

March 23, 1911.

FARM AND DAIRY

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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.

A Ration for Milk Cows

What would constitute a balanced ration of the following: Flaxseed meal, barley meal, oats and bran? We have corn silage and clover hay to feed until the cows go on green about June 1st.

2. Would it be profitable to purchase cottonseed meal and mix with the above?

3. Are carrots good for cows.—J.E.J. Leeds Co., Ont.

A ration including the feeds mentioned and likely to give good results in the way of milk produced might be prepared and fed as follows: Corn silage, 100 lbs.; 15 lbs. oat chaff or better still, cut clover hay, mixed with the silage and the following mixture: flax seed meal, 50 lbs.; bran, 100 lbs.; barley meal, 100 lbs.; oats, ground, 100 lbs.

First thing in the morning feed what the cow will eat up clean of the ensilage, straw, or clover mixture, scattering thereon the meal it is desired to feed. When this part of the breakfast is consumed give from three to four lbs. long clover hay.

At noon feed to heavy milkers from two to three lbs. of meal and an equal weight of clover hay. If carrots are available this would be the time to feed them in addition to hay and meal. They might be fed as much as 20 lbs. a day of carrots. If such a quantity could be or were being fed the meal might be reduced by two or three pounds. At evening repeat the morning feeding in every respect.

A good dairy cow can make a profitable use of meal up to about one pound of such a mixture as described above for each three or three and a half lbs. of milk produced. This means that a cow giving 35 lbs. of milk a day should receive from nine to 10 lbs. of meal a day. The meal had better be fed in two nearly equal portions night and morning after allowing for the light feed at noon. Where feeding is done early in the evening, there is no advantage in feeding at noon.

2. Cottonseed meal of good quality is usually profitable. It should show about 41 per cent. protein and would then be worth about \$38 or \$39 a ton.

3. Carrots are a most excellent feed for dairy cows, as are most roots.—J.H.G.

Cotton Seed Meal at \$32

What do you think of cotton seed meal at \$32.00—J.K. Fontaine Co., Ont. Cottonseed meal at \$32.00 a ton is very cheap provided the quality is good. Cottonseed meal should show about 40 per cent. protein. If materially less than this in protein content the feed is adulterated and should not be fed without careful examination to see that adulterants are not of an injurious character.—J.H.G.

Rapid Decrease in Milk Flow

A fairly good cow freshens at the end of August. Her milk record was as follows: September, 1,207 lb.; October, 1,207 lbs.; November, 1,207 lbs.; December, 694 lbs. Her best she gave 6 lbs. per day and gradually she dropped down to 20 lbs. towards the end of December. Is this rate of decrease a fair average for a well-kept cow?—N.O.B., Lincoln Co., Ont.

This cow is falling off in milk production considerably more rapidly than usual in the case of good cows. I am not prepared to say, however, that the cow is not a good one since the rapid decrease in milk production might be due to poor feeding, uncomfortable quarters, untimely treatment, or a combination of any two or all three in a greater or less degree.

Cows vary so greatly in milk producing capacity that it would be quite impossible to give such a table or estimate as asked for. Generally speaking, however, cows should milk for from 10 to 11 months each year. The milk produced the first month is usually about the same in quantity as the milk produced the second month. After the second month the decrease is usually gradual and regular, that is, from 10 to 15 per cent. less each month than the next preceding month.—J.H.G.

Our Veterinary Adviser

EATING AFTERBIRTH.—Why do cows eat their afterbirth? Does it do any harm? How can it be prevented?—Subscriber, Northumberland Co., Ont.

We can give no reason for cows eating their afterbirth, except an abnormal appetite. In some cases it causes digestive troubles, and in rare cases death. I do not think it affects the quality of the milk. There is no way of preventing it except by watching and removing the membranes when expelled or keeping the cow tied so that she cannot reach them.

FEED FOR COWS.—Is barley, four gallons a bag of oats, good food for cows? We have been feeding it along with good silage and clover hay and a few mangels. I do not like the looks of the cows. Would this feed be better than?—J.M., Peterboro Co., Ont.

The mixture should give good results, especially if chopped. If your cows are not looking well it is due to some other cause.

LEUCORRHOEA.—Cow passes a watery and glabrous substance two or three times daily.—K.M., Lanes Co., Ont.

This is called whites or Leucorrhoea. It is very hard to treat. Her womb should be flushed out daily with a warm two per cent. solution of creolin in water. An injection pump is necessary to introduce the liquid into the womb. She should be given about 40 drops carbolic acid in a pint of cold water as a drench or sprinkled in her food three times daily until the discharge ceases.

SWOLLEN LEG AND SHEATH.—Ever since last fall my horse has had a swollen leg and sheath. Exercise reduces the swelling, but it reappears when standing in the stable over night.—J.A.C., Grey Co., Ont.

Purge him with eight drams aloes and two drams ginger. Follow with one dram iodide of potassium twice daily for 10 days. Feed lightly and give regular exercise. Handrub and bandage the leg when in the stable. If his appetite begins to fail reduce the dose of iodide of potassium to forty grains.

TREATING MARE AT FOALING TIME.—How should I treat a mare at foaling time? Should the navel cord be tied and how?—J.H. Bruce Co., Ont.

Watch her closely, and if everything is all right you will not need to interfere. If complications, which you do not understand and cannot rectify, occur, send for your obstetric without delay. It requires a man with experience to handle difficult cases. Provide her with a clean, dry bedded, and clean box. When the navel cord becomes swollen at parturition you will want to tie it; but if it is still attached to the foal it should be kept about an inch from the abdomen with a strong string that has been soaked in one part carbolic acid to 20 parts water, and cut off about an inch below the ligature. It is also good practice to dress the navel cord with the carbolic lotion several times daily until the opening heals.

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