

REMOVE THE HORNS OF DAIRY CATTLE

Owners of farm cattle have a mistaken idea of beauty when they think a cow or a bull is more attractive with the horns on, says Kimball's Dairy Farmer. For safety's sake, if for no other reason, the cattle should be dehorned, both to keep them from injuring each other and from doing bodily harm to persons on the farm. Horns have no possible use to any domestic animal and should be removed at an early age.

The writer knows of at least one instance where horns nearly cost a child's life. The cow was a family pet and generally as tame as a kitten. She had very pretty and symmetrical horns, and her owner would not think of having them removed. One day the fam-



Sallie, the grade Holstein cow here pictured, is owned by G. F. Baer, president of the Reading railroad. On his River View farm, opposite Reading, Mr. Baer has a herd of eighteen Holstein cows, some of them pure bred, the others grade. Several of them produce sixty pounds or more of milk a day. Sallie, the queen of the herd, has a record of yielding more than eighty pounds of butter in a month. Her record for the month ending May 9 showed a production of 220 pounds of milk, of more than 100 quarts. Sallie's maximum production for one day was eighty-six pounds four ounces, which means forty quarts of milk daily.

ily, including the three-year-old son, was in the yard admiring the cow's calf, a few days' old. Seeing the boy near the calf, the cow made a dive for him and hooked him under the chin, the horn piercing the flesh. The cow started to run and carried the boy on the end of her horn several yards until she stumbled. The boy nearly died, although given the best of medical attention. The horns of the cow were removed a few hours afterward, as well as the horns on the rest of the cows on that farm. This only illustrates one way in which harm can result from letting horns grow.

The bull especially should be dehorned, even if the cows are not. When the horns are left the animals always are more quarrelsome and ugly. It is not safe and does not pay to take the chance. Rather than kill the bull's horns with caustic when he is a calf it is preferable to let them develop for about a year, then cut them off. This will have a tendency to take the conceit out of him, and as he has learned to depend more or less upon his horns before they are removed he will not be apt to get ugly. When the horns are killed during the first few days the bull never knows what they are and is apt to learn to use his head as a substitute for pretty good advantage in bunting. With heifer calves it is a desirable way to burn the horns with caustic, but it must be done most carefully and extreme care taken in handling it not to get any of it on one's hands.

Cattle may be dehorned any time during the year, but preferably not during the hottest months and in the midst of flytime. It is not a painful operation to the cow and can in no way be considered a cruelty. It is more of a cruelty to leave the horns on that to cut them off because of the injury she is apt to do to other stock. A good sharp hand saw answers the purpose very well. The animal should be fastened securely so that she cannot flounder around. The operator then clasps the horn with one hand and manipulates the saw rapidly with the other. Care should be taken not to get too close to the head and also not to leave on too much of the horn. After the horn is off it is well to apply some good disinfectant.

Hauling Hogs in Hot Weather.

Since there are many hogs lost every summer while being hauled to market one should make arrangements for such hauling in advance, says M. Cordeell in Farm and Fireside. Not only the hot weather, but the jolting about of the animals in the wagon, causes them to worry and overheat themselves.

Booster springs on the wagon in which hogs are marketed will greatly diminish the danger from jolting. Next the floor of the wagon box should be covered with leaves or litter of some kind and thoroughly dampened with cool water before starting on the trip to market. If all but the lower box of the wagon can be constructed of slats, similar to a fence of boards, a free circulation of air is established, which is of great assistance in keeping the hogs cool.

After these precautions have been taken make sure that you do not crowd the wagon and smother some of the fatter animals. Then cut some green brush with heavy foliage and form a canopy over the load of hogs to protect them from the broiling sun. Hang a bucket on the wagon and stop occasionally on the road to market, splashing some water over the animals and on the litter. Where the hogs are pretty hot, however, it is well to be careful in applying the water.

VETERINARY NOTES.

All sick animals should be immediately removed from contact with healthy ones, at least until the nature of the disease is known. They should be fed and watered from separate vessels.

The outside wall of a horse's hoof should never be touched with a rasp or file, as the covering (periole) provided by nature is removed.

Overfeeding and irregular feeding are the causes of more sickness among horses than any other known thing.

A mixture of equal parts of tincture of iodine, turpentine and sulphuric ether, applied once daily for several days, will stop the growth of new spints.

The horse should be shod at least once every forty days, whether the shoes are worn or not, as the hoofs overgrow the shoes, this being the cause of inflammation of the feet and coronas.

PRODUCTION OF BEEF.

Essentials in Feed and Care That Make Cattle Raising Profitable.

Other things being equal, the man who makes the biggest success of the beef business is the man who has the best bull, says Rex Beresford in Orange Judd Farmer. Only calves of the low set, blocky, early maturing type make first class baby beef. Such calves come, save in rare instances, only from pure bred beef sires.

Good feeding is another essential. Calves must be made fat at the beginning and kept fat to the end. They do better if they get some grain, even when sucking their dams. This is easily accomplished by having "creeps" in the pasture or by keeping the calves in a separate pasture, letting them suck only twice a day and feeding some grain while by themselves. The creep method takes less labor and is almost as efficient.

The one biggest help toward cheaper beef production in the corn belt is the silo. Silage is as essential in beef production or in steer feeding as it is in the dairy business. By means of corn silage the cost of keeping a beef cow a year can be lowered at least one-third. The cost of making gains on fattening cattle can be lowered almost as much. The man who tries to produce beef without the aid of the silo is handicapped. Silage reduces the high cost of living for the cow.

No beef cattle farm can afford to be without one or the other of either clover or alfalfa, or both, where they can be raised. They not only keep up crop yields when used in rotation, but they furnish the cheapest source of protein to balance silage and corn that can be secured on the corn belt farm. Cottonseed meal or oilmeal will help take their place in the ration, but they are more costly. Another factor that aids in the cheaper production of beef is the care of pastures. A good deal of the land now under the plow in the corn belt would bring larger returns if laid down in pastures and properly cared for. If pastures are not overstocked and eaten into the ground for a few years, but are helped out in summer and time of drought with silage or other feeds, their stock carrying capacity is increased. Sod bound pastures are made more productive by disking in the spring. It pays to reseed thin spots, drain low ones and mow the ragweed before it seeds. The pasture deserves and needs its share of the farm manures. Many pastures could be made to double their returns under proper care and very little expense.

The business of beef producing is not a get-rich-quick scheme. It does give to the man who is fitted for it and who goes into it intelligently and carefully good returns for both labor and investment. It helps keep the fertility of the farm where it belongs, at home, and builds up the land. It makes of farming a business that is stable and permanent, one in which the son can follow the father on the same farm and prosper.

The Care of Farm Horses.

Two things are necessary besides good feed to keep the horses in prime condition.

One is a daily grooming. It need not be very elaborate nor long drawn out—just a decent going over every day. A smart man can do a sufficiently thorough job in four or five minutes to each horse where another couldn't do so well in ten or fifteen minutes. A light grooming every day is better than a big carding down once or twice a week and is worth a quart of oats a day. The other necessity is a chunk of rock salt in the manger. Put in a big one so they can't bite it. They will soon get enough and then only lap at it occasionally. It has a good effect on their digestion and helps keep them looking sleek and smooth.

Causes of Scours in Pigs.

Scours in pigs may be caused by many different things. Things which do not affect the sows may cause scours in pigs. Any sudden or radical change in feed, the feeding of kitchen scraps, wet pens and bad ventilation, following the sow through wet grass, dirty feed troughs, sour milk from creameries and cheese factories or the sow catching cold are among the causes of scours in pigs.

Fifth Kills Calves.

It is claimed by a recognized dairy authority that 90 per cent of the calves that die before they are six weeks old succumb either to indigestion or to poisoning caused by feeding from dirty pails.

SILO THAT PROVED A MONEY MAKER

After a few years of careful thought and consideration on the question of putting in the silo I at last bought a good silo secondhand at a public sale, writes a Pennsylvania farmer in the American Agriculturist.

I plant my corn about one-fourth thicker than for a regular crop, as I want many good, large ears in the feed. When planted too thick the stons are too light and I do not get enough corn for a good feed. The silage if properly cut into short lengths and well packed so as to admit of no air to it will be juicy and nutritious, and, being palatable, cattle will thrive well on it and come out in the spring in good flesh and shed their hair much sooner than cattle kept alone on dry feed.

I begin to cut corn for silage when near the ripening stage—just when the corn on the ear is dented and nearly fit to cut for shocking and before the lower leaves have died off too much. At this stage I seem to get about all the feeding value out of it, and there is still enough moisture in the stalk to make it pack well in the silo. If corn

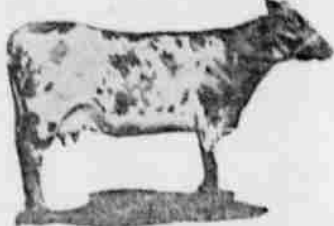


Photo by Kansas Agricultural college.

Elizabeth of Jonsau, world's champion Ayrshire cow, is owned by the Kansas Agricultural college at Manhattan. The world's best three-year-old Ayrshire finished her year's trial not long ago with 15,225 pounds of milk to her credit, 825 pounds more than the cow which has until now held the championship record. Elizabeth contributed during the year 22.34 pounds of butter fat, equal to 620 pounds of butter. The average test for the year was 2.22 per cent. Her ration has consisted of the general herd ration of four parts corn, two parts bran and one part oilmeal as a grain ration, and she has received all the alfalfa and silage she would consume.

gets too dry add enough water to make it pack well. When I am ready to fill the silo I try to get enough help to keep a cutter and engine busy.

There is much to be gained by having an extra man or more to handle the corn, for it is a heavy job. I aim to have two men in the silo to tramp and pack it well and distribute the corn and leaves into all parts of the silo. My silo is the round stave silo of cedarwood, and I figure I can grow the corn under ordinary conditions and put it into the silo for \$1.50 a ton, and I also figure that every ton of silage is worth \$4 to \$5 a ton when compared with other feeds. I live on a farm of 130 acres, where I grow a variety of crops, such as corn followed by oats, followed by wheat, and occasionally a second crop of wheat with which I seed over land to grass, timothy and clover. This hay I had formerly fed out to my stock. The cows, horses and sheep were also fed much of the corn and corn stover.

With a silo I can now hold over much more and better feed for my cows and sheep, and the silage is produced on much less acreage. This is a very strong point in favor of the silo. I can farm better without the automobile than without a silo. The fatteners of cattle for beef claim much larger gains by the use of silage for feeding. Silage seems to furnish just what the dairy cow wants and also what the steer wants for taking on flesh.

I have paid for the silo many times over by selling the hay I would have fed to my cattle, sheep and other stock, and there is no food to equal good corn silage if properly put up.

Feed For the Colt.

Too few of the colts on most farms receive any other means of sustenance except their mothers' milk till they are ready to wean, writes a correspondent of the Iowa Homestead. Of course the colt will graze some, but it will not develop and thrive as well on grass and milk as it would if properly fed on a little grain and milk feed stuff. We begin to tempt the colt to eat of a little grain, milk feeds and clean, bright roughage just as soon as possible. With a small trough containing some grain and placed where the colt frequents, it quickly forms the habit of eating.

We have found a most satisfactory feed for the colt to be one part corn chop, one part bran and two parts oats. These form a ration that will furnish bone and muscular tissue for the young and rapidly growing body and at the same time supply sufficient material for putting on a little fat and keeping up the heat sometimes necessary.

Corn For the Silo.

It was formerly taught by the agricultural colleges that corn should be cut for silage just when the grain was in the "dough" stage, but experience has demonstrated that good silage may be made at almost any stage after that, but never before. Silage cut too soon lacks substance and feeding quality. It is too watery. If cut after it is dead ripe it may be necessary to run water into the blower, but it will make silage.—Kansas Farmer.

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