

EFFECT OF FOOD ON BUTTER.

A well-known writer in Colman's Rural World says: "The effect of certain kinds of food upon butter is worthy of considerable attention in early winter, and anything tending to throw light upon this important subject should always be welcomed. All dairymen know, or should know, that frosty foods taint butter, while butter made from the cream and milk of cows that have not received any grain ration is wanting in flavor and taste.

"The truth of the matter is, all foods given to cows have some effect upon the butter, and experiments during the past few years have been made to ascertain the true effect which is exerted by some of the most prominent foods upon this product of the dairy. Why? Because it is not only the quality, but the quantity that is effected, and so serious is the question that, in truth, it cannot be neglected as one purely chimerical and of no concern to the dairyman.

"My object here is to consider briefly some of the results achieved by these tests. Clover and fine meadow hay make excellent butter, and improve both quality and quantity, especially when supplemented with good grain rations. Highland hay is a little deficient, however, while bad hay, of course, is positively injurious, causing cows to give milk which will make practically nothing but tainted butter. Grass or hay having in it a mixture of wild leeks and garlic, is also very undesirable, in that the disagreeable taste imparted to the butter condemns it for nearly all purposes.

"Therefore, this ought to act as a reminder to every dairyman that he cannot be too careful about keeping weeds out of the grass lot, for there are many other common wild plants that have nearly as bad an effect on the milk product as leeks. In a similar manner, excessive quantities of barley straw impart a bitter taste to the butter, and pea straw has a tendency to lessen the quantity as well as to improve the quality. Raw potatoes are good, but cooked or steamed potatoes, while good for other cattle, are not fit for milch cows. Carrots produce a good color and flavor in the milk and butter, and beet roots mixed with chopped straw will make cows give milk that is rich and finely flavored.

"As to grains, it is found that bran has a tendency to produce milk of a soft consistency, while cracked wheat or barley produces medium hard, firm butter. Flaxseed cakes give firm butter, also, but rape cake makes it rather soft, and oil cake is not all desirable, unless fed in small quantities at a time. More than two pounds a day are decidedly not to be recommended. Grain fodders and silage are beneficial, and effect the butter favorably, providing they are fed when in perfect condition. Sour or tainted ensilage, should never be given to milch cows; if it is, harmful results are not only liable to occur to the milk, but to the animals themselves.

"The effect of the various foods is demonstrated beyond the shadow of a doubt by extended experiment, and in selecting them for rations this fact should be borne in mind. It is as important to have good butter as it is to have plenty of it in these days, if dairying is to be made a success; and, for this reason, it is the duty of dairymen to make a special study of the relative values and costs of the various foods required for their stock."

Four Boston dealers in oleomargarine were convicted of violating the Massachusetts law on the subject the other day and were fined to the amount of \$2,500. In Pennsylvania the law provides a year in the workhouse for misdemeanors after repeated convictions show that the disposition to commit them has become habitual. The oleo law of the state makes violations a misdemeanor and the dairy authorities are now going to urge workhouse sentences in all cases where the situation warrants it. The result is that several dealers who have suffered repeated convictions have fled the state. There

is an increasing tendency in a number of the Eastern states in behalf of more rigid sentences in case of conviction in this class of cases.

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