

Experience in Wintering Idle Horses

Jas. Armstrong, Wellington Co., Ont.

"Rest and food are the great enemies of the horse," say the Arabs. And I would agree with them if we added to "rest and food" the words "in excess."

Most of our farmers will have little work for their horses to do during the coming winter months. Too many of us are in the habit of leaving our horses standing for days at a time in the stable on full rations. Such a practice we believe to be conducive to bad habits and disease. Last fall several horses in this neighborhood were lost through ascarina, which was caused simply by no work and high feeding.

We have found that when the horses have finished their fall work that the grain ration should be reduced fully one-half. The reduction in rations should be greater the first part of the winter than later on. Last winter when our horses were absolutely idle, we found that two feedings a day were quite sufficient to keep them in good shape.

As spring approaches the grain feed should be increased to put them in shape for the spring work.

HOW MUCH EXERCISE

Two or three years ago at the Winter Fair I heard two of our leading veterinarians discussing how long a horse should be allowed to stand in its stall. One of them, Dr. Standish, a well known horseman, claimed that not one day should pass without the horse having exercise equivalent to a three or four-mile walk. I would agree with Dr. Standish.

We do not always find the time to hitch our horses up and take them for exercise, but we can at least turn them out into the barnyard each day. They will get a lot of exercise running around for 15 minutes or half an hour.

One of our teams gets regular exercise hauling manure to the field each day. This is one of the best points we know of for the carrying of manure directly to the field.

About Feeding Cows in Winter

D. D. Grey, C.E.F., Ottawa

Clover hay alone or clover mixed with some of the grasses stands first in our list of fodders for winter feeding in suitability for milk production. This is especially true of the common red or alsike varieties.

Some of the smaller grains can be made to furnish excellent hay for fodder. Among these are peas and oats, and vetches and oats. When the legumes make up the larger part of such hay, it greatly improves this fodder for milk production. Fodder from corn can usually be furnished more cheaply than other fodder, and is an excellent milk producer when supplemented with suitable concentrates.

Then there is the straw from the grains, but with the exception of oat or pea straw, these straws have not much to commend them as feed for cows.

SUCCULENT FEED A NECESSITY

The need of feeding more or less succulent food in winter to cows in milk is recognized by every dairyman, who is out for the best results. There is a diversity of opinion as to the kind of succulence that will best meet the desired ends sought for, and the quantity to be fed. It is a known fact that the same quantity of nutrients, fed in the dry form, will not produce as much milk as if fed in a succulent form.

The different feeds that furnish succulence vary a great deal in suitability, and, of course, in value for feeding milk cows. A good succulent feed for milk cows should be helpful to digestion as well as being easily digested, and produce no unpleasant flavors in the milk. This argument, alone, however, is not enough as some of the succulent feeds will cost relatively more

than others, and for this reason are barred from being used as a basis for any ration. There are two succulent feeds that are used, chiefly in this country, namely, corn silage and roots.

Viewed from the standpoint of production and suitability, coupled with cost, corn ensilage is, I think, without a rival in providing winter succulence for cows. All kinds of field roots may be fed to milk cows, if fed in limited quantities, and just after milking, but the indiscriminate feeding of turnips will certainly result in producing unfavorable odors in the milk.

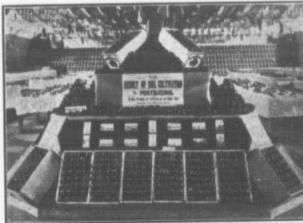
Roots cannot be produced as cheaply as corn ensilage, but they have a beneficial effect upon the digestion, and their milk-producing qualities are recognized everywhere. If it can be so arranged as to have both corn ensilage and roots, the combination is excellent.

Brood Sows in Winter—One Method

J. R., Oxford Co., Ont.

Did you ever see a first class sow worth about \$100 wading through a couple of feet of snow to get to something to eat? I have. And the first time I beheld the sight I thought it was a great mistake indeed.

As that particular sow, however, was owned by the Ontario Agricultural College, and its care was under the direction of Prof. Geo. E. Day,



New Brunswick Can Grow Good Apples

Until recently New Brunswick has not been regarded as a fruit producing province. They are now finding that their climate is excellently adapted to the production of high quality dessert apples. This illustration of an exhibit made by the New Brunswick Dept. of Agr. at the N. B. Horticultural Exhibition, will give an idea of the fruit possibilities of the province.

I decided that there must be something in it, and at the next session of the short course, I asked about it. I was informed that that was the way that the brood sows were given exercise in winter. I have since adopted the same plan myself with excellent success.

We now winter four or five brood sows in a small house eight by 16 feet. This house is draft-proof and well banked with horse manure. Over the entrance is a heavy burlap curtain which the hogs can push aside and come in or go out at will. They are kept supplied with plenty of straw and pass the winter very comfortably.

They are fed dry meal in shallow troughs at a distance of about 100 feet from their winter quarters. To get their feed they have to go out twice a day. Exercise, therefore, is forced upon them, and we are never troubled with hogs getting off their feet, which was a common ailment when the sows were wintered in the regular hog house.

The meal feed consists of crushed oats, a little corn, shorts and sometimes bran. Clover hay is kept in a rack at one side of their pen, and this we find an excellent regulator, and it saves the grain feed too.

The health of our breeding animals is our first consideration, and we believe that we have about solved the question with our new system of wintering the brood sows.

As farrowing time approaches the sows are, of course, removed to warmer quarters in the hog pen.

Why We are in Winter Dairying

D. Marshall, Chateaugay Co., Que.

We look dairying the year round, but practice it most extensively in winter. The price of milk and cream in the city is much larger in winter than in summer, and it is then that we plan to have milk for sale. At the factories there is often not much difference in winter and summer prices as the present year will show, and we would not attempt to produce winter milk for the factories.

We have been in the winter dairying business because we have had the help; also all the rough feed needed. We have a home market for all home grown grain, and buy only what we think it will not pay us to raise. When we cannot make wages directly or indirectly by adding value to the farm to recompense us in some way for our work we will think it is time to try something else.

DIVISION OF LABOR

In the division of labor in dairying the winter season has the advantage as the other work comes only secondary to dairying, and help is more plentiful. As so much of our work, however, in these short days is done, when artificial lights have to be resorted to, we still have a long enough day; especially as we ship milk and hay to meet trains at an early hour.

Having our own help, has been a big advantage to us. Help on farms is coming to be ruled by conditions in other trades—so much a day and as short a day as possible. Many a farmer has to give up dairying when dependent on hired help, as the milking must be done at the regular time if there is to be anything made at it. Anyone interested in dairying has to attend to it closely.

AN ADVANTAGE IN CALVES

I consider that better calves can be raised in the winter season than in summer. Fall calves are well able to look after themselves when grass comes. Those of us who send milk to the city need to know a good calf to begin with, as if fed on milk, a calf costs something.

Cows give more milk when they freshen in the fall. Nobody who has tried it doubts this. When in the stable a cow can be fed and watered regularly every day. She has no flies to trouble her, no hot sun to roast her, no cold rain to chill her, and as the stables are kept comfortable when the cows are milking, they have a better chance to do what is wanted of them. Many a cow after milking all winter surprises her owner at the flow she will give the following spring and summer.

NATURE'S SEASON OF REST

One great drawback is to get the cows to freshen at the proper time. The winter season is their natural time of rest. We sometimes forget the rule of nature and regard a cow as a machine. We put in a certain amount of feed and expect milk in return.

In winter dairying we get a much larger supply of valuable manure as the cows are so much better fed than in summer dairying. This manure adds to the value of the farm. The season here is so short, only about four months, in which a cow can profitably gather her feed, that she has to be fed any way, and the only way she will pay for her feed is by feeding her well. And we get a return for this feeding in the manure.

Anyone who goes in much for winter dairying we have noticed takes a much greater interest in his stock than before, as is shown by the better condition and care given them and their surroundings. A stranger at a glance knows without asking who of us are in the winter dairy business.

The successful farmer is the best citizen we can have.—E. C. Colback, Cumberland Co., N.S.

The Da

Prof. T. L.

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