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The Centre Democrat.

BELLEFONTE, PA.

AGRICULTURAL NEWS, FACTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

Every farmer in his annual experience discovers something of value.

Disease in the Milk Pitcher.

Within a few months three instances of fever epidemics have been apparently traced to the milk supplied to the families from dairy farms.

Two of these were typhoid epidemics, one in London and the other at Port Jervis, in the State of New York.

and the third was a scarlet fever epidemic at Dundee, Scotland.

In the first instance—that in the St. Pancras district, in London—the sanitary inspector traced the source of the disease, as he believes, to a single dairy farm, in which the water used in washing the pails, pans and other milk receptacles were impregnated with disease germs by drainage from a cess-pool.

In the Port Jervis epidemic it was found that in fifty-six out of seventy-five cases the milk used from a single dairy, and although there was no means at hand for making a scientific test of the matter, there was a strong presumption that the source of the disease was in the milk, especially as several members of the dairyman's family were victims of the disease at the time.

In support of this view of the case is the testimony of Dr. F. W. Seward, a prominent physician of Goshen, N. Y., who notes an instance in his practice in which he was called up to prescribe in three cases of typhoid fever in the family of a dairyman.

He discovered on investigation that the cows were watered from a well in the barnyard. The farmer undertook to clean the well and sink it deeper, when it was found that a stream of barnyard drainage found its way into the well, making it so foul as to sicken the men at their work.

In the Dundee instance it was found that milk stored for a few hours in vessels in a house where scarlet fever was prevailing when distributed to customers in various parts of the city carried the infection with it.

These instances, while not conclusively proving that the milk was the medium by which the fever germs were transmitted, at least furnish sufficient reasons why careful and exhaustive investigations should be made in relation to this subject.

It is known to every dairyman that milk will absorb and retain specific odors with which it may be brought in contact, and that it is often tainted by the odor of leeks, cabbage and other vegetables upon which the cattle feed.

One can readily conceive that an article so sensitive to atmospheric and other influences as milk might easily become the means of conveying disease germs. No one has a more direct interest in this subject than the dairyman and farmer themselves.

While it is true that the average dairyman supplies a great many families with milk it is also true that his own family is supplied from the same source, and if there be disease in the milk they are endangered thereby.

A good dairyman always insists on the most complete and perfect cleanliness in all his dairy surroundings, and yet it is possible that in a good many instances unsuspected impurities like those mentioned above find their way into the milk supply.

For the sake of the health of his own family, as well as for that of his customers, he should see that the water supply for his cattle and for all dairy purposes should be absolutely pure and without taint.

Feeding Chickens.

A correspondent wants to know why chicks should not be fed soon after hatching.

Simply because they don't need food. The yolk sac which is absorbed just before leaving the shell affords sufficient nourishment for the first twenty or twenty-four hours.

After beginning, feed often, say five or six times a day for the first month or six weeks; then the number of meals per day may be gradually diminished, until at ten or twelve weeks they will thrive on three meals per day.

Feed early and late. The first feeding should be as soon as possible after daylight, the last as late as they can see to eat.

When old enough to swallow the kernels, let the last feed at night be wheat or cracked corn.

Feed regularly—not their breakfast at five o'clock one morning, seven the next, and the other meals whenever you happen to think of it.

Chicks standing around two or three hours at a time chirping for food are not remarkable for rapid growth.

Don't feed uncooked meal, sour food of any kind, or sloppy food. Chicks may live—some of them—on such stuff, but they will not thrive.

It is some trouble to cook and prepare the right kind of food for a large number of little chicks, but "whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well."

Chicks that are fed generously and regularly on fresh, wholesome food, for the first three or four months, will make better breeding stock, better layers, and better market fowls than those that worry along through chickenhood on scanty rations of raw meal and water.

Don't waste food by throwing it on the ground in the dirt, or by feeding so much at a time that the greater portion will be left.

I know poultry raisers who in that way waste more food than the chickens eat, and then grumble because it "costs so much to raise chickens."

Feed each time what they will eat up clean and no more. A few spoonfuls of chicken food may seem like a small matter, but it is the close looking after these small matters, the stopping a little waste here and a little waste there, that increases the credit side of the account.—Prairie Farmer.

Dairy Hints.

Some milk producers object to turnips and other roots as a ration for dairy cows on the ground that they taint the butter.

This is true, if fed in large quantities. But these same men will allow their cows to drink all summer out of filthy, slow-running brooks or muddy sloughs, or clay-laden streams.

No one likes a turnip flavor in butter, but it is not as bad as that of the stable or of a foul brook. As 87 per cent. of milk is water, and that water is taken into the system of the cow with her food and drink, it is as apparent that pure drinking water is as desirable as good food.

Next to plenty of good pasturage during the next three months is plenty of pure fresh water, and every dairy farmer who has no spring which supplies his pasture should provide a well, and if possible a wind-mill, if the well be deep.

It is not advisable to give grain during the flush grass period, but as soon as drough and dry pastures begin to lessen the flow of milk, supply fodder corn or grain.

The flow of milk once lost is not easily restored. It is generally understood that as turnips are fed only directly after or soon after during the milking, they will little affect the flavor of the next milking.

Beets seldom affect the milk except favorably.

Farm Notes.

One of the best mulching materials is salt hay, as it contains no seeds of weeds and can be stored away for use another year.

Farmers should enjoy, above all others, the luxuries of the garden, and yet, strange to say, but few farms have complete gardens, and many farmers buy vegetables.

Purslain, young crab grass, weeds and other refuse can be utilized to advantage by feeding to pigs.

At this season the green food will be highly relished by them.

Some of the English dairymen speak of ensilage as "pickled grass," which shows that they have some things yet to learn about the construction and filling of silos.

Dogs do not always kill sheep for the purpose of procuring food. The best fed dogs, when once they begin the practice, will continue it until they are caught in the act.

A French authority states that carrots give horses new blood, which seems to restore them, and they may be justly claimed as the regenerator of worn-out horses.

Horses at work will be gratified if they are allowed a little green grass at least once a day.

If not convenient to turn them on the grass cut it and feed, with a little salt, in the rack.

Large numbers of cattle in Western Texas are dying for want of water and grass. The drought is very severe. Myriads of caterpillars have appeared and are destroying all vegetation.

In planting late potatoes discard all that are affected with traces of rot. They should be as sound and perfect as possible, as many diseases of the crop come from the germs planted with the seed.

In raising sheep, besides the profit from the wool, lambs and mutton, a considerable value must be allowed the droppings, as it is an advantage in favor of sheep that they benefit the soil on which they are pastured.

Household Hints.

Don't boil tea. Apple fritters make a nice entree to be served with roast duck.

Two small tart apples are a toothsome addition to the stuffing of a roast duck or goose.

If your earthen pie-plates are discolored, rub them well with whiting or sand soap.

A little powdered charcoal will cleanse and sweeten bottles if it is well shaken about in them.

Never paper a room over old paper. This may be removed by dampening it with salaratus and water.

Old marble or wooden mantles may be painted with two or three coats of oil color to match the prevailing tints of the remaining woodwork.

One way to beguile an invalid into taking more beef tea than he is willing for, is to add gelatine to it and let it cool in a mold. When it is hard and like jelly serve it with salt and with wafers.

Potatoes as a farm crop pay as well as almost any other that can be named, one with another.

One farmer near Cleveland, sold from one acre last year, over \$160 worth, and he counts \$100 of it profit, which is very liberal allowance for culture, harvesting and marketing.

The average value of the potato crop in Ohio last year was \$52 per acre, and it was a poor year for potatoes.