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Some advise feeding the birds a warm or soft mash in the morning. Mash has its good points, but it has been the experience of the writer that birds fed all they can eat in the morning will stand around half of the day without taking the necessary exercise. Since exercise is more important early in the morning for all kinds of animals, it is a much better practice to feed the grain ration in the litter early in the morning and make the birds work for two three hours. Feed the soft feeds late in the afternoon or in the evening before the birds go to roost.

One poultryman writes that two years ago he tried an experiment to satisfy himself as to the influence that exercise of the breeding stock has on the offspring. In one pen he fed the grain in the trough, giving the birds all they would eat, and allowing a little to remain by them at all times. The others, the same breed of birds, were fed the same ration in the litter. Other conditions were as nearly identical as they could be made. The result was that 91 per cent of the eggs from the working birds hatched as against 78 per cent from the other pen. Eighty per cent of the chicks hatched from the eggs laid by the working birds were found to be vigorous, as against 40 per cent of those hatched from the eggs laid by the birds in the other pen.

### When to Feed.

The custom of feeding cows just before or during milking time is a common one. Many farmers claim that the cows will stand more quietly and give their milk down better if they are eating while being milked.

The experience of many dairymen, as ascertained by the Storrs, Connecticut, experiment station, shows this to be a mistaken idea. The man who has once adopted the plan of milking before any feeding is done, seldom, if ever, cares to go back to the old method of having the cows eating while being milked.

The average cow seems to be unable to divide her attention satisfactorily between two operations, and the result is that either she pays more of her attention to eating or else she pays more attention to the man who is milking her and is, therefore, unable to eat quietly during the milking process, and probably will not see the milker when he approaches and the first intimation she has of his presence is when he speaks or touches her, and if she is a nervous cow she will probably either jump or kick and then continue to annoy him with her tail during the entire process of milking.

It the feeding is being done at the same time as the milking, the annoyance is even greater, since the cow is uneasy until she gets her feed and does not stand quietly or give down her milk freely.

Cows which have been accustomed to eating during the milking process may bother for a few days if the feeding is postponed until after the milking, but they become accustomed to the new order of things very quickly and after a few days will behave much more satisfactorily than they did when the two operations were done at the same time.

It is not only more pleasant to do milking before the feeding is done as a result of the better behavior of the cows, but the sanitary and keeping qualities of the milk are also better than when the feeding has been done before or during the milking period.

All of the dry feeds, such as the common grains, hays, etc., contain large quantities of dust which is thrown into the air by the handling. This dust is heavily charged with bacteria and the atmosphere of the stable becomes filled with these micro-organisms.

As this dust settles into the milk pail it carries down with it the adhering bacteria and the germ content of the milk is thereby increased.

At the same time the restlessness of the cow results in the dislodgement of a greater amount of dust and bacteria from the cow and the milker and these also fall into the milk.