

The Business Farmer's Page

CALF RAISING

Heredity, Care and Feed Needed to Produce Big Milkers.

A. A. BORLAND,
Vermont State Agricultural College.

To insure strong, vigorous calves begin caring for them before birth by giving the mother palatable and nutritious food, rich in protein and ash. Clover hay, corn silage and from two to four pounds of grain mixture made of two parts (by weight) of oats, two parts wheat bran and one part linseed oil meal form an excellent ration for this purpose. Give grain sparingly for a few days before and after calving.

It is important a calf receive the first, or colostrum, milk of the dam, being rich in mineral matter, with laxative properties necessary to prevent digestive disorders. Remove the calf from its dam within three days from birth, as the sooner it is removed the more easily it is taught to drink from the pail.

The first two weeks feed the calf three times daily, giving eight to ten pounds of milk per day the first week and ten to twelve pounds per day the second week. The third week whole milk may be substituted by skim milk and a grain supplement, so by the end of the fourth week it has been entirely eliminated. The amount of skim milk may gradually be increased to sixteen or eighteen pounds daily. Grain is best fed dry, beginning with a handful after feeding milk. When the calf is a month old and being fed entirely on skim milk, hay and grain, the amount of grain may be one-half pound daily, at the end of two months one pound daily and at the end of three months two pounds daily, and no further increase is necessary for six months. A good mixture is three parts (by weight) of cornmeal, three parts ground oats, three parts wheat bran and one part linseed oil meal.

Substitutes For Skim Milk.

If the skim milk is limited various substitutes may be used after the calf is thirty days old. The Cornell station found dried skim milk powder gave the best results, and Schumacher's calf meal and Blatchford's calf meal gave good results, strong calves having been raised by their use without milk.

In raising calves indigestion or scours are often troublesome and are traced to one or more of the following causes: Too much milk, cold milk, sour milk, unclean pails or unclean surroundings. The best remedy is to remove the cause. When a severe case appears reduce the feed at once and give three ounces of castor oil in a pint of milk, to be followed in four to six hours by a teaspoonful of a mixture of one part salol and two parts subnitrate of bismuth three times daily until the calf improves.

COLONY HOUSES FOR POULTRY

Especially Handy on Leased Land.
J. W. KELLER.

After the brooder, before the laying house, what then? The colony house is the answer. Chicks are generally ready to leave the brooder at about six weeks of age—that is, when fully feathered. They are then able to take care of themselves during the day time, and, except on cold, rainy days, the question of artificial heat is not vital.

There are several types of colony houses, but all should have the following features: Perfectly dry, freedom from drafts, well ventilated, easy to clean and move (this latter should be done every season), and, lastly, they should be attractive, but inexpensive.

Don't crowd the chicks in the colony house. Remember, they will be at almost grown before they are moved again. Have perches removable, and do not allow the chicks to roost until their bones have hardened up considerably, or they may have crooked breast bones. When roosters are given, have them at least two inches wide.

Can Be Made or Bought.

For small flocks suitable colony houses may be made from large store boxes by covering the top and three sides with tar paper, the other side being made of cedar window wire extending six inches down from the top, which should ordinarily be left uncovered, but there should be a curtain to drop over it in bad weather. The balance of the side should be hinged so it can be thrown open during the day, admitting sunshine and fresh air.

The "A" shaped colony house is quite a favorite, as it combines roof and two sides in one piece. It has also the added virtue of being cheap, but is not so easily cleaned as some of the others.

Most colony houses average about 6 by 8 feet in size, with shed roof and a large wire covered window with curtain in front. This type should be built on skids, so that they can be easily dragged to new ground with the aid of a horse, and, if tightly built, houses of this sort can be used for layers and also breeders in the winter by the addition of nests, hoppers, etc.

A word about placing the house. Choose well drained ground that is covered with a heavy, sweet sod. An old orchard is almost ideal, as the trees furnish shade during the hot summer days. Clean away any brush piles or thickets which might harbor vermin, and if the same ground must be used year after year line it, plow it down each fall and sow with some suitable crop which will afford green pasture for the growing birds.

WHAT EVERY GARDEN NEEDS

E. O. MORTON.

Perhaps the first essential for a successful garden is to plan it on paper in detail before starting so as to waste no valuable space. Thus if a horse is to be used for cultivating make the garden long and narrow. If, on the other hand, the work is to be done by hand the rows should be nearer together and the garden may be either square or rectangular.

Provide plenty of manure; that falling, use fertilizer, part applied when plowing and part in the rows as the plants need it. Those who have no cold frame sashes will find the little single plant frames a great help in starting the melons, cucumbers, early annual flower seeds, beans, etc. These cost about \$8.50 for 100 and come knocked down, with the bolt holes all bored, so that it only takes a few moments with a wrench to put them together. An added advantage of these small frames is that insects may be kept from the young plants until they are strong enough to withstand their attacks.

Tools and Results.

As to tools, there are a few that are indispensable and a few more that add to the joy of gardening. The necessary ones include a heart shaped hoe, a small garden hoe, a spading fork, spade, long handled shovel, rake, garden reel and 100 feet of line and a dibber. The tools which make work easy are the wheel hoe with all its accessories, weeders, rakes, seed-sprayer and a large watering pot with a fine nozzle. The wheel hoe becomes almost human when guided by an intelligent hand and does away with hand hoeing entirely. A few moments spent each pleasant day in the garden (for a family of five) will produce astonishing results.

As a rule, children are particularly interested in growing crops and have repeatedly proved their interest in making gardens bloom, as, for example, the government agricultural experiments with girls and boys amply assure us. In England, of course, the garden becomes all absorbing from February until November, and the writer recalls a little garden, 50 by 100 feet, cared for by a man who owned a small hotel, and from this productive plot he supplied salads, early potatoes, strawberries, peas, beans, tomatoes and flowers to his guests. More than this, the garden became through his loving care quite a feature of the hotel, and new arrivals would be heard asking if they were in time for the "strawberries" or the "peas" or what ever it might be, which the season and the wonderful garden had to offer.

SPRAY AGAIN IN MAY

Perfect Fruit Admits No Insects.
E. K. PARKINSON.

The warm, bright days of early spring bring to life the insect world, and the annual campaign of destruction begins as soon as the first leaves appear. This is, then, one of the most critical times, and the spraying, which is done in May and June, is a fight for much in a steady war against these pests. The first spraying is done with copper sulphate, but when the blossoms have formed the apple trees should be sprayed again with a solution of bordeaux and paris green to kill the insects that were not on hand when the first spraying was done. The bordeaux may be purchased already mixed and paris green added in the proportion of one pound to 150 gallons of bordeaux. See that the agitator in the sprayer works freely and does the work thoroughly, and a pair of automobile goggles will be found very useful in protecting the eyes while spraying.

The next spraying should be after the blossoms have fallen (but while the little apples are still standing upright), using the same solution, and this is the most important treatment in the fight against the codling moth.

Other Fruits to Be Sprayed.

Spray the following fruits just after the blossoms have fallen and use, for cherries, bordeaux to prevent rot; peaches, bordeaux and paris green; quinces, bordeaux for leaf and fruit spot; grapes spray when flowers open; bordeaux for fungi; plums should receive the same treatment; gooseberries and currants, bordeaux and paris green, and these should be sprayed at the first sight of worms; peaches, bordeaux to prevent rot and mildew, and these should be sprayed just before the flowers open.

In spraying bear in mind that birds will suffer if poisons are used in greater strength than is absolutely required, for, while a poisoned worm will not, as a rule, kill a full grown bird, it may kill the fledglings. Keep the bark of the fruit free well scraped, thus destroying the breeding places of many pests, and in trying to get rid of tent caterpillars do not burn the trees, for it very seriously injures the trees, but look instead for the ring-like egg clusters, which may be seen in early spring on the small twigs, and cut off and burn them. After young caterpillars hatch out they soon begin to weave a tent, to which they retreat at night and in stormy weather, and it is then the nests should be either cut off and burned or gathered by hand and destroyed. If given proper protection the birds themselves will do wonders toward keeping down these insect pests and should therefore always be encouraged in every way possible.

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