

● Round-Table
(Continued from Page 6)

ual pens that I make out of used lumber. The pens are solid on three sides and the floor is slatted and raised about eight inches. The building is unheated with the south side open.

Calves are fed colostrum for 3 or 4 days and milk replacer until about 3 or 4 weeks of age. They are offered calf ration free choice after 4 days and hay after 6 weeks. At about 8 weeks they are moved outside where they are grouped according to age until they freshen. They are provided with shelter and all weather waterers.

As for feeding outside from 3 weeks to 1 year they get all they will clean up in about 20 minutes, with a maximum of 6 lbs per head, per day, of a 14% commercial dairy ration, plus good hay free choice at all times. From one year to calving they get corn silage from a feed bunk, plus 4 lbs of my ration per head, per day and hay free choice. I have been on this program for about three years and like it a lot. I wouldn't even consider going back to raising calves inside.

LANDIS—The calf is on the cow for three days and then given milk replacer for a month with freechoice grain and water. Cal ration free-choice is given up to four months. We believe in giving the calves at least for the first four months, the best quality hay. After four months old they are given a mixed dairy feed concentrate of 3 lbs a day and all the hay they can eat. After they are a year old they are given some silage too.

EBY—We leave the calves with their mothers about a day, and then wean them. We wean all calves whether bulls or heifers raised for replacements or veal. We feel this makes for better management of both cow and calf. We use whole milk for our calves. We ship to a dairy which pays a bonus for quality milk. We use 4 or 5 lbs. of milk diluted with a pound of water twice daily, adding grain in the bucket as soon as the calf will eat it. The grain is a home mix of calf-growers. We keep our calves in individual pens until 6

weeks old and stop feeding milk at 6 weeks to 2 months of age. Hay is placed in front of the calf as soon as it will eat hay.

SHELLENBERGER—When our calves are born, we feel it is important to immediately paint the calf's navel with iodine. Then make sure the calf gets colostrum milk within a few hours. The calf is permitted to nurse from the cow for two days. Then calf is placed in a starting pen away from adult animals. Calves are then fed cow's milk from a nipple bucket for two more days. After this we use a good milk substitute until calf eats sufficient starting ration. This usually is about 4 to 6 weeks of age. In the starting pen calves have access to all the mixed hay and fresh water they want along with salt and minerals and their allotted grain ration.

After four months they are moved to a growing pen. Here they have access to all hay they can consume along with 3 lbs of grain ration per animal. Again we feel it is very important to have free choice water, salt and minerals. In summer all animals 7 months of age or older go on pasture

How do you feed your cows for high records? Do you practice lead feeding?

NISSLEY—They are fed corn silage 45-50 lbs, alfalfa hay-8-10 lbs and grain. A cow gets all the grain she will clean up for the first 90 days, after that she gets fed according to production and body condition.

LANDIS—In feeding our cows for top production, we feed a good dairy ration—40 lbs silage and plenty of hay—given often. The more often hay is given the more they will eat. We feed mostly alfalfa hay and some mixed, alfalfa, clover, and timothy. Pertaining to lead feeding we depend mostly on the weight of the cow. We practice lead feeding on cows that milk that excess weight off.

EBY—We try to feed the cows all they will eat but still be hungry for more. They get about 55 lbs of silage in two feedings and about 12 lbs of hay divided between first, second and third cuttings. We lead feed if we can. Some cows will eat an increase of grain



CONTENTED COWS at the S. R. Shellenberger Farm Home, Mt. Joy R1. Shellenberger (right) and his son Richard, look over part of the milking herd that last

year had an average DHIA production of 56.8 cows of 16,101 pounds of milk and 612 pounds of butterfat. L. F. Photo

before freshening. Others will not.

SHELLENBERGER — To get high records, we believe cows need to be conditioned before freshening. We feel it is important to give each cow a six to eight week dry period. We feed dry cows a fitting ration two weeks before and two weeks after calving. Then they are changed over gradually to milk ration fed at a one to three ratio. In other words they are fed 1 lb of feed to 3 lb of milk. However there are a few exceptions such as cows in their first lactation, we feed a little stronger to promote growth. Also a cow who is poor in flesh at freshening time, needs more feed.

How do you put up your hay? Your silage?

NISSLEY—Hay is cut early if possible and field dried. Corn silage is cut at about 62-68% moisture and chopped fine. It is stored in one concrete silo and one tile silo.

LANDIS—We put up our hay by mowing it and then crimping. We try to cut the alfalfa in bud stage at 30% bloom

We use a hay fan with no heat to eliminate sweating. Silage is put up on a pile and conventional upright-type silo. We add a preservative of silo guard.

EBY—We mow with a side-mounted mower trailing a conditioner in one trip around the field, and rake when dry but before leaves shatter. We bale with a bale thrower attachment and random stock in the barn with vertical elevation and mower conveyor. There are fans and ducts in three different mows which are used as a safety measure and also gain an edge on the weather. We make the first cutting in the bud stage and the second and third in early bloom stage. Corn silage is cut in the late dent, glaze stage and stored in 20 by 60 stave silo with top unloader.

SHELLENBERGER—Our roughage consists primarily of alfalfa haylage and alfalfa hay. The first cutting of alfalfa we aim at cutting in the bud stage of which 80% is made into haylage—45% moisture—and stored in oxygen free storage. The other 20% is baled at 40%

moisture and fan cured in the barn. Each cutting thereafter we refill the haylage storage and the balance is handled in the same manner as the first cutting. We also have a conventional silo which we fill with corn silage once a year. This is put in in the dent stage.

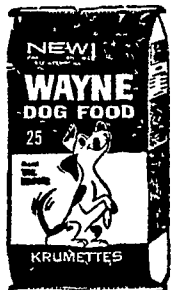
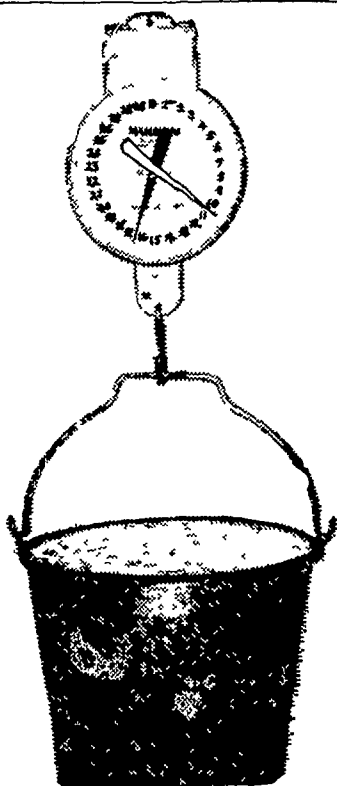
What concentrate mixture do you feed?

NISSLEY—We use a commercial supplement and our own grains, ground and mixed on the farm by a custom mobile mill, to get a finished feed of about 17% protein.

LANDIS—We use 32% concentrate, corn shop, oats and molasses which is a 15% protein mix feed. The concentrate is about 15% urea. Last year we fed Full-O-Pep catfisher. Since the middle of March, we are now on Honeggers.

EBY—We mix our home grown corn and barley with a 32% concentrate. One half of the supplement is urea protein concentrate, the other half is a vegetable protein concentrate.

SHELLENBERGER—A portable hammer mill comes to our farm twice a week to grind and mix our home grown grain—ear corn, barley, wheat and oats. To this we add enough 50% soybean meal to give the desired protein level. Also molasses. (Continued on Page 8)



Do you know how much milk your cows can really give?

Did you ever hear of a poultryman who gathered his eggs and then decided how much feed to give his hens? Or of a hog man who weighed his pigs and then decided how much feed they ought to get next day?

But how many dairymen do you know who weigh Bossy's milk, then decide how much feed to give her?

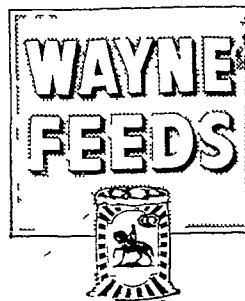
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