Prepare Now For Supplementary Feeding

G. Annear, Oxford Co., Ont.

We dairymen make great provisions for feeding our cows in the winter. We put up expensive buildings and bend all our energies to filling these buildings with forage and grain to carry our cattle over six months of the year. And while we are doing this our cattle are frequently almost starving on dry pastures. We recently had a call at our farm from a dairyman who is as well versed as any in the needs of dairying in Ontario. He gives practically half of his time to educational work among his brother farmers. He talked interestingly to us for over an hour on the many great improvements that he had seen in dairying since he had first started to travel over the province some 30 years ago. In speaking of some changes that are still greatly needed, he was emphatic in declaring that one of the greatest was better provision for summer feeding.

It is only within the last few years that we ourselves have learned the necessity of making provision for supplementing our pastures. We believe that we have increased the value of every cow in our herd at least 25 per cent, and in some years 50 per cent by seeing to it that even in the dryest summer they never lack abundance of feed. Last year, in August, we had a splendid example of just what supplementary feeding was doing for us. We were milking 15 cows and getting an average flow of 17 twelve-quart cans each day. Owing to miscalculation our cows were without green feed for three days, and they dropped in that time to nine cans or almost 50 per cent. At the end of the three days they were turned on second growth clover and almost immediately they went up to 18 cans. We will take good care that the cows do not lose their supplementary feed for even three days this coming summer.

PROCRASTINATION

We have been preaching this doctrine of supplementing pastures at our farmers' club for the last couple of years, and many of our neighbors have said that they too were going to provide for supplementary feeding. The trouble was that they just thought about it too long, and when the time came they were as ill-prepared as ever. Now is the time to prepare for summer feeding. We ourselves have a silo full of corn to be fed out this season, but for the benefit of those who will have no ensilage for feed we will tell how we always soiled our cattle in previous years.

We have always planned to have a sufficient acreage of peas, oats and vetches mixed to feed the cattle up till second growth clover. Following the clover, we fed green corn. In estimating the acreage required we calculate that one acre of peas, oats and vetches will give as much feed as two and one-half acres of pasture. For 15 cows (our average herd) we sow seven or eight acres of green feed. The first seeding of one and one-half acres is made first thing in the spring, the second, two or three weeks later, and at similar intervals until we have a sufficient acreage planted. We never feed in the pasture. Stable feeding is the only manner in which each cow will get what she needs and deserves.

We follow a four-year rotation and seed the green feed along with the grain. We always seed down with clover and get a better catch with the green feed than from the grain. If there are any sections of the field that are polluted with noxious weeds, we plan to have the latest seeding of green feed on that. We are then able to summer fallow up to the middle or last of July and thus do away with many of the weeds.

Our Special Articles

The seventeenth of the series of special articles that have been appearing in Farm and Dairy during the past few months will be published in next week's issue. It will deal with the influences that promote the formation of combines and mergers.

Prevention and Treatment of Milk Fever

R. S. Stevenson, Wentworth Co., Ont.

A great many theories have been advanced as to the cause and nature of milk fever, but nothing positive is known. It is peculiar to cows and attacks only mature animals. It comes on from six hours to a week after calving, and is sometimes very sudden in its attack. An animal may appear to be in excellent health, and in an hour or two be down with the disease.

The usual symptoms are: The cow becomes uneasy, and continually shifts her weight from one hind leg to the other, refuses food, lies down, rises again, and then falls again, sometimes tosses her head violently, sometimes lies down quietly with the head back against the shoulder, and appears to be paralysed.

Another Breed that is Becoming Exceedingly Popular

Buff Orpingtons are classed as general purpose fowl and are rapidly gaining in popularity. They are blocky, meaty birds, good layers, good mothers and have many points in their favor.

MEDICINE INEFFICIENT

It is not advisable to attempt to give any medicine by the mouth, as the animal's throat is paralysed, and she cannot swallow. There is also danger of the medicine getting into the windpipe. Fortunately for us dairymen, a new and infallible remedy was discovered some years ago, and there is now no reason why a cow should die of milk fever.

This treatment, known as the oxygen or air treatment, consists of pumping the udder full of air. Outfits for the purpose can be procured from any house dealing in veterinary supplies, and every dairyman should have one of these inflaters.

ACT QUICKLY

In case of an attack of milk fever, send for a veterinary surgeon, if possible, as he will have the proper appliances, but if it is impossible to get a veterinary, procure a common bicycle pump and a milking tube, and pump the udder full of air by that means. We must be sure that the milking tube is perfectly clean. It should be scalded and then dipped before using on each teat in a weak solution of carbolic acid. Also wash the teats before entering the milking tube. When the quarter is pumped full of air it is advisable to tie the teats with some strips of soft cotton to retain the air. This is all that is usually required to effect a cure.

One of my neighbors had a case of milk fever recently. He came for me to tell him what was the matter with his cow. She had been down for some time, and he said she was surely dying. As soon as I saw the cow, I immediately telephoned for a veterinary surgeon, and in two hours after he had treated her the cow got up and began feeding.

PREVENTION

As only the best cows ever get milk fever it will pay us to give them some attention before calving. It is good practice to give from a pound to a pound and a half of epsom salts 24 hours before we expect the calf. We take away all heavy grain that we may be feeding, and feed nothing but a little bran. We never milk the cow out clean for two or three days, but leave her udder from one-third to a half full. If these directions are followed one will rarely have a case of milk fever. If, however, a cow shows the symptoms mentioned above, lose no time in attending to her, and remember it is not too late as long as she has any life left in her.

Preparing for the Corn Crop

Jno. Fixter, with Commission of Conservation, Ottawa

Corn does best when sown on an overturned clover sod. If possible, I would select a field that has had but one season's hay crop taken off it. The corn will then have the benefit of the fertilizing elements of the clover roots, which in the average clover sod should be equal to the Nitrogen, Phosphoric acid and Potash contained in 12 to 15 tons of barnyard manure.

Corn is especially adapted to warm deep loam soils rich in humus. It may be grown with more or less success on almost any kind of soil not too low in available plant food, and where the water line does not come too close to the surface.

If the land is clean I allow the clover roots to grow as long as possible in the spring. The extra growth in spring, when turned under, appears to heat and act as a hotbed to the growing corn.

MANURING

For corn land green or fresh manure is advisable. If possible, draw direct from the stable to the field as fast as it is made; do not allow the manure to heat or get mouldy. Should there be no snow or little snow, spread direct from the wagon. The manure spreader is preferable as it will do the work much evener than can be done by hand. Should the snow be deep put the manure in small piles about eight yards apart and spread as soon as the snow is gone in the spring. The manure should be plowed under very shallow just before the planting season.

As the corn plant is rather tender it is not wise to sow too early. There are seasons that are warm and dry, and if the corn were sown early it would give good results, but the safer plan for the majority of seasons is to hold back the planting until about the last week in May, and if the soil is then not warm and dry sow the first week in June.

The profitable beef animal of the future must have size, large heart girth and middle, giving him constitution and capacity. He must also be low set, straight in his lines, heavy in the quarters, wide in the back and loin and evenly a good covering of natural flesh over these parts. The head must be short and wide between the eyes, the neck short and shoulders smooth on the sides and wide on top. Width on the top of the shoulders goes with good fleshing properties throughout. The hide should be soft and pliable. These are all utility points. We must ever keep the block type in mind because the block is the ultimate end of all beef cattle.—Prof. W. J. Kennedy.

We farmers seem to be altogether too anxious to increase the size of our bank accounts. If we keep our eyes open we will find plenty of opportunity for profitable investment on our own farms.—L. K. Shaw, Welland Co., Ont.