

Dairy Department

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

MILK FEVER; SKIMMILK CALVES.

Question: Should a cow be milked dry the first milking after she is fresh or let go until the third day? I've been told that veterinarians claim it is better to let them go three days as they are less apt to have milk fever. Will a calf do as well on sweet skimmed milk after it is ten days old as it will on new milk giving it ground oats when it is large enough to eat them? Wm. B. Vashon, Wash.

Answer: In the case of a cow that is likely to have milk fever it is sometimes wise to leave some of the milk in the udder until the danger is passed, but generally we would advise milking the cow the first day to relieve the pressure on the udder as much as possible, and also to get milk for the calf. Which method to follow depends upon the individual cow. In changing from whole to skimmilk in feeding a calf it is well to do so with caution, starting when the calf is about ten days old by adding one part skim to about nine parts of whole milk. The second day increase the skim one part and decrease

the whole milk one part, and so on each day until at the end of ten days the calf is getting all skimmilk. Care should be taken to feed no more skimmilk than whole milk: in other words don't try to make up for the loss in fat by feeding more skimmilk. Oats is a very good grain with which to supplement skimmilk, and ground corn can also be used to good advantage. When the calf gets a little older he will be able to handle the whole grain to as good or better advantage than the crushed grain. He should of course be given some good hay, and if pasture is available when the calf gets older he should be allowed to graze. Jersey milk is often too rich for calves, and if the above precautions are carefully followed, calves can be raised just as well as on the ordinary whole milk.

COW GIVES LESS AFTER FRESHENING.

Question: What can a person do with a cow that has been giving two and one half gallons of milk at a milking six weeks before she came fresh, and now when she is fresh only gives one and one-half gallons at a milking on the same amount of feed, and also the same feed that other cows are giving six to eight gallons on? We are now feeding kale, carrots, potatoes, clover hay, turnips and shorts. F. K., Route 3. Vancouver, Wash.

Answer: From this information it would seem that the cow in question has not been in good physical condition at the time of calving. You will realize that a dairy cow that has milk right up to the time she is due to freshen is sort of run down, and therefore the strain of producing the calf and the weakness which follows thereafter is sure to cause a decrease in the milk flow. We have had just such a case this year, one of our best cows was not turned dry quite soon enough, and when she freshened she was in poor condition, she not only had a hard time delivering the calf but the strain was such that she never reached her maximum flow even to this time, although it has been four months since she freshened, and now she does not give as much milk as she did one month before she freshened.

We believe in turning the cows dry at least six weeks before time for freshening and feeding them liberally during that time; this puts them in shape to start their next lactation period with a good production, and of course being in good physical condition they will keep up the flow for a long time. I am sorry that we have no bulletins covering such matters, but we are sending you under separate cover such bulletins as we have on dairying for distribution, and also a list of the ones that are available.

It is possible that you are feeding some of your cows too much protein, or at least too much at some times. From the feeds that you have named I believe that you could do no better than to feed all the clover hay the cow will eat up clean and about as many pounds of kale as the cow produces pounds of milk a day. With these two I would mix a grain ration consisting of one part of bran and shorts to two parts of ground barley, and feed one pound of the mixture to every three or three and one-half pounds of milk the cow gives a day. Thus for a cow giving 35 pounds of

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four per cent milk a day I would feed all the hay she would eat up clean, 35 pounds of kale and, 10 pounds of the grain ration divided into two feeds daily. If you use ground oats or turnips in place of the kale I would suggest oats in place of the barley, and mix them in equal parts by weight. Potatoes may be fed in small quantities, but there is a danger there of causing extremely laxative condition of the bowels, and there is a tendency to have the cow run down; perhaps this fall in milk flow can be attributed to the feeding of potatoes. With kale, carrots and turnips as succulent feeds I would not consider potatoes as needed at any time.

(I trust that this is a satisfactory explanation of the matter which you have mentioned, but should you wish further information I would be pleased to hear from you.)

DRIED BEET PULP IN RATION.
Question: Will you please give me

a balanced ration for dairy cows from the following list? I am milking 30 cows and have to buy practically all feed this year. Bran \$23 per ton; shorts \$25 per ton; oil meal \$42 per ton; beet pulp \$26.50; oats \$25; carrots \$10; barley \$30; alfalfa meal \$23, and baled alfalfa hay, \$14 and local hay which is mixed clover, timothy, orchard grass, etc., \$10. S. E. McC.,

(Continued on page 13)



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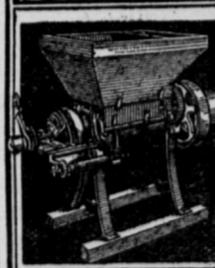
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