

#### Future of Dairy Herd Depends on How Calves Are Handled

"The future of any milking herd can supply for maximum growth. In often depends on how calves are handled," says W. R. Arends, dairy authority of the Purina Mills. "This puts a definite responsibility on the shoulders of the man who cares for the calves from the time they are dropped until they become part of the milking herd. It is not only cheaper to raise heifer calves than to buy cows, but by raising one's own heifers a herd can be built just about the way a dairyman wants it.

Feed Highly Important

"The importance of feed for the calf cannot be over-emphasized," Arend says. "Feed must provide the things from which bones, sinews, muscles and blood are made. A well developed frame, and depth in the middle are determined by what the calf gets to eat. First food for the calf should be the mother's colostrum milk. This milk is laxative and performs the job of setting the digestive system in motion. If it is necessary to take the calf from the cow, the calf may be fed from a pail. But nature has taught the calf to look up for its milk so it should be made to stretch its neck out to drink from a pail. As in nursing, the neck should be outstretched so that the opening into the rumen or first stomach is naturally closed, preventing milk from entering. The first stomach in a small calf is dormant Whenever milk enters, it lies there and ferments. This causes sco Need More Than Skim Milk

"Milk alone will not provide all the things calves need for profitable Arend points out. "Milk is about 87 percent water, which means

a properly balanced dry feed calves are supplied with the nutrients they

"After years of research work the Purina Research Staff has discovered how to fill calf's needs through a complete feed known as calf startena By feeding a little milk at the start, feeding calf startena with nay the calf gets exactly what it needs.

Begin Feeding Fourth Day

"The new calf feed is given baby calves when four days old. It's kept before them at all times, but it is never advisable to place in the troughs more than a day's feed at a time, subjecting it to possibilities of becoming damp

"The feeding schedule for calves worked out by Purina scientists calls for mother's milk the first three days. after which start with two quarts of milk per day working up to four quarts daily at beginning of second week. At end of second week, the calf should be getting five quarts daily, which should be continued through the third week. At beginning of fourth week, cut milk back to three quarts a day, at end of fourth week, cut out milk entirely. Along with this limited milk feeding program, keep calf startena, hay, and water before the calf. These directions are for Holstein and Ayrshire calves. For Guernsey and Jersey calves, the amount of milk is slightly reduced.

"By the end of the fourth week, the calf is used to dry feed so its weaned. No more milk is needed because the about 87 percent water, which means that a gallon of milk is really about seven pounds water and one pound solids. As the calf grows and develops its requirements for solid matter increase beyond what milk alone to mote milk is needed because the calf's complete needs are taken care of in calf startena, hay, and water. With this kind of feeding it isn't long before the calf is well on its way to becoming a profitable money-making first-calf heifer."



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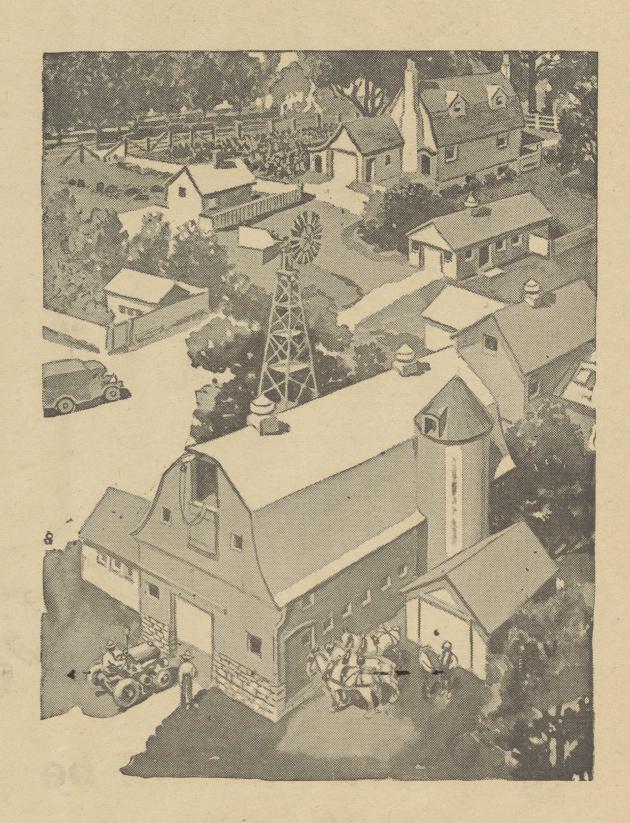
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