

The DAIRY

CUT DOWN DAIRY CHORES BY SILO

Labor Saving Plan of Moving Feed Is Big Help.

Farmers travel farther in feeding than in any other operation connected with dairy production. Any practical method of reducing travel should be beneficial. Convenient silos and feed bins, with a labor saving plan of moving feed to the cows or live stock, are a big help. In the dairy, carrier trucks which will hold enough ensilage or meal for several cows will cut the work in two, as compared with carrying feed in baskets. Arrangement of the barn, smooth floors, accessible mangers that are easily cleaned, are all factors in making feeding a shorter task.

Live stock men know that silo location affects time required to feed. Silage should not have to be hauled to distant feed bunks. A valuable silage cart is described in Circular No. 75, prepared at Iowa State college. The feed bunks are built in a long row out from the silo, and the cart runs on a track supported by posts over the bunk.

Conveniently located milk houses save time for dairy operators. Construction is also important. Smooth floors and walls which can be easily cleaned will prove a good investment. Handy arrangement of equipment, such as wash troughs, drying racks and sterilizers for the milk, often bring thanks from hurried workers. Running water and some means of heating it should be considered essential.

It is hard to conceive of a well managed barn today that does not have a convenient means of removing litter. Carriers are indispensable in transporting manure to a storage pit, but some barns are now constructed so that the spreader can be driven between rows of stalls. This saves time when weather conditions are not fit for hauling manure to the field immediately.

Steel stanchions and stalls have proved themselves more economical than those of wooden construction. They are easier to keep sanitary and are far more durable. Single stalls protect the cows and help make them comfortable. Drinking cups are nearly as essential from a financial standpoint as are mangers or any other standard dairy fixtures.

Mixture for Cows

A grain mixture for cows can be compounded from three or four feeds, but a variety of five to seven grains is advisable. Such a mixture will usually be more palatable and carry plenty of bulk, both features necessary to get the best results. A mixture that is palatable will stimulate the flow of digestive juices which in turn will mix best with the ration when it is bulky. In this way the grain mixture is more thoroughly digested and the best results are obtained.

Cows need vacations the same as human beings. A rest period of six to eight weeks before freshening, with plenty of good feed, will put the dairy cow in form for her work.

Many cows must get their water a long way from the barn on cold winter days and often the ice must be removed before they can drink. Under these conditions cows cannot fill up on water as they should, with a resultant decrease in milk.

A cow is so constituted as to handle large amounts of roughage, but even so, a cow's capacity is limited. If she is fed a poor grade of roughage her energy is expended in consuming a class of feeds from which she cannot get sufficient nutritive returns.

The owner of a low producing dairy herd has no choice—he must send the poorest cows to the butcher, or else he will find himself working for nothing, or less than nothing.

If water is handy cows drink in proportion to the way they milk. If not, then cows milk in proportion to the way they drink.

If cows cannot have water at will or cannot fill up on it two or three times per day they must come down in milk production.

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