

## 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.

### Rations for Feeding Steers

Will you kindly give me cost of feeding a 1,000 lbs. steer for six months (showing what it costs to per day, week and month) on following feed at following prices: Clover hay, \$9 a ton; cut straw, \$6 a ton; nutted oil cake, \$19.55 a ton; coarse ground corn, \$31 a ton; ground oats, \$18 a ton; bran, \$10 a ton?

I shall have some fodder corn and coarse hay, but not enough to feed six months. I have no ensilage nor roots, but may have some barley or buckwheat which I could mix with the ground oats. However, my query relates to above specified feeds and prices, and I should like to

know what quantities of each I should have to feed per day to obtain best results?

I have a man who understands feeding steers well, and I would not buy the steers at all unless they were good shorthorns. They would be turned up in stall during the whole time and not bedded and groomed.

My object is to get manure and I understand that the average return in manure of fattening well I might perhaps look for more than this. Would molasses and water sprinkled over cut straw be of any use? These tried molasses meal B. Doe.

Steers fed on such feeds as described are likely to produce rather high-priced beef, but should make fairly good gains. I would suggest as meal mixture to feed during at least five months of the six months' feeding period, 100 lbs. nutted oil cake, 100 lbs. well-ground corn, and 300 lbs. wheat bran. This mixture, at

prices quoted, would be worth \$1.25 a cwt. Later in the feeding period it might be found advisable to change the proportion to say 150 of each corn meal and nutted oil cake and 300 lbs. wheat bran.

The cutting of the straw and sprinkling of molasses and water on it would have a very good effect on its palatability, and hence upon its digestibility. Sprinkling the meal on the damp straw would be the best way to feed it. A part of the hay cut along with the straw and fed in the way described would prove satisfactory. About half the hay should be fed long.

The meal part of the ration, while remaining as already indicated, fairly uniform in mixture or composition, should begin with a small amount, say two lbs. a day, and gradually increase until as much as 10 lbs. a day is being fed.

As sample or model rations, I would offer the following as a steer weighing about 1,000 lbs. live weight at beginning of feeding period.

FIRST MONTH		
Molasses (diluted).....	½ lb.	\$1.00 cwt.
Cut straw.....	10 "	3.00 "
Cut hay.....	8 "	3.00 "
Long hay.....	8 "	3.60 "
Meal mixture.....	2 "	2.50 "
Total.....	28½ lb.	13.7 cwt.

THIRD MONTH		
Molasses (diluted).....	½ lb.	\$1.00 cwt.
Cut straw.....	8 "	2.40 "
Cut hay.....	8 "	3.60 "
Long hay.....	6 "	2.70 "
Meal.....	5 "	6.40 "
Total.....	27½ lbs.	16.1 cwt.

FIFTH MONTH		
Molasses (diluted).....	½ lb.	\$1.50 cwt.
Cut straw.....	6 "	1.80 "
Cut hay.....	8 "	3.60 "
Long hay.....	6 "	2.70 "
Meal.....	8 "	10.30 "
Total.....	28¾ lb.	19.90 cwt.

If corn fodder is available it might replace a part of each of the hay and the straw. It had better be cut and mixed as the mixture of cut straw and hay was fed.

As to manure returns I would say that you might expect quite as much as you mention or even more. If the production of good manure is a primary object in your feeding operations, I would suggest that you cut your straw for bedding. This will make a better grade of manure and of better quality, since the urine will be better absorbed and liberated more slowly and uniformly when applied to the land.—J. H. Grisdale, Agriculturist, C.E.F., Ottawa.

### Corn Silage with Prairie Hay

Do you think it would pay to grow corn and roots for milk? I have lots of good prairie hay that I can sell at \$3 a ton but I think more than I can get for it.

I believe it would pay to grow corn and roots to feed to milk cows even with hay as plentiful as you describe. The ad-

vantage lies in the succulency of these feeds, which quality induces the cattle to eat more freely and so produce milk more cheaply and more plentiful.—J. H. G.

### Are Oats Good for Silage?

Would oats, cut in the milk stage and put in the silo in sheaves and weighted down by putting some loose straw of them and some of the top of boards, keep that way or would they rot completely? Do you think it would make a good green feed, or would corn be better? Oats grow here and are much more easily handled than corn.—J. F. T. Keasbey, Minn.

Oats handled as you described, that is, cut green and weighted down, would be sure to prove satisfactory for silage production. A certain proportion of oats into silage and cut in the milk stage into the silo along with corn would likely prove satisfactory.—J. H. G.

### Which Breed for Milk?

Which breed of cattle would you advise a man to keep for milking purposes only, Holsteins or Ayrshires? I have a few Ayrshires and they milk very well. I am thinking of buying a few Holsteins this spring.—J. F. T. Macdonald Co., Minn.

Either breed should give satisfaction in Manitoba. The Holstein would probably produce a somewhat larger quantity of milk per head than the Ayrshires. The Ayrshire milk would likely be produced just about as cheaply per gallon. I would not advise you to mix the breeds. Keep on with Ayrshires, pure or graded, or else breed Holsteins, pure or graded.—J. H. G.

### Basement for a Silo

Do you think that a basement under a stable would answer for a silo? I have a basement under my stable and it is divided into three compartments, the walls are built of concrete, two feet thick, and I was thinking of using the centre for a silo. It is perfectly dry and can be made air tight. It is 10 feet wide, five feet high and 44 feet long. What kind of a floor is the best to put in, concrete or lumber?—"Subscriber."

Such a basement as you describe would be quite unsuitable for a silo. Silos must be at least 20 feet deep to be of much use and had better be 30 feet deep.—J. H. G.

### To Produce Pork on Limited Area

Do you think it would pay to rent a place of 10 acres, with good water, stable and barn, to start a churning and pig business? The rent would be about \$5 a month. What would be the requirements to start? I have been raising poultry for four years, but not very extensively. I think I can manage that part of the business all right, and as far as the pig part is concerned, it would be an outlay to start of course. I could start it. It is my idea to start with 10 or 15 pigs and 50 hens.—C.H.K., Stratford, Ont.

On a farm of the area mentioned, 10 acres, you would not be able to raise enough grain to feed very many pigs. If, however, you are ready to buy a considerable part of your grain feed you could, I think, produce a lot of pork very cheaply every year.

I would suggest that you use pure-breds of one of the bacon breeds, Yorkshire, Tamworth, Berkshire or Chester White. The Yorkshire would probably prove to be the most satisfactory. By using pure-breds you would be in a position to sell

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