

Agricultural.
Does Your Stock Look Thrifty?
Last spring I bought two cows that had been wintered in the barnyard on hay and corn fodder mixed with meal or bran, and as a consequence they had a poor look. As the season advanced, their coats cleaned and the abundant grass filled them to a respectable appearance. Later on, when the weather became very dry, the heat increased and they began to get their coats thin and their condition was in marked contrast with that of the others that had been wintered indoors. When one reflects, the cause is apparent; a cow that is wintered in a barnyard is naturally inclined to get in a thrifty condition, in good flesh and with substance in her, that enables her to endure the suffering from heat and flies. The badly wintered cow stands in a comparative poor condition, and though abundant grass makes her temporarily look well, she has not the substance to enable her to endure the trials of midsummer and drought. Now for the remedy: I have found that if a cow has been fed meal or bran through the summer. Some will require four quarts, others eight quarts per day. The eye of the owner will enable him to detect which ones need such feed, and the quantity will be fixed according to the resulting condition which is promptly manifested. It will be shown later on, that you get in the increased yield of milk, a full and immediate return for feed.

There may be many that do not know to what is liberal winter feed. Our own cows never did better than last winter, and the feed was as follows: fifteen pounds of hay per day for each, (feed five pounds at a time morning and night, with two feeds of meal, four quarts each and four quarts of carrots daily. This meal consists of a mixture of one bushel of corn meal, one bushel of ground wheat and three bushels of coarse bran. The wheat in grinding increases one-half in bulk, every bushel of wheat making a bushel and a-half of unbolted flour. When wheat costs one dollar and fifty, including grinding, the ground flour would cost but one dollar per bushel. This makes the cost feed cost about sixty cents a bushel, or fifteen cents per day for each cow. To this add fifteen cents for hay and ten cents for roots and bedding, and you have forty cents per day, or two dollars and eighty cents per week, as the cost of her help. It would appear that this to a cow, to pay the milk of her keep, must yield ten quarts of milk per day, or make seven quarts of butter per week; and that a farmer, at four cents a quart for milk, merely sells his hay, or grain at market price and gets the money. This is somewhat foreign to our article, which is not so much to prove that it pays to keep cows in winter as well as in summer, but to winter them well. The profit of keeping common cows comes almost wholly from the value of their summer yield above the apparent cost of their summer keep.

The winter meal feed can be reduced in quality so as to cost not over ten cents for hay and for the eight quarts. This feed will keep the cow in good condition, and there will be no necessity for summer feeding. If she has been wintered without feed, she will require it in the summer, and her increase of two or three quarts per day will pay for the feed. It is better economy to feed in winter, because the winter yield is increased and the trouble is saved of summer feeding.

In connection with winter keeping, let us describe the winter quarters of ten cows. The ground slopes gently to the southeast, and is about eighty feet square. On the rear toward the northeast is a hay house, eighty by eighteen feet, the space under which is occupied by cow-house under the west end and overhead under the east, each about forty feet long. The cows are arranged on platform, with gutter and four feet walk behind them, and hay mangle and passage in front of them. They all face northwest, each having a space of four feet, with no divisions between them, and are kept in stanchions. In the rear are three doors to allow them to go out into the yard, and one at the east end of walk to go under overhead. The yard is about sixty-two by eighty feet, sheltered on the northwest and southwest sides by low buildings, and on the southeast by a board fence four feet high. In the center of the yard is an octagonal enclosure of boards four feet high and twenty feet in diameter, into which all the manure of both stalls and yard is thrown as fast as delivered, so that the yard is kept perfectly clean. Over this yard is kept a great many cows, in the winter, in inches in depth, so inviting that the cows can lie down in any part of it. While in the yard they are sheltered from all the cold winds, and from the southeast comes a morning sun as soon as risen. The overhead is furnished shelter from the rain and its end between the passage doors is the water trough, always full. There is a window on the southwest side of the west corner, behind their heads and the passage in front of them, and two windows in their rear. The hay mangers are level with floor, and large enough to hold easily five pounds of hay. Each has a lump of coal and the meal is fed on the bottom. During all fair weather they are in the yard comfortable and thrifty.—Country Gentleman.

Kindness vs. Carelessness.—An instance of the effect of kindness upon an obstinate horse was lately shown, where a man with a team attempted to break a load of stone. The horse having become obstinate or discouraged from overwork, refused to draw the load, at which his master beat him very cruelly and looked in vain for his strength. He told the stranger that he should beat him any more, and that he would try the effect of kindness. So, approaching the poor beast in a gentle manner, he commenced smoothing his face and looking in his eyes, putting his neck and using words of kindness. After a short time he said to the horse: "Now try and see what you can do." The horse immediately exerted his full strength and carried off the load. Herein is plainly seen how susceptible a horse is to a kind and gentle manner. Many a noble horse has been ruined by a coarse and brutal driver. Overworked and overworked, they become discouraged, and then their refusal to work is considered obstinacy. The relationship of man to dumb creatures is very imperfectly understood, and a great work is yet to be done for the amelioration of his sufferings.

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