

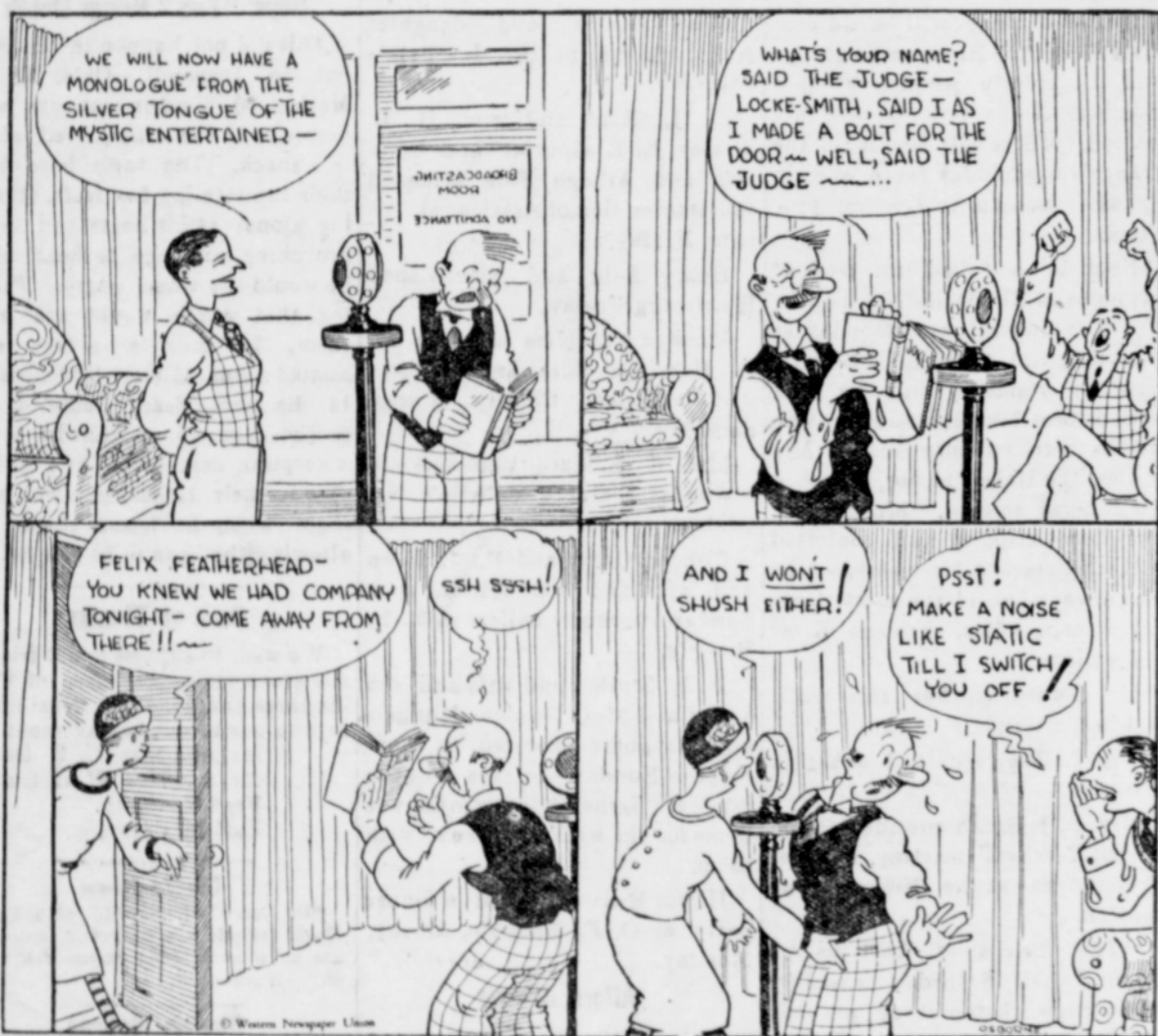
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The DAIRY

COMPLEX FEEDS FOR DAIRY COW

When an animal is well it does not need medicine, and when it is sick it needs specific treatment for its disease. For this reason, dairymen who buy complex mineral mixtures to feed to their animals are not only wasting their money but may be harming their cattle as well, according to Prof. L. A. Maynard at the State College of Agriculture at Ithaca, N. Y.

Aside from common salt, the only minerals that are needed as supplement to ordinary farm rations are calcium, phosphorus, and sometimes iodine. Mixtures containing such substances as glauber's salts, epsom salts, copperas, potassium chloride, sulphur, iron oxide, and other condiments have no justification from the standpoint of nutrition, and the continued feeding of them may be positively harmful.

Magnesium, iron, potassium and sulphur, which are included in most mineral mixtures, are valueless ingredients because common rations are sufficiently rich in them. Laxatives, copperas, sodium bicarbonate, and sulphur are drugs rather than feeds and should not be fed to a well animal.

Some companies argue that epsom salts and glauber's salts are needed in the feed for farm animals because of their laxative action. In answer to this it should be recognized that the best way to make a ration laxative is to select properly the feeds included in it. Furthermore, the small amount of these purgatives in the mineral mixture cannot possibly have the desired effect when an animal is dehydrated.

Cod liver oil, which is sometimes included in mineral mixtures, helps calcium assimilation in growing pigs, but it has been proved ineffective for dairy cows. Also, when cod liver oil is fed at all, it should be purchased unadmixed with other materials, since it gradually loses its value as an aid in calcium assimilation when mixed.

Compounds of calcium and phosphorus which are suitable for feeding may be purchased at from one to three cents a pound. Complex mixtures always sell at much higher prices than this, and the manufacturers try to justify their price by exaggerated and untruthful claims about their value. The complex products are actually worth less than the mixture containing calcium and phosphorus alone because the percentage of the needed minerals is lowered by including the other substances which serve only as a filler.

Pumpkins Useful as Cow Feed During the Winter

Where pumpkins are extensively grown they are used for sow feed in the winter months. Possibly they could be kept all winter under proper conditions of cold storage, but they are such a bulky food that a large place is required to store enough of them to last a large herd through the winter months. They are not only hollow inside, but their shape makes them space consumers in storage. The pumpkin is nearly equivalent to silage for feed, but when we have the problem of feeding many cows, it is much easier to build a silo than to build a receptacle for several tons of pumpkins. Moreover, the pumpkins must be cold enough to prevent them from decaying, for the air will get into any receptacle in which they can be placed. With silage, the temperature makes little difference if it does not reach the point where it freezes. In the feeding of pumpkins about 40 pounds per day per cow may be fed to advantage, and with some cows the milk production will be greatly increased. With some cows, however, the effect of feeding pumpkins is to cause the cow to lay on fat and decrease their milk production.

Dairy Hints

- Calves should have fresh water even though they are receiving milk.
- Dairy barns need good floors. Concrete is a fine material for this purpose.
- To insure fall freshening get cows with calf between December 1 and March 1.
- Cows that are given a rest of from six to eight weeks and liberally fed before calving usually produce more milk during the succeeding lactation period than cows that calve in this condition.
- Most cream separators will do a much better job of skimming the milk when it is warm.
- Drinking cups in the barn are a good investment for most dairymen. Cows need lots of water and it should be supplied liberally.
- Select a bull of good individuality. A bull should be equal to, or better in every regard, than the cows he is bred to, or his offspring will be bred down and not up.

POULTRY

INFLUENCES ON VALUE OF EGGS

Eggs vary in size and color, but investigations show that healthy hens, fed normal rations, lay eggs that are consistently of good quality. However, there are many factors that influence the market value of eggs, most of which are within the control of the producer and dealer of eggs.

Eggs are not bought and sold by the pound, but the size of the eggs causes considerable difference in their value. "Extras" must weigh 46 pounds net per case of 30 dozen.

This is an average of slightly over two ounces per egg. "Extra firsts" must weigh 44 pounds per case. The proper selection of breeding stock is undoubtedly the biggest factor in securing eggs of good size, although the size is influenced to some extent by proper feeding.

Cleanliness has an important influence on the value of eggs. Dirty eggs deteriorate more rapidly than clean eggs, do not present as pleasant an appearance, are not fit for storage, and, therefore, do not sell for as high a price as eggs that are clean. Dirty eggs may be largely eliminated by providing plenty of clean nests which are well supplied with clean litter. On rainy days it may be helpful to keep the hens confined until 10 a. m., when most of the hens will be through laying for the day.

Some markets pay a premium for white eggs. A few markets pay a premium for brown eggs. Dealers seldom pay a premium for eggs of one color, as compared with mixed colors. In shipping eggs, it is necessary to take this characteristic of the market into consideration. Uniformity of color is always appreciated and this is one of the advantages gained by improving the flock through the use of improved stock.

Eggs may be of the same size and color but vary considerably in market value. This is on account of the difference in quality of the interior. Most eggs are good when they are first laid, but different methods of handling influence the quality to a large extent. Therefore, the problem of handling eggs is important as well as proper management of the flock.

Singing Hen Not Happy as Many People Thought

Singing hens have long been thought to be happy when, in fact, she sings only when all is not well in poultrydom. Hens, like human beings, are almost all very temperamental.

The singing of a hen must not be confused with clucking. Biddy's song starts softly, proceeds without break for as long as breath will allow, and often ends in a high, nasal intonation.

If the hen finds no suitable place to lay, she sings; when all the nests are full and she can't find one, she sings. Song gives vent to her feelings if hunger is troubling her, or thirst. She sings in strange surroundings like the small boy sent on an errand in the dark. Worry and shyness also bring song. She tries by singing to make herself look brave and at home at times when her self-assurance has been shaken.

Poultrymen who want to keep their flocks in perfect contentment will keep them from singing.

Rations Fed to Layers Are Lacking in Protein

During recent experiments at the Nebraska Agricultural college, it was found that rations fed to laying hens were commonly lacking in some form of complete protein like meat meal, skim milk, tankage, dried buttermilk, or liquid buttermilk. An addition of six pounds of high-grade tankage to a typical corn-belt ration increased the egg production from 50 in the check pen to 183 eggs per hen in the tankage-fed lot. Skim milk or buttermilk, when available at all times, may take the place of meat meal or tankage in the mash mixture, but it is necessary that each hen consume about 110 pounds of milk in a year in order to get the equivalent protein furnished by six pounds of tankage.

Separate Breeding Pen

Many seem to have acquired the idea that keeping a separate breeding pen means a considerable expense and much extra labor for the farmer. This is not the case or if there are such cases it is unnecessary. Maintaining a breeding pen simply means that the best birds in the flock are selected and placed by themselves during the breeding season. The breeding pen furnishes eggs for hatching during the hatching season. This means that the chicks will be much improved.

Importance of Rooster

The male is as important in poultry as in dairying. Be sure that he is out of a good flock. It does not matter whether or not he is a cockerel, or an old cock, as long as he has a good physical make-up, plenty of fight, and fully matured. Males show a preference for certain hens, and there should be plenty of males in the flock. The number of females and males, and the relation between them, depends upon breed characteristic, size of flock, and time of season.

Too Much "Acid?"

Excess Uric Acid Gives Rise to Many Unpleasant Troubles.

AUTHORITIES agree that an excess of uric acid is primarily due to faulty kidney action. Retention of this toxic material often makes its presence felt by sore, painful joints, a tired, languid feeling and, sometimes, toxic backache and headache. That the kidneys are not functioning right is often shown by scanty or burning passage of secretions. Thousands assist their kidneys at such times by the use of Doan's Pills—a stimulant diuretic. Doan's are recommended by many local people. Ask your neighbor!

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