

The Live Stock from November to February

Seasonable Hints to Feeders by E. S. Archibald, Dominion Animal Husbandman

FEEDS.—Feed the live stock carefully; the spring pasture is a long way off. Plan to give the pasture a good chance next year by conserving a reserve of roughage for spring feeding.

Laxative feed and exercise are the secrets of successful feeding. Should ensilage or roots be short, molasses makes a very good supplement when fed at from two to four pounds per head per day.

Cut-feed means less waste and greater palatability. Cut straw mixed with the ensilage, or hay that would otherwise be wasted, cut and mixed with the ensilage and roots in a great saving to the feeder, yet a mixture which is very acceptable to the stock.

Good rations for any class of live stock must be well balanced as to variety and palatability, succulence and nutrition. No two animals respond the same to any one food-stuff; a study of the feeding of individuals is most essential and most remunerative.

Careful, cooperative buying of the necessary mill feeds is profitable, and will lead to healthy cooperation in all live stock operations in any neighborhood.

Make, and keep, at least this one New Year's resolution, namely, to make every pound of feed more profitable by better feeding methods.

Horses

The over-fed, idle horse is almost always subject to digestive troubles. Sudden changes in both feed and exercise—from the hard labor of the fall months to the idleness of winter—should be guarded against. In the autumn, let the horse down gradually by both in work and feed. To horses—very light work—a grain ration composed of 50 per cent oats and 50 per cent bran and fed at the rate of not more than one pound for every hundred pounds live weight is excellent. Bran is a good tonic and prevents many of the stomach and intestinal troubles.

It has been proved by many experiments that the idle work-horse in winter may maintain his weight, or even increase in weight, on a ration composed of one pound of hay, one pound of straw, and one pound of carrots or turnips per day per hundred pounds live weight.

It is wise to take special care with the stallion during winter months; a light grain ration and plenty of exercise prevents him from getting over-fat—a condition which usually results in diminished fertility the next breeding season.

In-fall mares, especially, should be exercised daily; over-fat, unexercised mares usually show 40 per cent pre-erect mortality and less ruggedness in their foals.

Keep the colts growing. An outside shed with a good run is the best place for the colts, except in very cold weather. Keep them growing with good grain, hay and roots; the size and quality of bone in the future horse may be largely determined by the way in which he is developed during the first winter.

Dairy Cattle

Do you keep dairy cows, or do they keep you? The "boarder" in the herd can only be determined by the use of the weigh scales and the Babcock butterfat test; don't discard the cow until you are sure that she has been given an opportunity, by good feeding, care and management, to become a profitable producer.

Milk and feed record-forms may be had free by applying to the Animal Husbandry Division.

The heavy winter milker is usually the best and most persistent cow; give her an opportunity to make greatest profits.

Prepare the cows and heifers for spring calving; a good rest of from one to two months and good feeding while dry insure greatest production and profits in the next lactation period. It is a well established fact that a long first-lactation period for heifers induces greatest persistency in milking, and that a thorough preparation for the first and succeeding lactation periods induces greater capacity for milk production by thorough udder distension.

Don't give up dairying on account of labor shortages; several makes of milking machines, if properly handled, may assist you to produce clean milk and with a minimum of hired help.

Dairying

Quality in dairy products is the secret of success of individuals or companies.

Give the creameries and cheese factories a chance to make greatest profits by producing best quality products. This means that the patrons must deliver only uniformly good quality milk and cream.

Dairymen should insist that all factories pay for milk on the Babcock butterfat test. The pooling system is antiquated, dishonest and unfair to many of your neighbors.

Cream grading should be prevalent amongst all factories; it induces more intelligent handling of dairy products on the farm and in the factory, and means more money to the farmer doing his work thoroughly.

Don't forget the ice supply for the coming summer. It is estimated that one and a half tons of ice per cow should be gathered for an average season.

Beef Cattle

Don't winter scrub cattle; finish them off now and lose as little money as possible.

Prices warrant raising all the good beef calves. Why lose money in rearing—three and four-year-old steers when baby beefs and well finished two-year-olds are commanding the top prices? Finish beef early and thoroughly.

Winter well the calves and yearlings. Don't lose gains from last summer's pasture, but keep the young stock growing and thrifty; succulent feed is essential for this purpose.

Good beef bulls are scarce; use and keep only the best.

Keep more sheep and fewer dogs. Separate the sheep from the mature sheep and keep them growing by feeding good hay, turnips, and a limited grain ration.

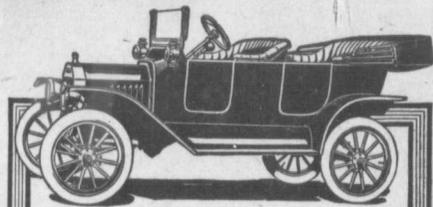
Good preparation of ewes for lambing is as essential as preparing a dairy cow for her lactation period. Don't get the ewes too fat.

The yearling ewe requires a warm pen, but the remainder of the flock is better in an open-front shed or shelter.

Winter Feeding of Pregnant Ewes

An excellent ration is composed of clover hay, two to three pounds, and roots, two to three pounds a day. This is sufficient except when ewes are thin, in which case a meal mixture also should be fed at the rate of about a half pound per day. A good meal mixture consists of oats, two parts; bran, one part and linseed oil cake or peas, one part. Ewes lambing in February, March or April

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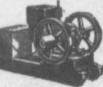
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