

The Feeders' Corner

The Feeders' Corner is for the use of our subscribers. Any interested are invited to ask questions, or send items of interest. All questions will receive prompt attention.

Economical Feeding of Steers

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When steers are fed loose, instead of being tied, the attention necessary is less by anywhere from 20 to 50 per cent.; and the quantity and quality of the manure likely to be produced under the different conditions is very much in favor of the steers fed loose. Feeding loose, eight to ten in a box, with from 50 to 60 square feet of space per steer, is the best method.

Six months is a common feeding period, though four months, provid-

mers. Gluten meal, cotton seed meal and oil cake meal are the supplemental feeds most likely to give good results, and might constitute, early in the feeding period, say 10 or 15 per cent. of the meal ration, and later on, from 30 to above 50 per cent. for the last few weeks. Whether to feed the grain whole or crushed is not open to question, since every experienced points to the advisability of having the grain ground, even though the grinding cost considerable. Much unground grain goes through whole, and even where grain is poorly ground considerable loss is incurred.

The number of times to feed is to a certain extent a matter of convenience, also to some extent a matter of habit to the steers but, generally speaking, twice a day is often enough and the meal had usually better be fed mixed with roughage.

A morning feed for a 1,200 pound steer might consist of 20 lbs. of a mixture two parts corn ensilage and



A Much Appreciated Repast

ed conditions are right, is likely to be more profitable; but length of time must largely be controlled by condition of steers in coming in, quantity and character of feed available, and market demands in the spring. The thin steer getting lots of roughage gives good returns and fair profit when fed for six or eight months; whereas to get the best returns from well fleshed steers, a shorter feeding period of say from three to four months, where the ration included less roughage and considerably more feed of high feeding value, would be the right thing.

SUCCESSFUL FEED CHEAPENS PRODUCTION
The method of feeding will depend upon the feeds available. Experience indicates the great importance of a fairly plentiful supply of succulent feed, if the best gains at the least cost and with the least danger of cattle going off feed or suffering in health are desired. Such feed usually cheapens the product and certainly improves the quality. The question of the meal ration to feed will depend upon the length of time the feeding period is to cover. Generally speaking, start with a light ration and gradually work to a heavy, but for short feed steers it is usually necessary to start with a fair quantity of meal and rapidly raise to heavy feeding.

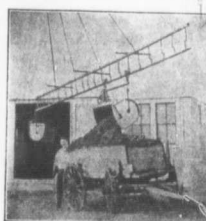
Another consideration is the character of meal to feed. Home grown feeds are usually thought to be cheapest, but very often a ration compounded from home grown feeds is not as suitable for beef production as would be a ration including along with the home grown grains a certain proportion of meals richer in fat and protein than are oats, corn and barley, the common feeds of Ontario far-

mer part roots, two or three pounds of chopped straw; mix with it two pounds of meal mixture and about three pounds of hay. The chopped straw, roots, ensilage, and meal should be mixed and fed together after the other forage is consumed. This repeated at night will make up the ration for the day and is about what long feed steers should be getting in January.

The breed to feed is hard to settle; but one of our best breeds (Shorthorn, Angus, Hereford, or Galloway) is likely to give good results. The Hereford, in my experience, does better on pasture than the others, but not quite so well in a box or stall.

Stable management has much to do with success or failure in feeding operations. A sufficient and constant supply of water, readily accessible, fairly frequent cleaning or brushing, clipping to prevent caking with manure on hips and flanks, an abundance of good bedding, and a liberal supply of light from decently cleaned windows, good fresh air controlled by some system of ventilation, and kindly treatment will all work together to ensure good gains at a moderate cost and practically compel profits, provided always the market remains normal.

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