

## DAIRY.

## Risk of Judging Cows by Their Looks.

The best looking cows are not always the best performers in the dairy. A striking illustration of this was afforded by the recent experience of a well-known Jersey breeder. This gentleman had for years made the dairy qualities of his cattle a subject of special study, and prided himself upon the fact that he possessed a thorough knowledge of the proportionate values of the various cows owned by him. With the intention of weeding out some of the worst members of the herd, he recently proceeded to single out several of them, but before finally deciding in the matter he had the milk of these cows analyzed, with the result that one of them, which he had priced among the very lowest, was found to be yielding at the rate of 16 pounds of butter per week, though her reputation prior to that only credited her with producing about half that quantity.

## Fast vs. Slow Milking.

In a recent issue of the *Farmer's Gazette* reference was made to the relative merits of fast and slow milking. As bearing upon this subject, an experiment recently carried out with the object of determining to what extent the milk capacity of cows was influenced by quick or by slow milking will doubtless be of interest. Five cows were milked for the period of a month by two persons, one of whom did his milking in the usual way, while the other was informed of the fact that an experiment was in progress, and was requested to milk the cows as thoroughly as he could and in the shortest possible space of time. The two milkers were given the cows for periods of a fortnight each, with the result that in the case of the one who was unaware of the experiment the yield of milk of the five cows for the two weeks during which he milked them was 86 gallons, while the same cows in the charge of the man who was aware of the experiment, and who milked them as rapidly and completely as he could, amounted to 112 gallons in the fortnight. There was thus a gain of 26 gallons in favor of the man who adopted the more rapid and thorough system.

## Dairying in the New Century.

We enter upon the new century with all the advancement of the past and an ever-increasing determination to still further improve our methods. In the competition some are leaving their fellows in the race, and the methods of these men are worthy of imitation. Among dairymen we find those who are making money and are satisfied with their lot, while others, equally strenuous in their efforts, have more or less to discourage them. We cannot hope to find out everything for ourselves; nor is it necessary, as successful men are invariably sufficiently broad-minded and unselfish to tell out the good things they have learned in their own experience. There are many such successful men keeping cows, and it is to them we address the following questions which an "Old Dairyman" has answered according to his own experience. Let many others who are doing a profitable dairy business send us answers to these questions for publication, that we may learn from one another. The questions answered by "Old Dairyman" are these:

1st.—Kindly outline your method of improving your milking herd, having reference to breeding, selection and development of heifers; also testing cows and discarding the unprofitable ones?

2nd.—How do you feed and care for your milking cows? Kindly refer to kinds of feed, how prepared, how and when fed, method of stabling, watering, exercise, cleanliness, etc., which you find give you most satisfactory returns? (Health of cow included.)

3rd.—What do you find to be the best use to make of skim milk? In case of calves and pigs, respectively, should it be fed sweet, sour, warm or cold, alone or mixed with other substances?

4th.—What have you found the best substitute for the cream removed from the milk and the best method of feeding it?

5th.—How long should dairy cows go dry, and what do you find the best season to have them come in?

## AN OLD DAIRYMAN'S WAY OF DOING.

(1) In my dairy operations, recognizing that on the character of the cow mainly depends the

success of the business, I have made it a point to improve and increase the working capacity of my cows, weeding out the worst performers, turning them into beef and replacing them with purchased cows showing the indications of good workers at the pail, and by raising the heifer calves from my best milking cows, being careful to breed only from a bull whose dam was known to me to be a deep milker and descended from a heavy-milking family. I make it a rule to have the milk of any cows which do not give a fair quantity tested by use of the Babcock test, and unless the percentage of butter-fat is high enough to offset the lack in quantity, I plan to dispose of them as soon as a favorable opportunity offers. I breed my heifers to produce their first calf at about 2½ years old and milk them for nearly a whole year if they will hold out so long, breeding them to produce their second calves not sooner than one year from the date of their first. This, I find, tends to fix the habit of persistent milking for a long term.

(2) In winter I give, each day, one or two feeds of good hay (clover preferred), a liberal supply of a mixture of ensilage, pulped roots and chaff or cut straw, mixed and allowed to stand 12 hours before feeding. Feed this twice a day, with a moderate grain ration composed of a mixture of bran, ground oats and peas, corn or barley, in about equal quantities by weight; about one gallon of the mixture twice a day. Feed hay last thing at night. My stabling is a stone-wall basement, with concrete cement floor, and well lighted and ventilated. Cows are turned out once a day to drink at a trough, water being pumped by hand as required, and cows are allowed exercise in yard only during the time they are drinking, or a few minutes longer on fine

flaxseed may be fed to advantage with the milk if given in moderation. By eating dry feed, which is mixed with the saliva of the mouth, digestion is perfected and health and thrift is maintained. When calves get to be three months old and have learned to eat freely, if milk is scarce, or is needed for other purposes, warm water may be added and the quantity of milk reduced, and the calves will hardly miss it.

(5) As to how long a cow should go dry before calving, I think it depends a good deal on the cow. After the first year, if she is disposed to go dry three months before she is due to calve, let her go. She will do better work when she comes in again than if she had been milked longer. But if a cow continues to milk well up to within a month of the time she is due, I would milk her, and in an exceptional case, where she shows little or no tendency to go dry, I would milk her right up to calving rather than force her dry, as I have known not a few cases of cows milking steadily for years without going dry, and doing a much better year's work than many that were willing to quit work three or four months before calving. As a rule I prefer to let a cow dry about six weeks before she is due to calve again. I prefer to have most of my cows to calve in the fall, from October 1st to January 1st, as I feed my cows liberally during the winter months to make them do their best work while butter brings the best price and calves can be most advantageously fed. Then I find that when the cows go out to grass in spring they flush up in their milk and make a good record at the cheese factory while the pastures are fresh, and will keep it up pretty well through the summer if a supply of ensilage has been carried over to be fed to them

once or twice a day when pastures fall and flies worry the cows. If we have not ensilage, we find it pays to cut some green feed to carry to the cows during this period, or even to feed some bran and meal to keep up the milk flow, as when once allowed to shrink it costs more to bring them back to their former work, if, indeed, it can be done in that year. The fall calves will have grown and learned to feed so well before grass comes in the spring that they will do without milk and will be ready to find for themselves when the grass comes. Of course, we cannot always manage to have all the cows come fresh in the fall, and there is an advantage, especially in buttermaking, in having an odd cow come in fresh in the spring and summer months. It makes the butter churn quicker, and the fresh cows, giving a larger flow, help to keep the supply of milk up to a more uniform quantity. I think late spring and summer calves do better kept in a shed or box stall the first summer.

My methods may not be up-to-date in all particulars, as I have not all the latest improvements; but my wife makes good butter, and lots of people want it and are willing to pay a good price for it, a good deal better than the market price. I hope others will write of their ways of doing, as I think none of us are too old to learn, and we ought to be willing to tell what we know. OLD DAIRYMAN.

Calves which are reared by hand are more subject to digestive disorders than those which are allowed to run with their dams. This, however, is only to be expected. When suckled by their dams, calves lead what may be described as a natural method of living, as they are enabled to obtain their milk supplies in small quantities and at as frequent intervals as they feel disposed. On the other hand, when artificially fed, the periods between meals are much longer than under the natural system, and in addition to this the food is given very often at irregular hours and not always in the same quantity or at the same temperature. When the calf feeds off its dam, the milk which it imbibes is always of the natural blood heat, and the quantity taken is just as much as is necessary for immediate requirements, the calf knowing by instinct that when another supply is necessary, it has its dam's udder to resort to and procure it. It is different when the calf is fed by hand. Under this system the animal soon gets to know that the lapse of time between the hours of feeding is comparatively long, and it is therefore tempted to consume a larger quantity than may be good for it. The result is that digestive derangements of various kinds are created.



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