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Farm Dairying



XVII.—Cow Diseases. First Article.

By LAURA ROSE,
Demonstrator and Lecturer in Dairying at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Canada.

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FLIES are a terrible torment at times and have much to do with the lessening of the milk flow. The cows are so worried and kept so busy fighting the flies that they lose much of the time they should be feeding, and it is their semi-starved condition that largely causes the shrinkage in flesh and milk.

Something should be done to rid the cows of this fly pest.

The following mixture has been found as effective and less expensive than many of the fly remedies on the market:

One gallon of fish or seal oil or old grease of any kind, one pint of coal oil (kerosene) and two ounces (four tablespoonfuls) of crude carbolic acid.

Mix well together and apply with a cloth or spray to all parts except the udder. Always put it on after milking to avoid the strong odor getting into the milk. In dry weather one application a week is usually sufficient. If the cows are out in a heavy rain it will be necessary to go over them again.

Another fly remedy is ten parts of lard or other grease to one part of pine tar. Mix well and apply with a brush or cloth once or twice a week to the parts most attacked. This is splendid as a relief from the horn fly.

If the flies make the cows restless during milking so that they will not stand, a cotton blanket thrown over them at that time is a great help.

Keep the Stable Dark.

It is a good plan to darken the stable during the day and to have the windows screened.

To prevent the flies that are on the cows from going into the stable with them arrange some evergreen boughs, brush, brooms or sacking at the entrance. As the cows pass through this many flies are brushed off and remain outside.

The housefly has always been a troublesome nuisance, but now it is looked upon as a very potent agent in spreading such dangerous diseases as typhoid fever, cholera infantum, summer complaint, etc.

If a cow shows symptoms of being ill do not delay doing something for her. Begin at once to check the trouble.

Every dairy stable should have in it a medicine chest or shelf provided with such drugs as are commonly used in cases of sickness among the animals. A short list is given below. Each bottle or package should be distinctly labeled and the supply renewed as soon as exhausted: Spirits of turpentine, raw linseed oil, sulphur, saltpeter, carbolic acid, nux vomica, epsom salts, ground ginger, vaseline, camphorated oil, laudanum, boracic acid.

There should be on hand a common bicycle pump, a few feet of rubber hose and a milk siphon or tube to insert in the teat. Immerse the tube in boiling water to disinfect it and oil before gently inserting it into the teat opening.

How to Examine a Sick Cow.

First, take the temperature of the animal by placing a self-registering veterinary fever thermometer in the rectum, allowing it to remain there from three to five minutes. The normal temperature of a cow is from 98 to 100 degrees F., but in some cows may be higher. It is usually so in young animals.

Second, take the pulse, which can be found at the angle of the lower jaw bone. The normal beat of a cow's pulse is from fifty to sixty per minute.

Third, count the respirations of the animal or number of times it breathes by watching the sides of the flanks or by pressing your ear to her side. The normal respiration of a cow is from fifteen to twenty per minute.

If the temperature, pulse or respiration is found to vary much from the normal, you will know the animal is ailing. Dull, glazed eyes; cold ears; dry, hot nose; harsh, rumpled coat; lack of appetite, rumination ceased and sudden shrinkage of milk are outward indications that something is wrong with the cow.

Milk from sick cows is unwholesome and in some cases positively dangerous.

Sick animals should be removed from the herd, and especially if there be any suspicion of a contagious disease.

Parturient Apoplexy—Commonly Called Milk Fever.

Cause.—Milking the cow out too thoroughly after calving. Better not to draw any milk the first twenty-four hours, but just leave the calf with the cow. If for any reason it is not desirable to leave the calf with her draw only a little milk at frequent intervals the first three days if trouble be fear-

If this rule is followed milk fever is not likely to occur.

Symptoms.—These develop from four to thirty-six hours after calving. Rumination ceases; sudden decrease in milk flow; fullness of the eyes; unsteady gait; stamping with the hind legs; at length falls helpless to the ground, turns head to one side and eyes close or lies flat with extremities extended.

Treatment.—It is usually a fatal mistake to dose for milk fever. In many cases the muscles of the throat are paralyzed, and the cow, having no power to swallow, the medicine given goes into the lungs and often causes death.

The treatment giving prompt relief in the severest cases and one to be relied on is filling the udder with pure oxygen or with common air by means of a bicycle pump or a rubber bulb syringe and a common milk siphon or similar tube. Pump the udder as full as possible and put a rubber band around the teats, or tie with tape to keep in the air. Massage the udder so as to force the air to all parts. It may be necessary to repeat the inflation.

This treatment usually effects a cure in a few hours. Do not give any medicine.

Mammitis—Caked Udder—Inflammation of Udder—Garget.

Symptoms.—Usually at first the milk is watery and sometimes discolored with blood and may contain clotted, curdy matter, and the part affected is swollen and painful. In severe cases the cow will have a chill, and the limbs, ears and horns become cold, then fever will follow and the udder becomes hot, swollen and hard. The milk flow decreases or stops. The cow eats but little and does not chew her cud.

Treatment.—Give oxygen treatment as described for milk fever and a good dose of salts. If the udder remains hard rub well with goose grease or camphorated oil. When the entire udder is caked take a piece of heavy cloth and put it under the udder, making incisions for the teats, and fasten it on top, placing straw or a pad on the back so as not to chafe the cow. This relieves the udder by easing the weight.

For Inflamed Udder.

Rub well after milking with liniment made from four ounces sweet oil, four ounces laudanum, three ounces of extract of belladonna.

Slimy or Ropy Milk (Not a Disease).

Milk which becomes stringy, slimy or ropy after standing awhile is not due to the cow's condition, but is caused by a large number of bacteria which develop in the milk and change



Photo by Oregon Agricultural college. A CLEAN SEPARATOR HELPS KEEP THE MILK AND CREAM SANITARY.

the milk sugar into a slimy or ropy mass. The bacteria usually come from dust or bad water and get into the milk at milking time or afterward.

Thoroughly clean and disinfect the stable and scald all milk pails, strainers, cans, etc.

Lumps in Teats.

If the lump or tumor be near the point or halfway up the teat a veterinarian may operate successfully; otherwise it is well to beef the cow, as she will not improve and her offspring may be similarly affected.

Cowpox.

Symptoms.—Teats very sore, break out in pimples and form scabby sores. A troublesome contagious disease, and the cow should be isolated.

A milker can take it from one cow to another on his hands or clothes.

Remedy.—Dress the sores three times a day with an ointment made by mixing four drams boracic acid, twenty drops of carbolic acid, with two ounces of vaseline.

If the teats are very sore it may be well to use a teat siphon to draw the milk.

Diarrhea or Scours in Calves. Cause.—Overfeeding, sudden changes in feed, filthy, wet stalls, dirty feed pails, etc.

Treatment.—A cup of strong black tea is said to be good. Others give from one to two ounces of castor oil and one teaspoonful of laudanum. Feed new milk and keep everything clean. Four or five hours after the oil is given a teaspoonful of a mixture of one part salol and two parts subnitrate of bismuth may be given in half a pint of milk or the powder placed on the tongue and washed down with a little milk. A simple remedy is to add to the milk one-fifth of its bulk of lime water.

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