to crack and bleed, and the exudation may drop into the pail. Harsh handling of the udder in milking or some injury, often causes one quarter to give bloody milk. And garget, when it does not stop the flow of milk, injures its quality in all degrees of violence. All the secretions of an unhealthy animal must be tainted, and milk is largely affected.

During the prevalence of the foot and mouth disease, numerous persons were affected with a similar form of disease from having partaken of the milk. The origin of some forms of disease we cannot trace, but physicians have observed that some diseases are at times unusually prevalent, and there are some that seem to follow in the track of pleuro-pneumonia in cattle, whether produced by the use of the flesh or milk is unknown, but we must admit that the secretions or flesh of diseased animals cannot be the best food.

The food of the cow has such an effect on the milk that we can make it rich in butter or cheese, or poor and watery, according to the food we give. But cows roaming their pastures are not always over-nice in their selection.

Garlic and onions, and in lesser degree, the cabbage family, embracing the turnips, give their peculiar odor to the milk.

Weedy pastures abound in vegetation of strong odors and taste, liable to be transferred to the milk. Drink as well as food may introduce impurities.

Out of 140 families supplied with milk from a dairy in Islington, England, seventy suffered from typhoid fever; one hundred and sixty-eight individual cases occurred in

ten weeks, and thirty died. An investigation showed that the cows drank water from an old under-ground tank, built of wood and much decayed. Here the cows remaining in apparent health carried the seeds of disease through the imperfectly animalized secretion to those who partook of the milk.

Even impure air breathed by the cow taints the milk. It is reported on good authority that the milk from a certain dairy in the State of New York, when brought to a cheese factory was found tainted, and on examination the cause was discovered to be a putrid carcass lying in the pasture.

Do the reeking odors of a fermenting manure heap or of an ill ventilated stable have no effect on the milk, even before it is drawn from the cow? But suppose our cows are of the best, fed upon the luxuriant hill side, amid the aroma of the clovers and the sweet scented grasses, drink of the pure springs that bubble from the rock, enjoying that equable temperature which so suits us that for the time we are not aware that there is any weather, untroubled by torturing flies in the field, and allowed to take their way at their own good time and sober pace to the milking yard, so far we are prepared to furnish good milk. But "don't whistle till you get out of the woods," is an old and wise maxim.

Good milkers carefully clean the udder and teats with the hand before using the pail, or wash them off in water provided for that purpose, and a rule should be made and enforced to that effect in every well managed dairy. Milking has to be done, too, in rainy weather, and often out of doors. The rain drips from the cow and some will fall into the pail. The only prevention is ample shed room, where all the cows can be sheltered in stormy weather and the wet allowed to dry off before milking.

As has been stated, milk most readily absorbs all odors to which it is exposed, yet milking yards or stables, where it first sees the light, are not perfumed with the spices of Arabia or Ceylon. There is room for much improvement upon the present arrangements, even with a view to pure air alone, to say nothing of grosser filth. All the pails, cans, pans, strainers or other vessels used about milk must not only be carefully washed and scalded, but must be well aired. It is for no useless show that the pails and tin pans of the dairy are exposed in the open air. Packed one inside of another in a close room, they become unfit to receive milk. Particularly do cans, set away with the covers on, become offensive, if they are washed and scalded ever so clean.

Wooden pails should not be used if the milk is for market, for with the most careful washing and scalding, particles of milk will remain about the joints to act upon the succeeding milk. The necessary ventilation shrinks the wood, exposing the joints to be filled again with milk.

ON THE MANAGEMENT OF CATTLE.

To make the most money out of a given product, every care has to be used in the manipulation, from the inception to the perfect finish of the article. The same rule will apply to the raising and management of stock.

We must not expect good animals from calves that are allowed to get thin and weak every winter, until they are finally turned off to the butcher. We can not realize excellent beefs or breeders from calves that have had only skimmed milk from the time they were two weeks old until they were ten weeks old, with such grass as their hunger may have forced them to eat, although they have been thenceforth, through the summer, given good pasturage, and well fed through the winter. They will never thereafter be able to digest and assimilate the necessary quantity of food to make heavy beef. They will always be "runts." We can never get first class stock if the animal, of whatever kind, be allowed to shrink seriously from the time of its birth until it reaches maturity.

Too many farmers seem entirely to forget that the true object to be aimed at is the steady and progressive improvement of the animal through all the different stages of its growth. Growth is a constant process, and, if checked, it is at the expense of the animal itself, and can never be entirely resumed, for the flesh required is at the expense of a certain additional amount of food, whose equivalent has been wasted in the act of getting poor. Therefore to say nothing of the economy in many other directions that might be named, a certain amount of food has at least been lost.

There are various ideas among our farmers as to the best means of raising the calf; some contending that the animal should suck the

milk directly from the dam, others contending that equally good calves may be raised by feeding the calf new milk, warm from the cow, giving less and less milk as the calf increases in age, the decrease being supplemented with ground feed until the calf learns to subsist entirely without milk. Certain it is that good calves are raised by both these means, and that the calf by the latter plan learns earlier to eat. However this may be, if the calf have not an abundance of new milk during the first three months of its life, it will never make a satisfactory matured animal from a critical standpoint.

It may therefore be set down as an axiom that to get the best results possible an animal must progress constantly from its birth upward. The advantage gained in the first week or month must be supplemented by a progressive and continual advancement; to attain which not only the kind, quantity and quality of the food given must be looked to, but also the care and attention paid to the comfort and well-being of the animal.

RAM SALES IN ENGLAND.

The following synopsis of the Lincolnshire ram sales of the last season is taken from *Bell's Messenger*:

"Perhaps the fairest test of the estimation in which the improved breed of Lincoln sheep is held is the average obtained by the leading ram breeders of the country. The highest average of Lincoln rams at a home sale was £35.18s. Lowest average at a home sale, £11.5s. At home sales 408 rams were disposed of at an average of £20.3s., 5½d each. At public fairs 5272 rams show an average of £16.14s., 6d. On the 1025 Lincoln rams sold at home sales and fairs, there is a general average of £17.19s., 7½d. These averages, considering the extent of the lots, far exceed those obtained for any other breed of sheep, if we except Lord Chesham's lot of rams, of the Shropshire breed, sold at Shrewsbury on Sept. 11th, and producing an average of 33 guineas each (also Lord Polwarth's sale of Border Leicesters at Kelso). Of lettings, 61 rams were let at Huttoft, at an average of £18.3s.; 50 at Aylesby (Leicesters) at an average of £18.18s., and 110 at Ashby de la Sande, at an average of £16.15s. According to this return, 221 sheep were let at an average of £17.18s."

From these prices we see that high prices are not confined to Short-horns or any breed of cattle. English breeders do not hesitate buying any stock at what are called fancy prices, knowing by experience that good stock, and only good stock, will bring a profit.

DAIRY STOCK.

From an address by Mr. Leander Wetherell, of the Boston *Cultivator*, at the first annual convention of the New York State Dairymen's Association:—

Some dairymen select the Ayrshire, some the Devon, some the Holstein, some the Jersey, some the Short-horn, while others prefer the grades produced by crossing bulls of these different breeds on what they call good native cows, and others still prefer, as they phrase it, "the old natives," or "scrubs," meaning animals without any traceable pedigree beyond the fact that it or they "descended from a cow that my wife's father gave her as a dowry when she married me."

According to my observation over the Eastern and Middle States, the Short-horn blood has done more to improve the dairy and beef stock by the introduction of bulls of this blood, than all other breeds or varieties united, whether more or less fixed or permanent. The best milk cows in the dairy section of both New England and the Middle States, especially in Vermont, Massachusetts and New York, for more than a generation have been acknowledged to be grade Short-horns, descended from the best native cows, so-called, from time immemorial served by Short-horn bulls, thorough-bred so-called, and high grades both having been used.

Thomas Bates said of this branch of the improved Short-horn family: "Wherever they are tried, their merits will shine forth in producing a greater return for the food consumed than any other breed of cattle that was ever known."

DIARRHOEA IN SHEEP.

For ordinary cases of diarrhoea in sheep, change the food and give the sheep all they will eat of a mixture of equal parts of Glauber salts (sulphate of soda) and common salt. This may apparently increase the difficulty at first, but will usually effect a cure. Where there are only one or two sheep affected and it is probably caused by weakness, give a pint of fresh milk made into a porridge with a tablespoonful of wheat flour once a day. If this does not effect a cure, give two ounces of Glauber or Epsom salts and 20 drops of laudanum, and in five hours give 10 drops more of laudanum. If the sheep is very weak, give half a pint of warm ale with a little ginger or gentian.—*Ex.*

SHEEP AS A RENOVATOR.

A soldier, while fighting under Stonewall Jackson, in Virginia, saw the benefit of sheep-raising to revive worn-out land. Impoverished in the fight for slavery, he began with only ten ewe sheep, which he put in a small field near his house that was full of briars, weeds and the grass in the fence corners. He gave them daily a little meal or bran, salted them often, and sheltered them in the winter, when they had swamp hay and a few roots. In the spring he had thirteen fine lambs, worth more than he gave for the ewes, and he said the wool and manure was worth more than the cost of the food.

He ploughed and planted the field to corn, and got over thirty bushels to the acre, while around the shed the yield was much larger. He now keeps sheep and grows, without the aid of guano or phosphate, fine crops of clover, corn, wheat and turnips. How strange that the Southern farmers so persistently neglect stock-growing, which is the only means by which they can obtain continuous crops of cotton.

A Yankee who farmed at the South was remonstrated with for neglecting to grow cotton. He replied that he sold corn and meat enough to buy all the cotton made in his neighborhood.—*N. Y. Times.*

FATTENING CATTLE.

The following is from a prominent stock raiser in New York, and addressed to the *Drovers Journal*:—"The price of cattle fattened for market depends on the symmetry of the animal as well as the fat 'style,' as shippers term it. I want here to state that good blood is important, but not absolutely necessary, to make what is called a good seller. It is necessary in order to fatten a steer to bring the highest market price, that he be kept in a growing condition from a calf, and in no case allow to go hungry. It is the starving first and second winters which wilts and shivers up the steer, and causes him to be sold at a reduced price. No amount of feeding will make him a first-class seller, no difference what his color or blood. An animal well fed (I care not what the blood—Texas or not) from a calf until the spring he is three years old, will be smooth, with bones well covered, and will sell at a profit; while the half-starved animal becomes crooked in the back, bone projecting, and shrivelled up; takes the best part of the summer to get in condition to live, and will not be in condition for market until he is four years old, and then will bring a price which is unsatisfactory to the producer and to every one that handles him. This is no theory, but a fact deduced from close observation, as I have tested the plan for several years. It will and does pay to feed corn to calves and to yearlings. They start out on grass in the spring, strong and vigorous. You are then able to market your cattle the spring they are three years old, weighing 1,400 pounds, which is heavy enough to bring the first prize. The best steer I sold in 1872 was a common native. He had all he could eat from a calf, and was never hungry. He was a handsome animal, and was worth more per pound than anything I shipped in 1872. He weighed in Chicago 1,350 pounds.—age three years. I now have a steer calf eleven months old, from a very ordinary cow. The calf now (May 21) weighs 660 pounds. I think it will weigh, when three years old, 1,500 pounds. I do not wish it to be understood that I am not in favor of improving the blood as well as feed. I shipped two Texas steers this spring, which were three years old; they were smooth and nice, and I sold them with a lot of Durhams, four years old, at the same price, and they were worth as much per pound, and weighed better according to age. They were raised and fed by different parties. Mammoth, overgrown steers have had their day, and are now come down to the neat, compact well fattened animal, both in hogs and cattle. To accomplish this in cattle, good feeding from a calf is necessary."

Mr. JAMES J. H. GREGORY, of Marblehead, Mass., aims to supply one great want, which many a good farmer, when too late, has felt to his keen sorrow: Garden Seed that know how to come up; and when the crop is gathered proves to be just the kind the label said they were. Mr. Gregory is one of the few seedsmen in the United States who grows a large portion of the seed he sells, and he gets out a live Catalogue, as would be expected of the original introducer of the Hubbard Squash. His advertisement will be found in this number. His Illustrated Catalogue will be sent free to all applicants.

A correspondence pea-straw as and wheat straw good pea-straw to be worth it unless it is nitrogenous straw, and straw value, in corn of corn. She each per day straw than or ter plan is to of both pea a morning and night. But our correspond of feeding as ing, and pre peas were all and after cut heaps in the turning, and until nearly a composed or half the leave they left the damp condition stand why "not tell the value of the have found peas, cured ble as clover-

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