

FEEDERS CORNER

Conducted by E. S. Archibald.

Feeding Cottonseed Meal

I N an article in Farm and Dairy of Aug. 2nd, I note that cottonseed meal is the most concentrated feed on the market, supplying digestible protein at the cheapest rate per pound of any meal. We have never had any cottonseed in this section, but I have heard that there is danger in making it the sole concentrate for cows. I have also been told that cows fed on cottonseed produce a hard, tallowy butter, and this would be an objection, too, where we all make dairy butter. What are the facts? How much cottonseed could I afford to mix with home-grown grains for grade Shorthorn cows that are good milkers?—A. W. Grey Co., Ont.

There is a danger of over-feeding in cottonseed meal, but it is perfectly safe if fed at the rate of two pounds daily, divided into two feeds, and when fed with other grain and with succulent roughages, such as silage and roots. With large, heavy producing cows, cottonseed meal may be safely fed to a limit of four pounds daily. It, however, must never constitute more than one-third of the total grain ration. There are no injurious effects to the butter from these cows if fed in the above proportions. However, if fed in larger quantities, cottonseed meal causes a butter of firmer body and even a gummy consistency with a high melting point, a flat and oily taste and better keeping quality, due to the firmness. However, these characteristics vary with the amount of oil contained in the cottonseed meal. Excessive feeding of cottonseed is unsafe, and at present prices unprofitable. This must, however, may be advantageously used in winter feeding as a cheap source of protein, and in summer feeding on the pasture, to partly counterbalance the excessive laxing

quality of grass and to induce a firmer butter. A good grain ration with home-grown grains depends on the character and quality of these grains. I would suggest a grain ration composed of ground oats four parts, ground barley four parts, ground peas one part and cottonseed meal two parts, or equal parts of ground oats, barley, wheat and cottonseed meal.—E. S. A.

Brewers' Grains or Oats

I HAVE read Mr. Archibald's article on feeding with interest. Dried brewers' grains stand high on the list. I find that I can purchase these grains at \$23.25 laid down here. Probably we will be able to sell our home-grown oats at 20 cents a bushel, or about \$31 a ton. I have read somewhere that oats are 10 per cent. more valuable than brewers' grains for dairy cows. Can I afford to sell oats and buy brewers' grains? Would they make a good mixture and in what proportions? Would a little cottonseed meal be needed to raise protein content?—B. L. Peel County, Ont.

From many feeding experiments the following deductions have been made. Dried distillers' grains of average quality are at least 10 per cent. better than the average dried brewers' grains for the production of milk. Dried distillers' grains have proven better than a mixture of equal parts of cottonseed and ground corn. Dried brewers' grains are slightly superior to wheat bran when mixed with other meals in a good milk cow ration.

Based on the digestible protein contained and the total digestible nutrients, dried distillers' grains at \$23.25 per ton is the cheapest feed on the market. Unless the cost of haulage and handling is too great, it would pay to sell some oats at \$21 per ton and in its place buy dried distillers' grains at the above figure. It would not, however, pay to sell oats and buy bran at present prices, namely, \$36 per ton, for good quality ground oats are worth about 10 per

cent. more for milk production than average wheat bran. Cottonseed meal is not absolutely necessary to raise the protein content of the ration, as the best grade quoted in Canada at present contains only 36 per cent. protein, which is little higher than the best grade of dried distillers' grains. A small amount of cottonseed might be advisable for the sake of variety. Based on the above valuation of oats, namely, \$21 per ton, two very good dairy cow rations are as follows: Ground oats, two parts; dried distillers' grains, two parts; cottonseed meal, one part; linseed meal, one part; (2) ground oats, four parts; dried distillers' grains, three parts, and cottonseed meal, one part.—E. S. A.

Fighting the Flies

EDITOR, Farm and Dairy.—This year we have been fighting flies a little more consistently than usual. We are certain that we can see results in the milk yield. Night and morning, ever since the first of the fly season, we have been spraying the cows with one of the commercial mixtures. Altogether we have used just two gallons of the spray at \$1 a gallon, on our eight cows. It has cost us about a half a cent a cow per day. Consider the returns from this investment.

Comfort in milking is the one that appeals most directly. A kicky, switchy, fly covered cow is always a difficult subject to handle. Our cows this summer have never kicked and never switched. There were no flies on them and they had nothing to kick and switch for. Milking is now a pleasant occupation and there is no strain on their temper. We are getting more milk. The cows spend their time in the pastures

eating and not in fighting flies. One of our neighbors down the concession pastures his cows on the road. The contrast between the neighbors cows outside the fence and our cow's inside the fence is always noticeable. Our cows are always feeding quietly, while his spend at least half of their time fighting flies. It stands to reason that our cows must milk better.

Applying the fly mixture with a hand sprayer, takes practically no time. Two minutes suffices to cover the whole bunch.—E. T. F. Halton Co., Ont.

The Self-Sustaining Farm.

THE dairy farm can be made self sustaining," says Mr. Henry Glendinning, Ontario Co., Ont. "The dairy farmer can grow everything he needs. Whether or not he does so, is altogether a question of profit and loss. For instance, we are not feeding any of our grain. The oats that might have been fed to the cattle have been sold at a big price for seed.

"Where there is lots of alfalfa hay the dairy farmer is in good shape for protein feeds. Since we started to grow alfalfa we have not fed much grain at any time, the most of it being fed to hogs. When we do buy grain we get it early. Last fall we bought our bran at \$25 a ton and shorts at \$30.

"When the cows are nearly dry they do not get any grain at all. Cows giving 20 to 30 lbs. of milk a day, Jersey, get two gallons of bran and two pounds of cottonseed meal. When giving 30 lbs. a day they don't get a great deal more. Of course they get all the alfalfa and corn silage they want.

"Our farm is self sustaining in the sense that we grow cash crops to pay for the concentrates we purchase."

SYDNEY BASIC SLAG

Pay Attention To This Warning

The General Freight Agent of the Canadian Government Railways, Moncton, N. B., writes under date 15th June, 1917, as follows:

"I wish to remind you that there are no very good prospects of any marked change in conditions next winter and spring. The same cause which prevented us from furnishing cars in sufficient quantities when required and giving the necessary guarantee of despatch, will doubtless be encountered again this coming winter, and the railways of this country will continue to be heavily taxed to handle men and supplies. It seems to me that in your own interests as well as that of agriculturists the situation should be faced and an effort made to get the bulk of your shipments off before the close of 1917. It is up to the farmers of the country to help out by taking delivery so far as possible of their fertilizers as these are obtainable and as cars are procurable, and not to expect the railways to drop everything else in an effort to get fertilizers carried at a season of the year when conditions of transportation are at their worst."

Ontario farmers will remember that we were unable to deliver Basic Slag last Spring for want of transportation and that all our orders had to be cancelled. We respectfully ask them, therefore, to help out by placing their orders for their Spring requirements with our agents right away and taking delivery as the goods arrive in November and December.

THE CROSS FERTILIZER CO., Ltd., Sydney, Nova Scotia

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