

## Dairy Department

heifer calf.

3. Is there any advantage in feeding Kow Kure to a cow before calving.

Answer: 1. For the best results the cow should be dry at least six weeks and for cows not in the best of condition it is better to make it eight weeks. It gives her a chance to recuperate after her long seige of milk production and puts her in better shape to give better service the next time she comes fresh.

2. One very important point to remember in raising a heifer calf is to keep it growing all the time. Do not stunt its growth by poor feeding, unhealthy surroundings and the like. Do not overfeed as is often done when skimmilk is used in place of whole milk. It has been demonstrated that when a calf is four weeks old it can be successfully raised on skimmilk, provided that the substitute is as fresh and warm as the original whole milk. Plenty of hay in the winter and grass pasture when possible should be given the calf. If a little grain is put before it after each meal of milk, it soon learns to eat the dry feed and it will not be long before it can be weaned. If skimmilk is cheap and plentiful and of good quality, this may be fed until the calf is quite old, even to five or six months of age, but usually the calf is weaned much younger.

No difficulties are encountered in raising calves from the time of weaning until ready to come into milk. If the young animals are on pasture, no further attention is necessary, since grass furnishes usually the best and cheapest growth.

The winter ration should consist of all the roughage the animals will consume and a small amount of grain in addition. The object should be to keep the young animals in a thrifty

growing condition without becoming unnecessarily fat. The liberal use of roughage is desirable, since it is usually the cheapest feed at hand, and further it is generally believed by experienced breeders that the consumption of large amounts of roughage when young helps to develop the organs of digestion to the maximum which is desirable when the cow comes into milk.

The roughage should by all means consist mostly of some legume, as clover, alfalfa, or cowpea hay, on account of the palatability and high protein and ash content of this class. Corn silage is also well adapted for a part of the ration, but should always be combined with some leguminous hay or with a ration of grain that supplies ample material for growth, such as wheat, bran or oats.

3. We have not had any experience with the feeding of Kow Kure.

Question: I would like to know what feeds to select from the following so as to make to best ration for milk production. I have wheat and barley hay, rolled barley and wheat bran. We could of course roll some wheat if necessary. Oats is not a successful crop, but could be bought at a little above the price of barley. Corn for silage is being successfully grown near here and I am thinking of trying a piece this season, so if it turns out well I will have silage. W. F. J. Etwall, Wash.

Answer: It is unfortunate that you do not have some legume crop such as clover, Canada field peas, vetch or alfalfa. These make the best dry roughage for dairy cows and I think that possibly peas, if not the others could be grown successfully in your vicinity. If not it may be profitable to have some shipped in. Using barley or wheat hay as a roughage, however, I would feed as much of that as the cows would eat and in addition a mixture of grain as follows: Two parts rolled barley, two parts bran and one part of ground oats, feeding one pound of this mixture to every three pounds of milk produced. If corn silage is available feed from 25 to 40 pounds daily, depending upon the amount of milk the cow gives. For a cow giving 30 pounds of milk per day the ration would be 20 pounds of hay and 10 pounds of the grain mixture, fed in two portions morning and evening. If silage is fed the hay ration can be cut accordingly.

### After Reading This Look Around the Barn and Stables.

As this is the time of year when every farmer is about to replenish his stock of working tools, a few suggestions in that line may interest our subscribers.

We wish first to sound a warning against the buying of so-called cheap tools. They are invariably cheap—in quality—and prove expensive in the end. Let quality guide your

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Among other seasonal suggestions could be mentioned Keen Kutter Garden Rakes, Hoes, Spades, etc., but whatever your needs may be in the tool line buy by the Simmons trademark. Write to the firm for tool catalogue if Keen Kutter goods are not sold in your town.

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