

THINGS THAT WILL BUILD UP THE HERD

The following is what a man prominent in dairy circles has to say regarding the building up of the dairy herd:

In my experience of a good many years I have found that three essential rules should be kept in mind and adhered to as nearly as possible if the highest success is to be attained.

First and most important is to know the constitutional vigor. This may be known by the general appearance of the animal, which will be alert, vigorous and show general thrift. I give this first place because the next two qualities depend very largely on a good constitution. No animal can make good and economical use of feed without a strong digestive apparatus, good nerve force and strong heart and lung action.

The second point is to select for utility. This is where the practical business end of breeding comes in. In horse breeding, for instance, farmers in some sections have been chasing shadows to some extent by breeding trotting stock. This has resulted in lightweight, spindle legged stock of but little use for farm purposes. They have now realized their mistake and are looking for horses of 1,200 to 1,400 pounds weight, with good bone, muscle and strength.

The third consideration is beauty, which has a cash value. The extra care given attractive stock owing to the pride the owner takes in them will



A WELL-BRED DAIRY COW.
(By courtesy of Iowa State college.)

usually yield a cash profit. Prospective buyers will be attracted by the animals showing the most style.

If one will study carefully the characteristics of the stock he has he can so mate them as to produce about what he likes, provided he has the constitution and uses a pure bred sire. In this way one can safely introduce quality and beauty. For instance, the Guernsey cow comes from a cross of Normandy and Brittany stock. The former were a large boned and muscled stock possessing great constitutional vigor, while the latter were bred more for quality and beauty. The cross produced a very desirable cow.

It goes without saying that if the rules above mentioned are adhered to strictly in dairy cattle breeding far better results will be secured than is generally the case in this line of work. The mistake is too frequently made in using any kind of sire—anything that will cause the cows to freshen. The best sire is none too good and is far cheaper in the long run.

Taking all the cows in the country together, the average yield is about 123 pounds of butter for each cow. This includes all kinds of cows kept under all sorts of conditions. It is probable that the average yield for each cow in the regular dairies of the country is not far from 130 pounds of butter in a year.

It is agreed that the cow that produces 200 pounds of butter in a year just about pays for her feed and the expense incident to housing and otherwise caring for her and getting the butter to market.

If a cow yields 250 pounds of butter in a year she has the value of 50 pounds to her credit. If she yields 300 pounds a year the profit from her is doubled and she is worth twice as much as the 250 pound cow. Increase the yield to 350 pounds and she increases still more in value and is worth three times as much as the 250 pound cow. It is strange that so few of such cows are to be found when they cost no more to raise than others.

Sensible Sheep Hints.

The use of a dip that kills the ticks, but not their eggs, simply means postponing the evil. Only the best dips pay for themselves.

The poorly tilted farm with a behind the times owner stands more in the way of successful sheep breeding than all of the dogs in the country.

The appetite of the sheep is something that requires watching. Feed them only such a quantity as they will eat up at one time. To feed more is no advantage to them and is a loss to the feeder.

No man should go into sheep raising or feeding until he has a woven wire fence around his feed lots and pastures. The old time barbed wire with wool hanging to it is a relic of the past on an up to date sheep farm.

Fat Cows Expensive.

No one can afford to keep a fat dairy cow. If a cow gets fat while in milk she uses too much of her feed for other purposes than making milk of it. A cow that has a good appetite eats heartily and keeps thin in flesh while giving milk is usually a good one to keep.

Feeding to Young Calf

The calves should be fed the warm milk from the mother and fed at least three times a day. When the calf is about two weeks old sweet milk from the separator can be added to the whole milk, about half and half.

PREVENTING HOG CHOLERA

A government experiment station is issued the following bulletin on hog cholera, in which it lays out good methods for preventing the disease.

Proper methods of feeding and care are necessary in order to keep the herd in a healthy, growing condition. Healthy hogs possess a slight degree of resistance against disease, and this factor plays no small part in the control of hog cholera. Filthy, crowded quarters, lack of exercise and wrong methods of feeding overcome natural immunity and are secondary factors in the spread of disease.

There is no place on a farm where disinfectants are so necessary as in the hog houses and yards. White wash, lime, chloride of lime and stock dips are the disinfectants commonly used. Pastures and lots may be cleaned up by moving the hogs for a few months each year and cleaning away all litter. The unused lots can be put to good use if plowed and sowed to some forage crop.

Necessary precautions against the food and drinking water becoming con-



HURRY BERSHIRE

(By courtesy of Iowa State college.)

taminated must be observed. The importance of clean water, clean feed and clean troughs and feeding floors should be emphasized. Muddy yards when in use a few years become filthy and endanger the health of the herd.

Yards should be well drained and all wallow holes filled. Pens and pastures through which the drainage from swine inclosures higher up runs should not be used.

Hogs coming from other herds or stock shows should be excluded from the home herd until they are positively shown to be free from disease. They should be quarantined in yards set off for this purpose. Such yards should not communicate in any way with the regular yards. They should also be cleaned by dipping or washing with a water solution of a reliable disinfectant, as there is a possibility of carrying germs in the dust and dirt on their bodies. The quarantine period should be longer than the average period of incubation. Three weeks is as long as is necessary.

The possible introduction of the disease into the pens by people, dogs, birds, etc., should be guarded against, especially if cholera is present in the neighborhood. Whenever it is necessary for a person to enter a hog lot where the disease is present the shoes should be cleaned and disinfected on leaving. Persons taking care of cholera hogs should observe the necessary precautions against the distribution of the disease and see that others practice like precautions.

FEEDING THE PIGS.

Peculiarities of Animal's Structure Necessitate Concentrated Foods.

A small stomach and an extensive intestinal canal are peculiarities of the pig's structure which have to be considered in the matter of feeding in the opinion of a prominent swine herder. The smallness of the stomach indicates the necessity of concentrated food, and the large intestinal canal points to the fact that a large quantity of food can be disposed of.

While it is obvious, however, that concentrated food is adapted to the pig's organism, it is inadvisable that it should be given an unlimited diet of this food. Potatoes, etc., may not be so excellent for the purposes of development as barley meal, but a certain quantity of these not only reduces the feeding bill, but diminishes the risk of overfeeding.

Recent experiments have shown that fattening pigs should be fed at least three times a day, and a third meal, given as late in the evening as possible, should be the heaviest. The roots which suit pigs best are swedes and potatoes.

We have known cases where cab-bages have been fed to fatten pigs, but they are of no use. Skimmed milk, barley meal and potatoes are excellent for pushing the carcass along, but there does not appear to be much advantage in boiling the tubers.

Carrots For Cattle.

Those who have one or two cows and a piece of ground that may be tilled should not fail to sow a few rows of half long carrot seed. If sown by hand the seed should be scattered so as to make a row of a couple of inches broad. They may be sown fifteen to sixteen inches apart. Keep them clean, but do not thin them when the seed has been prudently sown. When autumn comes the amount of good food furnished will be a matter of surprise. Until freezing weather the carrots may be simply pulled up and fed without chopping or slicing.

Alfalfa Is Excellent Feed.

Alfalfa is an excellent feeding stuff where it can be obtained. Hogs relish it either when green or when it has been properly cured for hay. It is very helpful if the brood sow has access to pasture. It not only helps provide the proper food, but it affords a place for exercise which is very essential.

METHOD TO TELL AGE OF THE SHEEP

A prominent professor of animal husbandry in a leading university says that fine wool sheep live longer than medium or coarse wool sheep. The former have been used successfully as breeders from one to eight years and the latter from one to six and more rarely seven years. The prime of life probably extends from one to five or six years.

The lamb has a short and small head as opposed to the head of the mature sheep. Its teeth are smaller in every way. They are usually smooth and white as opposed to a more corrugated, darkened surface in the old sheep. The age of sheep is told by the four pairs of incisors which are found only on the lower front jaw. These are all present by the time the lamb is six weeks old.

In the yearling the central pair of small incisor teeth are replaced with a large pair when the lamb is ten to fourteen months old. They are almost twice as wide and much longer than those at either side.

At the age of two years the animal gets a second pair of large teeth.

At three years it gets a third pair of large teeth. It would then have three pairs of large teeth and one pair of small or lamb teeth.

The four-year-old has a full mouth of four pairs of large teeth. The outer ones are never as large as those in the center.

After the sheep is four years old it is difficult to tell the exact age. With age the teeth usually grow longer and narrower. They begin at six years to resemble shoe pegs. Sheep that are living on short pasturage and get sand with their grass wear their teeth short even in old age. This is unusual in Minnesota.

When sheep get long, peg-like or broken teeth, it is time to dispose of them.

CARE OF THE MULE.

Attention Should Be Given to Feeding at Breeding Time.

Many are anxious to get information about mules, animals that play an important part in farm work and heavy hauling. Some prefer them to the draft horse. Why? Well, they say mules can everlastingly pull a heavy load without the slightest letup. In the south they are a deliverer to the



MULES HAULING COTTON.

cotton growers. Some people imagine that mules don't need any special care, because, as a rule, their makeup is rugged. That's true in this respect. They can stand more abuse than any animal used for heavy working purposes. But at breeding time attention to feeding should be given. Some grain for the mules to keep them in good condition without fattening them is very important. If the mule runs down from lack of nourishing food either the progeny will be weak and lacking in vigor or the breeding may be entirely prevented. The best of all grain foods for keeping the mule in condition are oats. Rye is sometimes fed and in some cases is very good. It should be kept from the animals after they have been bred, as it may cause abortion.

FEEDING THE COLT.

Many Farmers Make Mistake in Using Bottles and Nipples.

Noting in a recent farm paper a plan to raise the baby colts on a bottle with a rubber nipple, a breeder advises farmers not to bother with bottles and nipples, at least not for colts.

Take a deep pan or crock and pour into it enough milk to cover your hand. Crook your forefinger C shape in the milk. Let the colt once get hold with its soft, velvety lip of that crooked forefinger and it will drink at the third day. Colts do not or need not suck the finger like calves.

Sufficient milk is placed in good glass jars in the tank, and the colt learns to come to the gate for its milk, taking it from any crock, pail or vessel we choose to feed it from. And the milk should be warmed slightly at first.

Handling Young Pigs.

When pigs are three weeks old the sow and litter should have the run of a lot to have exercise, air and sunshine. They will then begin to eat. At eight weeks of age they should be weaned and provided with a feeding trough. Soaked corn, skimmed milk, cooked feeds, with mill feeds added, form a good diet for them. Do not feed cornmeal to excess, for it fattens rather than causes healthy growth.

Regularity Road to Success.

Dairying is quite confining, but this is one of the good features of the industry. Once a farmer gets started he must keep regular hours and do his work in the proper time, and it is this crowding the man into the collar and making him work that tell. Many would shirk if they could; but, there being no way for them to do this, they stick to their job and make a success of it.

Farm and Garden

FARMS EAST AND WEST.

Comparative Cost of Lands in the Two Sections Discussed.

In a letter to the New York Times a correspondent wrote recently:

"If the Times really wants to know why it is that western land—in Iowa or Illinois—sells for \$100 to \$200 an acre while plenty of farms can be bought in New York for \$10 to \$20 an acre, let it pay attention. The secret is about to be released. And let me say at the outset that with considerable familiarity with both west and east I'd much prefer to buy eastern to western lands."

"One point in favor of the western farm is that, whereas a western farm, properly handled, will raise crops which pay a good interest on the investment without fertilizer, a great many acres of land in the \$10 and \$20 belt are merely something to put productive soil on top of. The French method of carrying the land away when one moves wouldn't go bad in connection with several cheap New York farms."

"Another thing—one can take an eighty acre farm in the middle west and plow every foot of it, while there are very few cheap farms in this section which can be cut up into fields large enough to pay for using large machinery. The result is that the eastern farmer, if he is to make use of the cheap lands, must 'putter.' Now, the right sort of puttering is profitable—fruit, berry and truck raising will make moderately large fortunes for diligent and capable men—but most men don't like that sort of business. The middle westerner is a whole lot happier with a four horse gang plow and a harrow that wouldn't go between stumps in the east than he would be on a \$10 an acre New York farm. And he doesn't strike as many stones in the course of a season as the New York farmer will in a day. The American farmer hasn't lost his sense of the 'bigness' of the country yet, and until he does lose it he will prefer to work the large farm rather than the small one, even if he gets no more for his labor."

"Furthermore—and this is not to be ignored—around that high priced land in the west will be found a more intelligent, better educated body of men, taking them 'by and large,' than in a given number of eastern farmers, because the factories and the other city joys seem to lure a much larger proportion of the ambitious youth of the east. The city is so close to the farm that the transition is but a step. Of course there are many of the most intelligent farmers of the country here, but the farmer with a desire for intellectual associations—and some have it—will find less of this opportunity in the \$10 and \$20 localities than in the west. Intelligent farmers, like men in other professions, like intelligent companionship."

"I am firmly convinced that the best opportunities for agriculture lie within a few hundred miles of New York city, and my impression is that the best way to get the right sort of farmers to go to this land and stay there is to get a number of this kind of men interested in one locality, thus insuring immunity from death by intellectual starvation. It used to be imagined that a farmer couldn't starve in that way, but we know better now."

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