

HOUSE AND FARM.

Raising Calves for Dairy.

When one possesses cows of valuable breed it is very desirable to raise their calves for sale; yet the milk is also valuable, in the early spring, and therefore it is considered the best plan to bring them up by the hand. The calf should be allowed to nurse for the first day or two, and can then be removed to another stable and taught to drink by putting two fingers into its mouth, and gently drawing its head down to the milk pail, letting it suck the fingers. A large teat can be manufactured out of cotton cloth, and nailed to the bottom of a small tub, and the milk poured into it. Make the artificial teat long enough to come up above the milk, and so that the calf can take hold of it easily. Hay porridge or tea is often substituted for milk in bringing up calves. Take the best hay you have, and cut it into two or three-inch lengths; pour boiling water over it in a large bowl and let it scald on the fire for two hours or so. For the first two weeks, give equal proportions of hay tea and new milk; then make two-thirds of the tea to one of milk, and in six weeks one-fourth part of milk will be enough. The food should be given in a luke-warm state, three times a day, giving about three quarts at a meal for two weeks; then increase to four quarts. The hay tea need not be prepared oftener than every other day, but it must be kept sweet. They should not be scalded, but turned into nearly cold tea. If after the second or third week a handful or two of oat or corn meal is stirred into each portion of scalding hot tea, it will stimulate the growth of the calf decidedly. There is nothing gained in keeping calves on a short diet. Give them all they desire to eat; they will rarely take more than enough. Many a calf, and many a baby too is kept on too small a quantity of food. It is astonishing to see how much the young things will stow away, and grow fat over it. When a calf is two months old, it can have a small wisp of hay given it; or if the weather is warm enough, it can be turned out to graze upon the sweet tender grass; but must be well sheltered from wind and rain, and so near the house that it can have its breakfast and supper as usual. When it is fully weaned, it is not needful to pamper its appetite, yet it must not be poorly fed, lest it should receive a check in its growth. It is a good plan to pet and caress it; lead it early by a halter, and handle it as much as possible—for this treatment makes it kind and docile, and will also make it a good milker. There is nothing more cruel than to strike, kick and speak harshly to young animals; they have an instinct that teaches them to comprehend kindness and its opposite. The best cow we ever had was a pet with the children, and when a calf was milked by them, fed and caressed, and there never was a more gentle animal or a better milker.—Country Gentleman.

Stock Eating Wood.

One of our substantial subscribers, in a recent conversation, gave his experience in training neat stock, affected with the habit of eating wood, chewing bones, etc. His cattle were one spring affected this way. They became thin in flesh, refused to eat hay, and presented a sickly appearance. He had an impression that their food lacked the constituents for making bone, but his neighbors used bone meal without noticing any good results whatever. At last he put about four bushels of leached ashes in his barnyard, and threw out to them about a shovel full each day. After turning them out to pasture he put one peck of dry ashes per week on the ground of the pasture. They ate it all up and gnawed off the grass where it had been lying. The cattle began to improve, gaining flesh and looking much better than they had for several years. He says this morbid appearance was unnoticed years ago, from the fact that the ground was ashy, from the burning of the wood and land clearings. Later he gave one quart of ashes mixed with the same quantity of salt, to twelve head of cattle, about once a week.—Live Stock Journal.

Balking Horses.

A correspondent writes thus of balking horses: Some writers have held that bad treatment was the cause. I think that this view is partially false. Some horses will balk any way, and some cannot be made to balk. When a horse once commences to balk, the treatment will make but little difference; to illustrate: I had a fine, large, five year old mare, that took a notion to balk. I did nothing for her, and finally she got so she would balk almost every time I hitched her up. One of my neighbors had a four year old of a good deal the same style of my horse, that commenced to balk sometime before mine did. Both had an indentation in their foreheads. Notice this, every horse that has an indentation in its forehead will balk. He may balk sooner, or he may balk later, but he will balk sometime. But to return to the subject. My neighbor and I pursued two different ways of treatment; he believed in whipping, and he did whip. He whipped with whips, he licked with sticks, he pounded with fence-rails, and he used his brogans with telling effect. At first he made her go, but finally the harder he whipped the more she did not go, until at last he gave it up and sold her for \$90, original valuation \$125. Now for my treatment: I continued to drive my horse and I had a time of it, she getting worse all the time, and how it would have turned out can easily be seen. But one day while we were stacking our oats, an old man, who was working there, saw her balk, and said to me, "I'll show you what will start her." Accordingly he took a cane with a crook on it, that he had with him, and stepping up to her, stuck the hook down into her ear. The horse started with a jump, and we had no more balking that day. I have tried the plan since then and have always been successful. Don't be afraid of hurting the horse; it will only make him mad, and that is what you want. The philosophy of the thing is this. Take any horse, and you will find an aversion to having the ears handled. Now when you jab the cane into its ear the pain makes it mad; in fact, it makes it so mad that it forgets all about its balking and everything else, and starts right off. I would recommend to try it on a horse when he balks, but never use the whip. You injure the horse, discomfit yourself and waste elbow grease that might be usefully employed somewhere else. In conclusion I would say never breed from a balking horse, for a more worthless animal can hardly be imagined, and the breed should never be perpetuated.

Hiring Farm Men.

That farmer is fortunate who has two or three active and intelligent sons able and willing to take hold of farm work. Make much of them. Those who have to hire should be willing to pay good wages for good men. We do not sufficiently discriminate. Wages are high; but good men are not likely to take much less than they got last year. Farmers are very remiss in one thing; they do not insist on having "a character" from the last employer. It should be a hard matter for a bad man, or one who left his employer during the busy season, to get another place. Farmers should combine to drive an unfaithful servant from the neighborhood. Pay good wages, and treat them with kindly consideration, but insist on having respectful behavior, and good work. Know what a good day's work is, and get it; but do not ask for more. An unreasonable employer makes discontented servants. If they do well, tell them so; if not reprove mildly but firmly.

The Poultry Yard.

Those best able to judge, say that a flock of fowls of the usual size kept on farms, if well cared for, will yield as much value annually as is equivalent to the milk of one cow. For this reason it pays to keep a flock of fowls, and give them careful attention. It is easy to keep them in good condition, if any thought is bestowed upon them. It is necessary to change the cocks yearly in order to keep up the vigor and value of the progeny. They must be kept in a clean and

dry roost, and as far as possible on dry, or at least well drained range. To secure cleanliness and freedom from insects, the hen-house must be frequently cleaned out, the floors supplied with fresh earth, which is the best disinfectant, and the roosts brushed down, or submitted to the fumes of burning sulphur.

Keeping Work Ahead.

Though most farmers and gardeners know well the value of starting early in the war against weeds the importance of the task is very apt to be forgotten in the hurry of spring work. We scarcely need give the advice, but a suggestion is always encouraging, and the more so when we know it to be true. The great trouble with most of us is that we lay out too much work for ourselves to do. We get a great many things half done, and work twice as hard as need be, when the same amount of labor judiciously expended would have a three-fold result. This is just how it is in the war against weeds.

We are accustomed to get into a flurry about getting in the crops in time that we forget that the weed-crop is already in, and going on at a rapid pace. We have not unfrequently seen the greatest exertion in getting in seeds or plants that would have done just as well a week later, when the same time spent in harrowing or weeding ground would have been equal to four times the time at a later period. These remarks of course apply more to garden than to farm-work. When the horse-power is at hand weeds half an inch high, if annual weeds, are as easily destroyed by a broad-toothed cultivator as if they were just pushing through the ground; but in garden work a simple raking of the ground when the weeds are just sprouting is quite as effective as the best hoeing would be. An hour or two raking of a garden between the rows of the various crops will in fact almost render hoeing unnecessary, and thus save many a hard day's work.

How to Keep Eggs.

The most approved plan of keeping eggs (and we have known them to be preserved in this way for several months) is to keep them in a cask of pure-lime water. Water will only absorb a fixed amount of lime, and should then be poured off into another vessel, as the excess at the bottom of the cask will interfere with the success of the experiment. The fresh eggs first being carefully examined and found to be sound and free from cracks should be dropped into the cask. Evaporation is thus prevented, and the alkali held in solution closes the pores of the shell and prevents all fermentation. Some persons have known to put a portion of salt also into the water. About once a week they should be stirred around with the arm, which prevents the contents of the egg settling into a mass. This is about all the attention necessary. A crust of lime forms on the top of cask, but it is well, perhaps, to keep the barrel covered. It should be kept in a cool cellar.

Some persons have succeeded in keeping eggs for several months by packing them in alternate layers with salt, the large end downwards, and being careful not to let them touch each other. A French mode is said to be, dissolving four ounces of beeswax in eight ounces of warm olive oil, and anoint the egg with it all around with the finger. The pores of the shell are filled up with the wax, and the egg is said to be as good as if fresh laid at the end of two years.

Another plan, we have not known it to be tried, but from similar preservative effects in the case of fruits which are far more difficult to preserve than eggs, we have no doubt it would be a great success, and is the easiest plan of all. In a large box or cask put alternate layers of air-slacked lime and eggs, covering each layer of the latter completely over with lime, and a cover or lid oh the box; afterwards these boxes or casks should be kept in a dry and cool place. We believe this receipt will be found very valuable and thoroughly practical.

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