

DAIRY

WARM DRINKING WATER FOR COW

Specialist Favors Tank Heater and Windbreak.

Milk cows should drink about four gallons of water for each gallon of milk produced, but they will not drink sufficient water if it is cold, or if they are compelled to go into the cold wind to get the water, advises John O. Toliver, deputy state dairy commissioner, at the Colorado Agricultural college.

A tank heater to warm drinking water, and a windbreak to protect the tank and vicinity so the cow will not be exposed to the cold winds of winter while drinking, are recommended.

Toliver states that a cow naturally drinks as little cold water as possible, and will not produce nearly as much milk as she would if the water were warm, about 15 to 20 degrees above freezing point. Cows will stand with their backs lumped and shiver after drinking ice water. Their hair is rough and stands on end, due to the contraction of the skin.

To produce milk economically the cow's ration should consist largely of the more bulky, cheaper foods, the deputy commissioner states. These foods require considerable moisture in the process of digestion, and therefore large quantities of water are essential.

A tank heater can be purchased for \$15 or \$16, and will soon be paid for by increased milk production. Heaters that will burn either wood, coal or coke may be obtained.

Difference in Quality of Mixed Dairy Feeds

(By A. R. MERRILL, Dairy Specialist, Connecticut Experiment Station.)

Whether the dairyman shall mix his own feeds or buy ready mixed rations is still an important question. Before it is definitely decided the dairyman should ask himself these questions:

1. Are the feeds he can buy as good as are contained in the ready-mixed rations?

2. Is it possible to secure a continuous supply of a large variety of ingredients?

3. Can the ingredients be mixed as thoroughly as they are in the commercial mixtures?

Undoubtedly he may be able to mix for less money than he will have to pay for a similar commercial mixture, but when all things are considered there may not be the advantage that formerly existed. The last few years have witnessed a wonderful change in the quality of mixed feeds offered for sale. This improvement of quality has removed one of the reasons for home mixing. It also means that better feeds are being used in our commercial rations.

Low-quality feeds are still on the market and many of these find their way, as separate ingredients, to retail dealers. When a dairyman buys feeds for home mixing, he should be sure of quality or his supposed savings on the ton price may prove a loss at the pail.

Proper Winter Feed for a Fall Calving Heifer

What feed should be given dairy heifers in order to winter them satisfactorily for fall calving?

a. When legume hay and corn silage are available—lay and silage at will and two pounds daily of corn, cane, or kafir grain.

b. When legume hay but no silage is available—legume hay at will and two pounds of grain per day.

c. When corn silage but no legume hay is available—silage at will, some dry roughage as hay or fodder, and two or three pounds of a grain mixture consisting of one part of some high protein feed as cottonseed meal, linseed meal or gluten feed, and one part of corn, oats, or bran.

d. When neither corn silage or legume hay are available—buy legume hay. Feed one-half legume hay, one-half nonlegume roughage, and two pounds daily of a mixture of two parts corn and one part high-protein feed.

Unclean Utensils Traced to Filthy Dish Cloths

The dish cloth may be justly charged with being responsible for a lot of the unclean utensils now being used to handle milk and cream. Dish cloths fail to reach the cracks and crevices where dirt and bacteria are prone to lodge; they fail to cut grease and dirt, and it is almost impossible to keep them in a sweet, sanitary condition. If you are a dish-cloth user, throw it away and wash your dairy utensils the modern way, with a good stiff brush.

Soy Beans Favored

The comparatively high prices which are being asked for cottonseed meal and linseed oilmeal and the large acreage of soy beans are leading dairymen to consider the use of soy beans as a protein supplement in the dairy ration during the winter. Experiments conducted at the Purdue experiment station in which ground soy beans were compared with linseed oilmeal showed that the ground beans produced from 2 to 4 per cent more milk than an equal weight of oilmeal.

FARM POULTRY

COD LIVER OIL HELPS HENS LAY

Much Needed in Winter as Substitute for Sunshine.

Cod liver oil is an important item in winter rations for poultry because it helps to maintain egg production, prevents lameness, and helps them to lay strong-shelled eggs. It contains vitamins A and D which promote growth and maintain vitality and disease resistance, says the State College of Agriculture at Ithaca, N. Y.

Cod liver oil is essential to hens that are closely housed during winter. Vitamine D in the oil is a substitute for direct sunlight, according to poultrymen at the college, who say its use, therefore, is most desirable during winter and early spring when direct sunshine cannot be used or when little is available.

This oil, which is the richest known source of these vitamins, is usually fed for its vitamine D; although vitamine A is present in the oil, it is not so important as vitamine D because yellow corn and leafy green feeds contain enough of vitamine A to meet the ordinary requirements of poultry.

Poultrymen may use the cheaper grades of cod liver oil because they are less expensive and contain the essential vitamins in the same quantity as in the other grades. In feeding cod liver oil during winter and early spring, add 1 per cent of oil to the dry mash portion of the poultry ration. Roughly, this is slightly more than one pint of cod liver oil to 100 pounds of mash. This quantity of oil in the mash will provide approximately one-half of 1 per cent of oil in the whole ration of grain and mash.

Satisfactory Rations for the Laying Flock

According to the test work conducted at Wisconsin and other stations, satisfactory corn belt rations for the laying flock must contain plenty of yellow corn, some form of milk and leafy green feed, or a green feed substitute like fine green alfalfa or clover hay, to furnish vitamine A. Vitamine D, the ultra-violet ray factor, is equally important. To get it in sufficient quantities during the winter and early spring months requires the use of cod liver oil or a good deal of direct sunshine or sunshine received through a glass substitute that really admits the ultra-violet rays. Professor Halpin recommended the use of all three—cod liver oil in the laying mash, an open shed or yard for good weather, and effective glass substitute windows.

Making Mash Palatable Is Problem for Keeper

Making a dry mash palatable so that the laying flock will eat it in sufficient quantities is one of the problems of the farm flock keeper. That is one of the virtues of commercially mixed mashes. The manufacturer has put various ingredients together that will not only produce eggs but that taste good to the hens even though they are receiving a liberal grain ration. Putting in plenty of ground yellow corn and not overdoing the ground oats and bran portions helps make the mash more palatable to the hens.

Corn gluten feed when added to the mash makes it more palatable. In a recent bulletin of the Illinois experiment station, they also call attention to the fact that corn gluten feed increases palatability of mash.

Poultry Hints

Feed oyster shells to poultry.

Grit, oyster shell and plenty of drinking water are necessary in the production of eggs.

Feed a ration that includes a good egg mash, some hard grain and some green feed, and good, clean water.

If several ordinary shipping crates are available, it is possible to fill these with the hens that are to be culled before starting with the work.

About four o'clock in the afternoon the hens should have all the grain they will clean up. The mash hopper should be kept open all the time.

During the winter birds should eat one and one-half to two times as much scratch grain as mash, but they must eat sufficient mash to produce eggs.

In all cases the amount of grain varies with flock conditions. Heavy breeds consume more feed than light breeds.

Culling out the "boarder" hen reduces the extra feed bill and also brings in extra money through sale of nonproducers.

Poultry houses which are too high are usually cold and drafty in winter. This may be remedied, easily and cheaply, by putting in a straw loft.

Clean Plant Necessary to Heat Home Efficiently

Next to guarding against cracks and other defects that may develop during the heating season, the most important thing in the operation of a heating plant during midwinter is to keep it thoroughly clean, according to the Holland Institute of Thermology of Holland, Mich.

Soot and ashes in the gas passages prevent the heat from passing into the air that is carried to the rooms upstairs. They also interfere with draft action.

Flues should be thoroughly cleaned at regular intervals; but a thorough cleaning once a week is enough to keep a modern vapor-air or super-circulating warm-air heating plant in fine operating condition, especially if it is thoroughly cleaned by the suction cleaner method at the beginning of the season.

New Heaters Supply Water

Fuel costs can be kept low, the Holland Institute of Thermology of Holland, Mich., points out, by making the central heating plant supply hot water for household purposes. One recent development of the Vapor-Aire warm air circulating system is a method of accomplishing this without adding to the fuel-chargers.

Sweet Valley

Mr. and Mrs. Torrence Naugle were guests of Mrs. Naugle's mother, Mrs. Frances Cease, at Plymouth on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Shaw of Hunlock Creek were guests of the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Shaw, on Sunday.

Harold Freeman spent the weekend with his grandmother, Mrs. Robert Hunter, at Hunlock Creek.

William Farver, local merchant, has started harvesting ice. On Monday morning the thermometer registered 10 degrees below zero in the vicinity of North Lake, making the weather ideal for the ice harvest.

The funeral of Mrs. Martha Moss, widow of the late Cavalier Moss of Broadway, was held on Monday from the home of her daughter, Mrs. Cora Rosencrance, at Lehman, and was attended by a large number of friends and relatives. Short services were conducted at the home, followed by services in the Church of Christ at Sweet Valley. Rev. C. H. Frick, of Forty Fort, officiated. A trio, Mrs. Wilbur Shaw, Mrs. Charles Brown and North Cutler, sang, accompanied by Mrs. Leroy Callender. The flower carriers were Miss Dorothy Rosencrance, Leroy Rosencrance, Leland Moss and Emmet Moore. The pall bearers were Frank Edwards, Albert Holcomb, Andrew Hontz, Benjamin Jackson, Otis Allen and Stanley Hontz. The remains were consigned to their last resting place in Maple Grove Cemetery. Among those in attendance were Mrs. Clara Parr of Berwick and Benjamin Wandell of Scranton, sister and brother of the deceased.

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