

DAIRY FACTS

NO PLACE FOR COUNTERFEITS

Difficulty of Replenishing and Starting Herds With Good Animals Worries Dairy Farmer.

The development of the increasing demand for well-bred dairy cattle is based upon the recognition of the fact that under present production conditions, the counterfeit dairy cow has no place on the pasture or in the feed-yard.

During the past few years, difficulty in replenishing and starting herds with good animals has confronted the



Select Animals on Wisconsin Dairy Farm.

dairy farmer at every turn. High feed bills have demonstrated the futility of expecting satisfactory returns when keeping poor producers, and the wide-awake, progressive, business dairymen are centering their demands on merit, of which there must be a greater supply to meet this demand. Foreign competition has created a well grounded impression that the most effective way of evading it is by greater production per animal and better products.

BUILDING UP A DAIRY HERD

Not Necessary to Go to Great Expense, but Few Years of Time Are Required for Purpose.

Are you satisfied with your present herd of nonpaying common cows? If not why not begin now to improve them and get out of the old rut? When developing the dairy herd from common stock it is not necessary to go to great expense, but a few years of time are necessary in which to accomplish this.

The amount of time called for will to some extent, be dependent upon the character of the stock that you now have, or the one you intend to use for a foundation herd.

In some instances two or three generations of correct breeding will build up a common herd to a fine paying herd. In other instances a longer time will be required but it should not require more than four or five generations to effect the changes sought.

NEED OF WATER FOR A CALF

Necessity Not Generally Understood and Young Animal Is Quite Frequently Painfully Thirsty.

The young calf does not receive all the moisture it needs from the skim milk which it gets as a regular ration. At a very early age it will drink a little water if it has an opportunity and it will do this a number of times during the day.

It is a good plan to have water before it at all times. This need of the calf for water is not generally understood and the young animal is usually painfully thirsty as well as hungry at feeding time. The result is that it gorges itself with the milk or drinks too rapidly when it has a chance. Thus it does not get the full benefit of the milk and digestive troubles will result. Remember that milk is the calf's food. Water should be its drink.

Care of Calf After Weaning.

Make sure that the calf does not get to the cow again, once it is separated from her and put on the skim-milk diet, as it will tend to spoil, not only the calf, but will cause the cow to worry after the calf and reduce her milk flow.

Leave Calf With Cow.

It is a good practice to let the calf suck the cow for about forty-eight hours after birth, after which it should be taken from its mother. In the case of a weak calf, however, it is better to let it remain two or three days longer.

Cleanliness is Necessary.

In raising calves, remember this: Cleanliness in all of the feeding operations is extremely necessary.

Use Artificial Coloring.

If it is desired to use artificial coloring, it should be added to the cream just before churning.

USE OF FORMALIN TO PREVENT SMUT

Botanist of Clemson College Gives Simple Preventive of Grain Disease.

FOROATS AND WHEAT SEED

Formalin Solution Applied to Small Grain Before Planting Kills Spores of Smut Without Injury to Germinating Powers.

Smut is the most widespread and destructive disease of small grain and it occurs wherever oats and wheat are grown. When proper control methods are not practiced, it frequently causes serious loss. Fortunately, it is not hard to prevent this disease. In formalin we have an easily obtainable preparation that does the work efficiently. Before sowing oats or wheat, farmers should treat the seed with a formalin solution to prevent smut.

Smut is caused by a parasitic growth that lives in the tissues of the plant. The disease spreads by spores (very small, seed like bodies) which cling to the hulls or lodge in the creases of individual oat or wheat grains and are thus carried into a field with the seed. The spores germinate at about the same time that the plants come up and the disease grows directly into the tissue of the young plant.

Smut lives in plants apparently without doing serious damage until the plants begin to head out. Then the disease concentrates its efforts in the heads and black, sooty masses of spores fill the places where grain should form. As these masses break up, the spores are scattered over the field by wind. Many lodge in grains on healthy heads of oats or wheat and remain alive there until the seed are planted again. Some remain in the diseased heads and are carried to the threshor. In threshing, the smut spores are scattered everywhere and many find resting places in healthy grains.

Oat or wheat smut can be controlled by soaking the planting seed in a chemical solution that will kill the smut spores in the seed without injuring the germinating powers of the seed. The best chemical to use for this is formalin, which is a 40 per cent solution of formaldehyde. It may be procured from any reliable druggist. Treatment with it is made as follows:

Make up the formalin solution by mixing one pint formalin (40 percent solution of formaldehyde) with 40 gallons water. Sack the grain to be treated, about a bushel to a sack. Dip each sack of grain into the barrel of solution and let it remain there for from five to ten minutes, moving the sack up and down several times to make sure that all the grains are thoroughly wet. Finally, lift the sack and let the solution drain out, after which either pile the bags of treated grain together and cover with bagging or canvas, or pour the treated grain into a pile on a clean floor and cover with bagging or canvas. Leave the grain covered thus for from 12 to 24 hours. As a last step, spread the grain thinly over a clean floor to dry.

The grain seed should be dried as rapidly as possible to prevent sprouting. Naturally, grain thus treated should be put in clean bins or sacks so as not to be again exposed to the disease. Sacks and bins that have contained diseased grain may be disinfected by washing with a formalin solution made of one pint formalin to 10 gallons water.

H. W. BARRE, Professor of Botany, Clemson Agricultural College.

ARE YOUR COWS EFFICIENT?

Putting the efficiency test to cows with the milk scales and the Babcock tester is one of the essentials of conducting a successful dairy. When feed is high in price a farmer cannot afford to have boarders in his dairy barn who eat up more in feed than their milk yield is worth. The Babcock test will show these delinquent cows in their true light and the milk scales will put the clincher on the argument. Testing cows will give some farmers a big surprise. Sometimes the cow that looks like the poorest creature in the lot is the best butterfat producer. The dairy division of Clemson College offers to give any farmer advice about testing milk and keeping records. Test, don't guess.

EQUIPPED FOR LIVE-STOCK WORK.

The extension division of Clemson College is well equipped to assist farmers in any part of South Carolina with any problems in livestock that may arise. The college has two men giving all their time to beef cattle and swine extension work, three dairy extension experts and one extension poultryman. This is one of the largest and best equipped animal husbandry extension forces in the United States. South Carolina farmers should take advantage of their opportunities along this line to get expert help free of cost.

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