

The DAIRY

MILK COW NEEDS PLENTY OF FEED

Grain feeding should always be in proportion to milk production. The cow in milk, if a Holstein, says C. H. Eckles, chief of the dairy division of the Minnesota College of Agriculture, should be given about one pound of grain to every four pounds of milk produced. A Guernsey or Jersey needs one pound of feed to three of milk. The dry cow in good condition needs little, if any, grain.

"The cow is a milk machine," says Doctor Eckles, "and feed is the raw material. Like any factory or machine, economical operation is possible only when plenty of raw material is available. Turning a dairy cow loose in a pasture does not insure that she will get sufficient feed to hold up in milk production as she should, especially from now until the time when regular housing and dry feed will be in order."

"Practically every real dairy farmer will have silage available. Don't wait too long before beginning to use it. Within ten days after silo filling is completed, the silage is ready to use and unless pastures are unusually good it is well to begin feeding it."

"The experienced man knows that it is easy to let cows drop down in milk from poor feed, but very hard to bring them back to the high level again later even if good feed is given. Good management means keeping the conditions and feed right all the time so there will be no drop in milk at any time from lack of feed. The cow that has what silage she will eat will be well cared for so far as roughage is concerned so long as the pasture furnishes fair grass. When the grass begins to fall, bring out the alfalfa and clover."

Increasing Demand for Higher Grade Products

The increasing demand for high-grade milk and dairy products makes it important that right methods of handling be observed. M. J. Prucha of the University of Illinois urges producers to keep the utensils, the barn, the cows and the milker clean. Don't depend on the strainer to remove the dirt, but keep dirt out of the milk in the first place. Feed wholesome feeds and don't expose milk to odors.

To improve the keeping quality of milk, keep down the number of bacteria. This is done first by keeping the cows clean. Then watch the pails and cans for they are the largest source of bacteria. Wash well and then steam or scald or sterilize with a chemical sterilizer.

Cool milk promptly at 60 degrees Fahrenheit. A-grade milk must be cooled to 50 degrees. Prucha finds that the man is the most important factor in the production of high-grade milk.

Dairy Calves Need Some Grain When Very Young

Calves under three months of age should not be made to depend on pasture grass, for roughage; feed some good alfalfa hay. As long as a reasonable amount of skim milk is fed, 12 to 15 pounds per head daily, on pasture the grain may consist of a combination of ground corn, oats, barley or kafir grains. There is no need for protein supplements from grain sources. The skim milk and grass supply plenty of good-quality protein and also mineral substance. A calf three months old getting skim milk and grass needs about 1 pound of grain to each 100 pounds live weight. Where skim milk is not available it is advisable to increase the protein content of the grain mixture by increasing the proportions of high protein concentrates. A good mixture may be made from 200 pounds each of ground oats and corn, 100 pounds bran, and 100 pounds of linseed oil meal.—Nebraska College of Agriculture.

Labor Involved at Silo-Filling Time Is Costly

One of the greatest objections which is raised against the silo is the labor involved at silo filling time. While it is definitely proved that this is labor well spent, yet some dairymen still continue to use it as an excuse. Two or three of the leading implement manufacturing concerns are now actively engaged in efforts to overcome this objection. One concern is developing a machine which will not only grind and chop all the feed desired, but which can also be transformed quickly into a silo filler which will do the job with the ordinary labor found on the farm. Another machine is cutting and chopping feed in the field, leaving it all ready to blow into the silo.

Silo Has Great Value for Corn

Poor Crop and Borer Point Way to Proper Storage of Feed.

This fall the silo provides the best way to cope with the European corn borer and to make the most of what may be saved from the corn crop, says the New York state college of agriculture at Cornell university.

Unless all signs fall this will be one of New York's poorest corn years, the college points out. Planting was late because of unfavorable weather; a shortage of good seed was responsible for many a poor stand; corn fields were disked and seeded to buckwheat. A late fall may help some but cannot compensate for the cool summer which has reduced yields in every corn field.

Put Soft Corn in Silo.

Much corn grown for grain will have to be put in the silo if it is to be saved. Soft corn which will not keep in a crib is safe in a silo; and corn stalks, cut up fine and put through the fermentation of silage cannot harbor live corn borers.

Corn properly stored in the silo retains more of its feeding value than by any other method. The college suggests that the farmer allow his corn to stand as long as possible, remembering that each day's growth means hundreds of pounds of feed; allow the ears to reach the glazed stage, if possible; if he must cut corn that is very immature, the bundles should lie on the ground a couple of days to evaporate some of the excess moisture. Extremely green silage is watery and poor in quality.

Reduce Spoilage in Silo.

Reduce the spoilage in the silo by having the walls air-tight; by cutting the pieces small; and by packing firmly to exclude even small air pockets where mold may start. In a year like this a good part of the feeding value is in the leaves of the corn plant, so none of the leaves should be lost.

Native Vegetables Are Most Valuable Plants

In the American vegetable garden eight principal food products had their origin in the Indian crops existing here before the advent of the white man. These include beans, corn, peppers, pumpkins, squash, tomato, potato and sweet potato. Vegetables of Old World origin are far more numerous. The United States Department of Agriculture lists 24 of importance, cucumbers, eggplant, muskmelon, watermelon, okra, asparagus, beets, brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, kale and collard, kohlrabi, leek, lettuce, onion, parsley, parsnips, peas, radish, salsify, spinach and turnip. But the value of the crop of the eight native vegetables is considered greater than the 24 of foreign origin. Since the discovery of America the white man has not "tamed" an native plants which the Indians had not already brought from warmer parts of America, but notable improvements have been made in the quality and yield of most of these vegetables.

Profitable Practice of Hogging Down Corn Crop

The practice of hogging down corn has been growing very rapidly in the corn belt states in recent years. It is a good practice because it saves labor and increases the rapidity of hog gains, provided the corn is properly supplemented. A few farmers still make the mistake of turning their spring pigs into corn without supplying a supplementary high protein and the proper amount of mineral matter. But the great majority of farmers who follow the practice of hogging down a portion of their corn are placing self-feeders containing a commercial high protein feed and a mineral mixture in the field to allow the pigs to balance their own ration. It is in this way that the most economical as well as the most rapid gains are obtained.

Agricultural Items

Sweet clover hay, properly cured, is practically equal to alfalfa.

Farmers seldom have trouble getting good prices for high-grade produce.

After haying and harvest is a good time to get at that concrete dairy-stable floor.

Millet hay should not be fed to horses for any length of time lest it injure their kidneys.

IF A FARM STOCK

FEED WORK HORSE BALANCED RATION

The horse is no different from other animals in that the ration should be reasonably balanced in regard to protein, carbohydrates, fats, oils and fiber. It should be remembered that a horse on heavy work requires twice as much protein as the same horse when on light work. The more severe the labor of the horse, the larger must be the supply of nutrients. The stomach of a horse has a capacity of 19 quarts while the stomach of a cow may hold 267 quarts, so it is evident that a horse at hard work cannot well derive most of its nourishment from roughage. Since the ration must not have an undue amount of roughage, this necessitates a large proportion of concentrates high in energy content. When horses are severely worked, the roughage ration is cut down and the concentrates increased.

The standard ration of concentrates for the American horse consists of two-thirds oats and one-third ear corn by weight. Every Saturday night, wheat bran is substituted for the oats. The horse is allowed about two ounces of salt a day but this is never mixed with the feed.

Timothy hay is the standard roughage for the horse throughout the United States. The freedom from dust of good timothy hay commends it as a horse feed and it is an excellent roughage for animals whose sustenance comes mostly from concentrates. A reasonable allowance of timothy hay is one pound daily for 100 pounds of animal.

Properly cured legume hay is usually more palatable than other roughages, so if horses are given an excess amount of legume hay, there is some danger that they may consume too much. Legume hays are suitable to balance corn or other concentrates low in protein. Legume hays, if they are properly put up so that they are not dusty, may be fed advantageously.

Need of Proper Amount of Protein Supplements

No matter what changes we may make in the grain rations to fit the feeds available and to produce the cheapest gains on legs, we should not lose sight of the need of the proper amount of protein supplements and minerals. Many in planning their feeding assume that small grains will greatly reduce the shortage of minerals and protein found in the ration based on corn. In fact, many assume that a little oats or barley will make unnecessary the use of tankage, or a home or factory mixed protein supplement. They don't. Both barley and oats contain a little more protein than corn but still lack much of providing a balanced ration. The same is true of minerals. With gains costing more due to higher-priced grains we can't afford to pass by protein supplements and mineral mixtures.

To Prevent Vermin on Sheep During Winter

To prevent lice from infesting sheep in winter it is advisable to dip the animals in autumn. A solution of any standard coal-tar dip will suffice for the purpose, if used strictly according to the instructions given by the manufacturer. Then the dipped sheep should be kept out of houses and pens that have not been scrupulously cleaned, disinfected and whitewashed for their reception.

Afterward be careful not to introduce new sheep that have not been treated for destruction of lice. Ticks are even more annoying and the same treatment gets rid of them. The dipping, however, should be done shortly after shearing, including the lambs, when the ticks from the adult sheep have migrated to them, and should be repeated in autumn, before the weather becomes too cold.

Young Cattle Gain on Silage, Hay and Meal

Young cattle which are being carried along rather slowly on silage and straw, together, perhaps, with a little hay and oil meal, will ordinarily make a hundred pounds of gain for one ton of silage, 100 pounds of oil meal, 100 pounds of hay, and a little straw. In other words, it would seem that when the rate of gain is between one and a half to two pounds per head daily, the feed cost of a hundred pounds of gain would be somewhere around \$9 or \$10. When the gains are from two to two and a half pounds per head daily and the steers are being fed heavily on corn, it would seem that the feed cost of a hundred pounds of gain would be somewhere around \$13 or \$14.

JOHN'S STINGY WIFE

(© by D. J. Walsh.)

SARAH POND was not a miser. She did not love money for its own sake. Far from it. But a pinched childhood and a half-starved girlhood had made her clutch eagerly each coin she hardly earned. If one understood it was pitiful; but if not, it was only sordid.

And there were many who did not understand.

When she had married John Pond and left her old home for a distant state she left, too, all those old friends who had watched her make her way from farm kitchen to well-paid office work. John knew her only as the valued secretary of the lawyer who had successfully taken care of a little inheritance for him. What John liked about Sarah was the economy of her dress—no loose ends, no flapping sleeves. All trim and neat. Just the wife for him, he was sure. His growing lumber business in the Northwest had taken too much of his time to allow of woman interests. But now he could settle down—have a home. Sarah was the one to make that home—trim as one of his own pine boards.

So he had asked her about it. And as she really thought she loved him, though she had seen him but a half-dozen times, she said yes, she would do her best to make him happy.

That was all on either side. John thought it was quite enough, since he knew nothing of the amenities of courtship from any source. John was a business man. A good chooser of a bargain, he would say, looking at his wife-to-be.

He was right. Sarah did not waste even sentiment. They were married and for three years lived happily enough, except that John could not get his wife to spend enough money. To be sure he went ahead and spent it himself on a handsome new house, with the furnishings ordered direct from the factory. He had some favors coming to him from the factory people, and Sarah did not object very much to the cost, since he assured her that a great reduction had been made—especially to him.

Then, as John had more leisure, and was not as often away on those long woods trips to his timber tracts, trouble began to creep around the Pond home and snarl at the door. John awoke to the fact that his wife was stingy.

He was sure of it one day when they had paid a call on a sick friend—a man who had done more than any other to help John in his first hard days. It was spring and John had insisted on taking half a dozen pots of plants for the garden of the ailing man. Sarah finally agreed, but as they were leaving the invalid, she said:

"I'll send over for the empty pots in the morning. You won't need them after the plants are set out."

John felt his face burning. He longed to hide—to crawl away out of sight of the gently smiling friend who eyed Sarah so amusedly. That lady was wholly unconscious of having said anything wrong. Pots were pots and had cost money once—even if a small sum.

When they reached home, however, John told her what he thought of her speech—and of several "close" ways she had.

"It isn't as if we needed the pennies you save, Sarah. We don't. And besides—there is a coinage so much more precious than gold. Don't you know that?"

No, Sarah did not. How could she—starving up as she had? And somehow, she had never observed the ways of the world and its ethics in later and easier days. Perhaps her eyes were hidden.

At any rate, she resented her husband's reproach, and a quarrel was finally begun.

"If you can't appreciate my care for your money—we'd better go separate ways—" she stormed.

"I've never had any thought but for your interest—I've gone without almost everything for myself—you've spent so much on the house—you're always spending so much. It's criminal the way you waste money, John Pond. You can just go to the poor-house—for all of me."

Sarah's voice broke in a sob and she ran from the room. John was astounded. He had not known she could cry. As for not having things for herself—how should he know? He had no knowledge of women or their wants. He was miserable. Perhaps he was a little reckless with money, but spending always in a large way had come to be a habit in these plentiful years. He would think it over and he hunted for a cigar. Then decided he would smoke a pipe—it would be cheaper.

Smoking and thinking and jotting down certain items on a memorandum leaf occupied the rest of the evening for John Pond.

At breakfast Sarah was inclined to be quiet, but John determinedly ignored her attitude. He'd show her that he could come more than half way—and make amends, too, by George! She'd see!

He left for his office without the usual goodly kiss, and presently Sarah heard him driving noisily down the street. He believed in getting all the racket he could out of a motor-car, perhaps regarding it in the light of an advertisement.

Late in the afternoon he returned, more jovial than Sarah remembered him.

She could scarcely see his smile, though, for the stack of boxes in his arms.

"Here—Sarah! Now! You can't say you haven't anything. Went to the best shops in town—got the sales-girls to help me. But I am some buyer myself!"

"Now, this is the way to dress my wife—look—the banker's wife's got no better."

"And to think you've been going without all those pretties when they belong to you—do look at them, Sarah!"

Sarah looked. She did not faint, have hysterics, nor yet cry. Training is something.

Rapidly she opened box after box, laying out filmy bits of silk and crepe, airy creations of lace, hand-some frocks whose every rustle whispered money.

"John Pond, what did all this cost? Tell the truth, now!"

John mopped his brow. He had never considered a life necessary. Not yet, and it was now too late to begin.

"Why—er—er—Sarah—you know—it's this way. I'd never have dreamed of spending so much, only, you know, I could tell after yesterday—that you thought I hadn't the money for you to get things. Things you ought to have. Everybody has a standard, you see. And somehow you've not grasped the weight of ours."

"Those flower-pots—yesterday, Sarah—showed that there had to be a change—or somebody would get terribly cheated—you, Sarah. And, yes—I would, too. For that hurt, you know—asking for those pots back."

"Sarah was no fool. She was a good deal of a thoroughbred, too. She didn't shy when she saw what the thing in the road was!"

"You mean, John, that when I was so nasty stingy about those 10-cent flower-pots it showed me up a lacking in—balance? That one should—that I should spend and use money according to our station? Is that it?"

John hummed a bit. He was afraid he had gone too far.

Still, Sarah was the most sensible woman—in some ways—that ever was—

She proved his assertion true by smiling over her finery with a delight that was not assumed, and when she gave him ten wifely kisses for the lovely things, all she said about money was:

"Ten cents or one dime—a bargain sale was what you attended, John, dear!"

Farm Good Training Ground

Are not most of us who have young boys nowadays tempted to make life too easy for them? A soft boyhood often makes the going hard later on. Nearly all men at the top today are those who had to start at the bottom and do all their own climbing, create all their own influence and make all their own money. An analysis of the careers of a thousand of America's most notable men of affairs would reveal that a large percentage of them started either as farm boys who were put to work at an extremely early age or grocery boys. Office boys would rank next. There seems to have been something about boyhood life on our farms which developed sturdiness, self-reliance, energy and ambition. Farm boys were taught that life means work, that struggle and strenuousness are man's lot.—Editorial in Forbes Magazine.

"Golden" Weddings

In days gone by, when people depended more on themselves for entertainment than we do, every opportunity was seized for making the most of family gatherings. The anniversary of a wedding day was an obvious opportunity of the sort and would generally be commemorated by a family reunion, while the fiftieth anniversary of a couple's marriage was sufficiently rare to deserve of extra celebration. So it became called a "golden" wedding simply as meaning a superlative occasion of the type, gold being a common symbolism, of course, for the best.

It was not till we came to want a word for the celebration of a still longer married life that we hit upon the phrase of "diamond wedding," just as an exaggeration of the much older "golden wedding."